

Education & Skills Conditions of Funding Grant for ESFA-Funded Adult Education Budget and 16 to 19 Education for the Funding Year 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023

Date: 14 July 2022

Report of: The Sufficiency and Participation Manager

Report to: The Director of Children & Families and Head of Service Employment & Skills

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

Each year, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) contracts with each local authority (LA) to provide grant funding for the provision of 16-19 education (sixth forms) within local authority maintained schools, and for the Adult Education Budget, the majority of which is for community learning.

The total value of this funding for 2022/23 Academic Year is £11,987,637 of which £11,845 is for the Adult Education Budget and £11,975,792 for 16-19 education.

The funding is provided to the LA and the 16-19 funding is distributed to individual schools in line with the payment schedule contained within the contract, based on national funding formula. Similarly the Adult Education budget is distributed to community learning providers. The ESFA liaise with the Schools and providers themselves to check the submitted pupil / enrolment numbers are correct for the funding allocations.

In order to accept payment from the ESFA, the LA has to accept and sign the contract. If it does not, payments may not be made to the LA to distribute to schools and providers.

### Recommendations

- a) That the Director of Children & Families gives authority for the Education & Skills Conditions of Funding Grant for ESFA-Funded 16 to 19 Education for the Funding Year 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 – ESFA-22320 be executed to enable the ESFA to provide Post 16 funding to the Council for local authority maintained school sixth forms.
- b) That the Head of Service Employment & Skills gives authority for the Education & Skills Conditions of Funding Grant for Adult Education Budget for the Funding Year 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 – ESFA-22320 be executed to enable the ESFA to provide Adult Education funding to the Council for learning providers.

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report requests the Director of Children and Families and Head of Service, Employment & Skills, to approve the entering into and the signing of the Conditions of Funding Grant Agreement required to enable the ESFA to release the funding to the Council for the provision of 16-19 education (sixth forms) within local authority maintained schools, and for the Adult Education Budget, the majority of which is for community learning.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The decision will ensure that the LA is able to distribute, or 'passport' grant funding to schools and community learning providers so that they are then able to deliver their curriculum/courses.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 3 This proposal supports the achievement of the Best City Ambitions of 'ensuring children in all areas of the city have the best start in life' and 'ensuring young people and those changing career in later life have the skills and job opportunities which enable them to realise their potential and thrive'. Without funding being available to deliver the curriculum and various courses, these ambitions would be difficult to realise.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 4 N/A

## What are the resource implications?

- 5 Funding is determined by the national funding formula and distributed to the individual schools and providers in line with the Payment Schedule. The LA does not retain the funding and therefore there are no resource implications for the Council.

## What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 6 Funding is determined by the national funding formula and distributed to individual schools in line with the Payment Schedule, therefore there is little if any risk. The only foreseeable risk would be in not signing the contract which would result in schools and providers not receiving the funding which is critical to delivery of the curriculum/courses.

## What are the legal implications?

- 7 This is a Significant Operational Decision (SOD) which is not subject to call in and there are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.
- 8 There are no legal implications associated with this report as Article 13 of the Council's constitution expresses a decision as one which "will result in the authority incurring expenditure or making savings...etc". As we are simply signing the agreement with ESFA as a formality to

ensure that the grant funding can be distributed through to the individual schools and providers, it is considered that we are neither incurring expenditure nor making savings resulting in this being a SOD only.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

9 There are no other reasonable options that could be considered. In order to accept payment, the LA has to accept and sign the contract. If it does not, payments may not be made to the LA to distribute to schools and providers.

### **How will success be measured?**

10 N/A.

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

11 N/A.

## **Appendices**

- None.

## **Background papers**

- None.