



meeting **Cabinet**

date **11th October 2006**

agenda item number

Report of the Cabinet Member For Culture and Regeneration

Basic Skills Referral and Support Network

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for additional expenditure of £30,000 on the Basic Skills Referral and Support Network project to be funded through external grant.
2. This is brought to Cabinet for consideration as it relates to a variation to an approval previously given by Cabinet.

Information and Advice

3. On 12th October 2005, Cabinet gave approval to the County Council to act as the Accountable Body for the Basic Skills Referral and Support Network project as well as approval for expenditure of up to £119,997 on this project.
4. The funding for this project is co-financed 100% through the Nottinghamshire Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the European Social Fund.
5. The project had originally applied to the LSC for funding of £149,997 but, when successful, was informed that only £119,997 was available. It was decided to proceed on that basis, leading to the Cabinet report authorising the lower amount of funding.
6. During recent contract negotiations with the Nottinghamshire LSC, however, it emerged that the full amount of £149,997 would now be made available to the project due to other initiatives not being able to proceed. It is estimated that expenditure on the project would be phased as follows:

	£
2006/07	79,047
2007/08	70,950
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Total	£149,997
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7. This report therefore seeks authorisation for approval to spend the additional funding of £30,000 on the Basic Skills Referral and Support Network project.
8. The day to day operation of the project, including the line management of the staff will be undertaken by New College Nottingham (NCN). A legal agreement is currently being put in place to establish NCN's responsibilities for delivery of the project and to safeguard the County Council's position.
9. In addition, the implementation timetable for this project has slipped since the Cabinet report of last year. The project is now due to finish at the end of February 2008, as opposed to December 2007.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that approval is given for the additional expenditure of up to £30,000, by way of a contractual arrangement with New College Nottingham, on the Basic Skills Referral and Support Network project to be funded by the Nottinghamshire Learning and Skills Council and the European Social Fund.

Councillor Steve Carroll
Cabinet Member for Culture and Regeneration

Strategic Director, Resources' Financial Comments (CC/PB)

The financial implications are as outlined in the report.

Legal Services' Comments

This matter falls within the delegation to cabinet. (PW 20.09.06)

Background Papers Available for Inspection

None

Electoral Divisions Affected

All