

20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Agenda Item: 5

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING, RESOURCES AND CULTURE**

### **COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICES - OVERVIEW OF GRANT RESERVE ACTIVITIES TO DATE AND PROPOSAL TO 'DRAW-DOWN' FINAL GRANT RESERVE FUNDS**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to:
  - provide an overview of the Council's community learning activities that existing grant reserves have funded to date
  - seek approval for a final utilisation of the remaining grant reserves and for Committee to receive a follow-up report in 12 months' time.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. Adult and community learning in Nottinghamshire is wholly funded by the EFA (Education Funding Agency) and the SFA (Skills Funding Agency) which contract with the Council, on an annual academic year basis, for the delivery of a range of community learning provision for both adults and young people aged 16-18. The Council contracts with Inspire to deliver, on an agency basis, these services on its behalf.
3. The Council holds a grant reserve which consists of underspend from previous academic years activities. The funding has to be spent on eligible activities defined in the original grant conditions for EFA/SFA funding, and must be directly related to the delivery of learning for young people and adults.
4. The EFA and the SFA requires the allocation to be used to:
  - maximise access to learning for the County's young learners (aged 16 to 18 years) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) by providing provision that is not available from existing Further Education (FE) providers;
  - maximise access to community learning for adults, bringing new opportunities and improving lives, whatever people's circumstances
  - promote social renewal by bringing local communities together to experience the joy of learning and the pride that comes with achievement
  - maximise the impact of community learning on the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities.

5. At its meeting on 12 July 2016, the Culture Committee agreed that £623,000 (which represents 83% of total reserves of £750,000) of SFA/EFA reserves could be utilised to support an overall expansion of Nottinghamshire's community learning offer. The funding has been utilised as follows:
- Supporting growth in 16 to 18-year-old study programme provision to over 300 learners across Nottinghamshire – £70,696
  - Supporting commercial learning across Nottinghamshire and integration with the wider Inspire offer – £58,635
  - Supporting apprenticeships and traineeships across the County and supporting the delivery of 19 + Advanced Learning Loans – £87,629
  - Supporting the shift towards 25% direct delivery of Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)/ Adult Education Budget (AEB) funded Community and Family Learning provision – £92,836
  - Supporting the organisational resilience of the Service during a transitional year – £209,007.
6. Total committed expenditure during the 2016/17 academic year therefore, will be £518,803.
7. There is £104,197 of the original 2016/17 allocation of £623,000 that can be carried forward to the 2017/18 academic year. In addition, £127,000 remains to be utilised from existing grant reserves. It is proposed to utilise all remaining funding (£231,218) in the 2017/18 academic year. Funding will be used to support the following activities:
- The further development of apprenticeship development work for young people – £35,000
  - The further development of 19+ Advanced Learning Loan provision, including the launch of two new full-time Access Courses in Health and Social Care and new programmes in management, marketing, accountancy, training the trainer and ICT – £40,000
  - The purchasing and development of new Management Information Systems (MIS) covering all community learning provision to replace two existing separate MIS platforms operated by Inspire. This work will help ensure that community learning provision is Ofsted inspection ready (inspection due in summer 2018) – £50,000
  - Investment in new/replacement ICT equipment and software for teaching and for essential 'back-office' functions (there has not been an investment in ICT for community learning for a number of years and the obsolescence of equipment is beginning to negatively impact the quality of the Service's provision) – £46,000
  - Improving the quality of provision by investing in the continuous professional development of tutors/trainers. Teaching staff require investment in developing their skills in management, teaching and the most effective use of new information and learning technology – £20,000
  - Supporting the development of libraries as learning centres, providing teacher training to key library personnel and ensuring that there are dedicated materials and learning equipment in place to support learners' independent study - £40,000.

8. It is proposed that Committee receives a further report to update Members on progress with the initiatives set out in paragraph 7, in 12 months' time.

### **Other Options Considered**

9. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. To support the continuing development and improvement of the Council's community learning offer.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public-sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

12. These are set out in the main body of the report.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

13. The recommendations in this report will enable Inspire Learning to fully meet its safeguarding duties to children and adults at risk, including Prevent.

### **Implications for Service Users**

14. The recommendations in this report will support the provision of new learning provision that will widen participation and enhance the overall community learning offer.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Committee:

- 1) notes the overview of the Council's community learning activities that existing reserves have funded to date
- 2) approves the utilisation of the remaining reserves in the 2017/18 academic year and receives a follow-up report in 12 months' time

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**Constitutional Comments (LM 30/06/17)**

15. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Communities and Place Committee.

**Financial Comments (SAS 29/06/17)**

16. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 7 above.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nottinghamshire Community Learning and Skills Service annual plan and fees 2017/18 – report to Culture Committee on 7 March 2017

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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