

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Communities Committee - 19 February 2007

REPORT ON: Adult Education Support Fund

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 103-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval of changes to the Adult Education Support Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Communities Committee approves the changes to the Adult Education Support Fund to reflect and the following specific proposals:

- Revision of the eligibility criteria which would enable awards to be made for any accredited vocational learning opportunity up to SCQF Level 6.
- Change to the areas for which payment can be made; to include translation and signing, which addresses issues of equal opportunities.
- Criteria be extended to include courses which are offered under the Discover Learning Community Based Adult Learning Partnership with Dundee College/University of Dundee and Abertay University.
- Grant aid be given to individuals to support learning opportunities, which incorporate the Core Skills of: Communications; Numeracy; ICT; Working with other and Problem Solving.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Financial implications within this report can be contained within the existing budget allocation to the Adult Education Support Fund.

3.2 The modifications to eligibility criteria will bring the targeting of the fund back into line with Departmental priorities and will assist the Department to demonstrate Best Value.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability

None.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

None.

4.3 Anti-Poverty

The reconfiguration of the Adult Education Support Fund addresses the areas and objectives of the framework for tackling poverty and exclusion by:

- Assisting those who are financially disadvantaged and excluded from learning due to childcare, language or disability issues.
- Developing greater opportunities for participation in learning and improving people's potential economic position by providing first level access to lifelong learning opportunities.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Adult Education Support Fund contributes to the Equal Opportunities Agenda and in particular theme of "eliminating discriminatory practices and procedures which exclude people from participation in community life because of their basic skills, disability and long term unemployment". It promotes equality of access to learning and puts in place measures to support participation by the most excluded individuals.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Adult Education Support Fund is a long established grant aid fund, reference to its establishment is made in the Adult Education Strategy Plan April 1994 Ref 15P/356 - Tayside Regional Council.
- 6.2 The Adult Education Support Fund provides the opportunity for those most excluded from learning to access financial support to help undertake entry level qualifications or community based learning opportunities, which for many people are the first steps towards lifelong learning, employment or accessing FE/HE.
- 6.3 The Adult Education Support Fund acts as a support measure to the successful work that is undertaken by Leisure and Communities Department, which in its return to the Scottish Executive, November 2006 recorded the availability of 1,933 learning opportunities per week, during the survey period.
- 6.4 The Adult Education Support Fund links into the Dundee Partnership Lifelong Learning Group: which has access to learning as a priority action.

7.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 7.1 Full guidance notes/application criteria are available for the above within the Councillors Lounge.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

**STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITIES
25 JANUARY 2007**