

COMMUNITY AND ADULT SKILLS PROGRAMMES 2019-2020

Cabinet Date	24 April 2019
Economy, Skills and Growth.	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Key Decision	Yes
Background Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education & Skills Funding Agency – Adult Education Budget Funding and Performance Management Rules 2018-19 and draft rules for 2019-20 (consultation period ends 5.4.19). • Education & Skills Funding Agency – Apprenticeship Funding and Performance Management Rules 2018-19 and draft rules for 2019-20 (consultation period ends 5.4.19). • Due Regard Statement.
Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents	<p>Education & Skills Funding Agency – Adult Education Budget Funding and Performance Management Rules 2018-19 -</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733335/2018-19_AEB_funding_pm_rules_July.pdf</p> <p>Education & Skills Funding Agency – Apprenticeship Funding and Performance Management Rules 2018-19 –</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733050/1819_Provider_Rules_v1.0.pdf</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733046/Apps_1819_PM_rules_.pdf</p> <p>Draft Education & Skills Funding Agency Adult Education Budget funding rules 2019-2020 –</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-education-budget-aeb-funding-rules-2019-to-2020</p> <p>Due Regard Statement –</p> <p>Adult Learning Due Regard Statement 2019 to 2020 V3 of 04.03.19.docx</p>
Main Consultees	Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), Adult Education sub-contracted Providers, Further Education Colleges.
Planned Dates	<p>Consultation with the main consultees in April and May 2019.</p> <p>Ongoing consultation with the ESFA.</p>

Divisional Councillor	All
Officer	Pete Carr, Lead Commissioner – Employment and Skills Tel. 01452 583852 Email: Pete.Carr@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To seek Cabinet approval to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enter into the funding agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for the purpose of funding the delivery of Community Learning and Adult Skills Programmes during the 2019-2020 academic year; and b) To continue to award call-off contracts of varying lengths up to a maximum of 12 months (dependent on the type of course or piece of work, for the 2019-2020 academic year) for the provision of adult learning services under a framework agreement approved by Cabinet in April 2018 (which is valid for a further 3 years).
Recommendations	That the Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills & Growth authorises the Director of Education to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter into a funding agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) under which the council shall receive ESFA funding for the purpose of delivering Community Learning and Adult Skills Programmes for the 2019-2020 academic year; 2. To continue to award, during the academic year 2019-2020, a series of 12 month call-off contract(s) for the supply of learning to adult learners, utilising the ranking criteria, from the providers appointed under a four year contract framework agreement in 2018 (up to the value of £499,999 in respect of any single call-off contract). Individual call-off contracts whose values exceed £250,000 in value will be made in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. Any call-off contract with a value of £500,000 or more shall be the subject of a separate Cabinet decision.
Reasons for recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Without Education and Skills Funding Agency funding, the Adult Learning Commissioning and direct delivery service (Adult Education in Gloucestershire) would not be able to continue to deliver adult education in Gloucestershire in the 2019-2020 academic year, or procure the delivery of such services from third party providers. The council would need to manage the resulting costs of liabilities arising in respect of any redundancies in relation to the Council's Adult Education staff. 2. Without Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding the council would not be able to utilise such funding to contribute to developing skills in the local economy.
Resource Implications	The costs of the Adult Education contracts will be met from the ESFA grant, totalling £2,270,323 for the 2019-2020 academic year.

	<p>A total of £1,770,324 will be allocated to Adult Education in Gloucestershire (direct delivery team) for skills and community learning courses and a total of £499,999 to the appointed sub-contracted providers for community learning courses under the contract framework agreement.</p>
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MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

Background

1. Background

- 1.1** Gloucestershire County Council has been receiving funding for Adult Education from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), formerly the Learning and Skills Council, since April 2001. A contract is issued by the ESFA to the council for each academic year, with funding allocated for specific areas of provision.
- 1.2** For the 2019-2020 academic year the Education and Skills Funding Agency will require Gloucestershire County Council to enter into a Conditions of Funding Agreement for an amount of £2,270,323 that contains agreed delivery of learning for:
- Community Learning, (Non-accredited learning programmes primarily aimed at adults with low skills levels and economically disadvantaged learners).
 - Adult Skills (Accredited learning utilised by the Adult Education service to improve English, Mathematics and Language Skills of adult learners).
- 1.3** The Conditions of Funding Agreement also requires organisations to register as an Education and Skills Funding Agency provider and comply with their requirements. These cover issues related to learner health and safety, equalities, quality standards, data collection and return and sub contracting arrangements. Gloucestershire County Council is fully compliant with all their requirements.
- 1.4** In order to meet the needs of learners across Gloucestershire and to make use of the expertise of partner organisations, the council's Adult Education Service has sub-contracted its delivery of certain adult learning obligations arising from its funding agreement with the ESFA to such partner organisations.
- 1.5** During the 2019-2020 academic year funding from the ESFA will be used to deliver learning programmes to approximately 4,000 adults in Gloucestershire. At the current time, funding is primarily focussed on meeting the needs of low skilled and economically disadvantaged adults, enabling them to re-engage with education and to progress into vocational training, employment/self employment.
- 1.6** A framework for the provision of adult learning services was procured by GCC in 2018 for a 4 year term. For the academic year 2019-2020 it is proposed that training providers shall be awarded call-off contracts under this framework agreement. The framework has a minimum of 4 Lots for different curriculum areas (Lot 1- First Steps, Lot 2- Employability, Lot 3 – Adults with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (ALDD) and Lot 4 – Adult Supported Internships) and a number of sub-contracted suppliers have been appointed to each of the four Lots. Call-off contract(s) can be awarded each year in a combination of ways that include being allocated according to course, set pieces of work or, annual agreements, dependent on the type of course/work being awarded, up to a maximum of 12 months per contract.

1.7 The framework agreement is intended to improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality of service. It is a flexible arrangement approved by Cabinet in April 2018 for awarding contracts for each academic year during a four year period. It is fully compliant with council guidelines and procurement regulations and it does **not** affect the annual ESFA funding arrangements.

2. Options

2.1 To authorise entering into funding agreement for Adult Education in Gloucestershire for the 2019-2020 academic year between Gloucestershire County Council and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and to engage in a procurement process for the delivery of adult learning by partner organisations.

2.2 To discontinue the Education and Skills Funding Agency Agreement. The resource implications of this would be:-

a) The Adult Learning Commissioning and Delivery Service would not be able to continue in the 2019-2020 academic year without funds available from the ESFA as there is no immediate or alternative source of funding available. The council would also be liable for any redundancy costs in relation to the Council's Adult Education staff.

b) The council would not be able to utilise this funding to contribute to developing skills in the local economy.

c) There would be an impact on the lower skills base in the county and the reputation of the council as an enabler of economic growth and improving the life chances of citizens in the county.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 The main risk in relation to this proposal arises from the possibility that the ESFA may withdraw its community learning and adult skills funding. This would result in:-

a) the council being unable to deliver adult learning programmes in the county; and

b) the council incurring liabilities in respect of redundancies in relation to the Council's Adult Education staff as a consequence.

This risk is assessed as low because the Education and Skills Funding Agency is contractually committed to give twelve months' notice of any significant changes to contract values and no notice has been issued at this time.

4. Officer Advice

4.1 Officer advice is that the council should enter into the 2019-2020 academic year funding agreement with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and to continue to award one year call-off contracts during the remaining three year framework agreement to the five appointed sub-contracted Providers to deliver adult learning in the county during the new academic year.

- 4.2** Entering into this funding agreement will have a positive impact on the skills base in the county. It will also help in taking more families out of poverty and will assist them by providing learning opportunities which will enable them to obtain qualifications and improve their chances of gaining employment. In addition, the funding will help provide and improve services to other priority learner groups in the county who face multiple challenges such as mental health issues, depression and who may have a lack of self esteem.
- 4.3** The risks associated with entering into the funding agreement for the 2019/2020 academic year are minimal given that the ESFA is required to provide 12 months notice of any significant change in funding.

5. Equalities considerations

- 5.1** The learning provision targets learners within the protected characteristic groups and actively seeks to improve outcomes. It sets targets to reach more adult learners as a proportion of all those taking part in learning than is represented in the wider community.
- 5.2** Local community providers and partner organisations are utilised in order to reach adults within the protected characteristics groups. There is access for learners to all areas of the curriculum, and the curriculum strategy does not differentiate, or discriminate between age groups, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion and / or belief, or any other protected characteristic (e.g. disability).
- 5.3** Cabinet Members should read and consider the Due Regard Statement in order to satisfy themselves as decision makers that due regard has been given.

6. Consultation feedback

- 6.1** During the implementation of the four year contract framework the Skills and Employment Commissioning Team consulted current sub-contracted Providers about the proposed curriculum and the funding arrangements for the 2019-2020 academic year. Providers are fully aware of the current curriculum requirements and that future ESFA funding cannot be guaranteed each academic year during the remainder of the three year framework which was procured in 2018.

7. Performance Management / Follow-up

- 7.1** Key targets and performance indicators have been agreed with each Provider and included in their contracts. A programme of regular contract performance reviews will be conducted with Providers to assess performance against targets, particularly in the areas of numbers and types of learner, target groups, guided learning hours and learner hours.
- 7.2** The contract is regularly monitored by the Education and Skills Funding Agency through data and funding returns, and contract performance review meetings are held with Providers as required throughout the year.

Report Title	Community and Adult Skills Programmes 2019-2020.
Statutory Authority	N/A
Relevant County Council policy	N/A
Resource Implications	As in the body of the report.
Sustainability checklist:	<p>Partnerships - These include FE colleges, schools, and other community and voluntary organisations in Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Decision Making and Involvement - Community and voluntary group participation in Adult Education projects involving decision making.</p> <p>Economy and Employment Employability and progression towards employment are embedded in learning opportunities.</p> <p>Caring for people - Adult Education aims to enable adults to improve their lives and those of their families, provides enhanced skills for employment and contributes to the quality of life of the communities in which they live.</p> <p>Social Value - Community Learning Courses have a wide social impact and are measured using responses to the Adult Education Learning Impact Survey and through work commissioned by the Adult Education Skills and Employment Commissioning team.</p> <p>Built Environment Natural Environment including Ecology (Biodiversity) - Adult Education supports courses that protect and support the natural environment.</p> <p>Education and Information – These are key elements of Adult Education and there are therefore fully embedded in the provision.</p>
Tackling Climate Change	Carbon Emissions Implications? Neutral Vulnerable to climate change? No
Due Regard Statement	Yes - considerations included in main body of report. A copy of the full Due Regard Statement can be accessed on GLOSTEXT via

	<p>http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1</p> <p>Alternatively a hard copy is available for inspection from Jo Moore, Democratic Services Unit, e-mail: jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk.</p>
Human rights Implications	None
Consultation Arrangements	<p>The Skills and Employment Commissioning Team have consulted current sub-contracted Providers about the proposed curriculum and associated funding for the 2019-2020 academic year.</p> <p>The Adult Education Service will be consulting interested providers to continue the process by which learning will be commissioned. These include FE colleges, schools, and other training, community and voluntary organisations.</p> <p>All new sub-contracting opportunities will be commissioned appropriately and according to council guidelines and procurement regulations.</p>