

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	14 July 2009
Report of:	John Weeks Strategic Director People Directorate.
Subject/Title:	Lifelong Learning/Adult and Community Learning Grant.

1.0 Report Summary:

The decision being sought is for a Supplementary Revenue Estimate for £814.823 fully funded by Adult Learning Grant from the Learning and Skills Council.

This is a regular grant that the Local Authority receives, but as it was not included when settling Cheshire East Children's Budget, approval is now sought.

1. *The grant must be spent on delivering learning key areas:*

Personal and Community Development – PCDL: Learning for personal development, cultural enrichment, intellectual or creative stimulation and for enjoyment. **Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities – NLDC:** Focused on the voluntary and community sector. Develops initiatives to address worklessness and build capacity in communities. **First Steps Provision:** Learning as a planned entry point into skills development. **Family Learning:** aimed at engaging and introducing new learners to 'Help your Child' type courses and Skills for Life qualifications in maths and English at L2 and below.

2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 Accept funds from LSC which will be available up to 31st July 2010.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations:

3.1 Need to deliver and commission delivery to over 7000 new adult learners (over 19 yrs.) 01/08/09-31/07/10.

3.2 Part of Adult Learner Safeguard funds from Government which Cheshire East Council has responsibility to deliver.

- Adult Learning Inspectorate inspection of 2007: awarded grade 2, particular strengths around commitment and partnerships.
- Self Assessment Report SAR 2007/8 graded Skills for Life team: Move On Team as 'Outstanding'
- Nationally recognised Skills for Life team consistently asked to demonstrate to other providers their effective practice. Cheshire East Lifelong Learning Team maintains a City and Guilds centre.
- Matrix Standards: accredited provider of information, advice and guidance. Rated as an excellent quality standard service provider.

4.0 Wards Affected:

4.1 Delivery across all wards but focused on disadvantaged areas and low skilled people. (apart from PCDL)

5.0 Local Ward Members:

5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications including

6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer):

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer):

8.1 No funds to deliver adult learning if these funds are not accepted.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor):

9.1 Acceptance of the grant will enable the Authority to meet its obligations to Adult Learners. The money must be spent in accordance with the terms of grant to deliver the key learning areas set out above.

10.0 Risk Management:

10.1 Lifelong Learning team maintained from received Learning Skills Council funds - team in place through disaggregation.

- Data must be delivered through specified systems – managed through shared service.
- Partnership working key to success and linked to LSP – managed through established Lifelong Learning Partnership

11.0 Background and Options:

11.1 Cheshire East has a role, through their responsibility for pre-school development, educational attainment within schools, ensuring the delivery of the 14 -19 entitlement, and through their duty around quality of life, well-being and economic development to ensure that all people; children and adults; throughout their lives, have access to a broad range of high quality learning opportunities.

- Agree recommendations to receive the grant and progress as outlined.
- Not agree the funds and the outlined service provision could not be delivered in full and other funding would need to be sought.

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues:

12.1 As outlined within Lifelong Learning Strategy 2009.

13.0 Access to Information:

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

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