

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services

Date of Meeting: 31st March 2011
Report of: Fintan Bradley Head of Strategy, Planning and Performance
Subject/Title: Local Education Authority (Post Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999 – Annual Determination
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Local Education Authority (Post-Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999/229) require LEAs to make an annual determination in respect of their powers to make awards to students. The determination must be made before the start of the following financial year. The requirement to make an annual determination applies regardless of whether an LA has previously determined that it will not exercise its power to offer awards.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder does **not** take up the power to grant discretionary awards for the 2011/12 academic year.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 No financial provision has been made to make discretionary awards in the 2011/12 academic year for a specific category or on appeal.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The effect on applicants remains unchanged since 2000/01 when Cheshire County Council first decided not to take up the discretionary powers and no new awards have been made since then. No discretionary awards have been made since the academic year 2003/4 when existing students already in receipt of an award were funded from a residual fund to allow them to complete their course.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The Council has already determined not to exercise the power to offer discretionary awards for the 2010/11 academic year. No financial provision has been made to make discretionary awards in the 2011/12 academic year either for a specific category or on appeal.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Local Education Authority (Post Compulsory Education Awards) Regulations 1999 conferred revised powers on LEAs, should they wish to use it, to make discretionary awards to new FE and HE students. The LEA is required to determine each year by 31 March whether the power is to apply to them or not in the following academic year. If it does accept the powers it must then determine whether to exercise that power generally or only for certain groups or categories of students. If it determines not to accept the power, no provision for consideration of applications need be made.

9.0 Risk Management Implications

- 9.1 If no annual determination is made by 31 March 2011, the authority is open to legal challenge. An annual determination will be required in subsequent years.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 Since the decision not to make discretionary awards was made, national schemes have developed to provide funding to various categories of post 16 students who would previously have looked to the local authority for support.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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