

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E2226
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Community Learning Service – Future Option

Decision maker	Cllr Vic Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Housing
The Issue	<p>From 1 August 2011 the Skills Funding Agency (external funding agency for Bath and North East Somerset Council Community Learning Service), will introduce Minimum Contract Levels of funding based on 2010/11 allocations. The Community Learning Service will fall below the £500,000 threshold to receive funding.</p> <p>Bath and North East Somerset Council will no longer receive a direct contract from the Skills Funding Agency to deliver informal adult learning – new arrangements with another provider will need to be made.</p>
Decision Date	2 February 2011
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees that the Skills Funding Agency allocation for informal adult learning is transferred from Bath and North East Somerset Community Learning Service to the City of Bath College with effect from 1 August 2011.</p> <p>Designated Community Learning Service staff are transferred to the City of Bath College under TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings – Protection of Employment) arrangements with effect from 1 August 2011.</p>
Rationale for decision	Options have been explored and an analysis undertaken regarding the most feasible in terms of securing value for money, best provision of adult learning opportunities for the people of Bath and North East Somerset, limiting the number of staff at risk and affordability.
Financial and budget implications	Whilst every effort will be made for as many staff as possible to be transferred to the new provider, there will be some redundancies as the allocation from the Skills Funding Agency for 2011/12 will be insufficient to support all posts.
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	<p>Cabinet member; Staff; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Divisional Director – Adult Services; Programme Director – Non-Acute Health, Social Care and Housing</p> <p>The recommendation has formally received support from the Community Health and Social Care Services Committee</p>
How consultation was carried out	Meetings have been held with Stella Doble (Divisional Director – Adult Services), Tina Clarke (Management Accountant), Jane Shayler

	<p>(Programme Director, Non-Acute Health, Social Care and Housing), Jo Southwell (Human Resources), Cllr Vic Pritchard; Community Learning Staff team meetings</p> <p>A report was presented to the Community Health and Social Care Services Committee</p>
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<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>To become a sub-contractor of Bristol City Council Community Learning Service with the Skills Funding Agency allocation going directly to Bristol. This option was rejected as there would be insufficient funds to support a sub-contracted delivery model.</p> <p>To relinquish funding altogether. This option was rejected as there would be a resulting loss of informal adult learning provision for the area. All staff posts would become redundant.</p>
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<p>Signatures of Decision Makers</p>	
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<p>Date of Signature</p>	
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Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision