

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
- 17 April 2000**

REPORT ON: COMMUNITY LEARNING STRATEGY - DUNDEE CITY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 281-2000

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report presents the Community Learning Strategy for Dundee City for the period 2000/2003, for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

2.1 the Committee notes and approves the Community Learning Strategy for Dundee City for the period 2000/2003;

2.2 instructs officers to forward the report to the Secretary of State for Scotland, and to proceed with implementing the recommendations contained in the Strategy.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Strategy itself contains no direct expenditure proposals. However, the implications of approving the Strategy are continuing commitment to the support of community-based adult learning, and lifelong learning generally.

3.2 The Committee's attention is drawn to the recommendations contained in Section 11 of the Strategy, and incorporated into this report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Meeting local needs is the central focus of the Community Learning Strategy and, as such, the measures contained in the Community Learning Strategy will impact on numerous Agenda 21 targets.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Community Learning Strategy focuses on addressing the barriers which affect the uptake of community learning in Dundee. The Strategy will have succeeded if, over the next 3 years, access to community learning opportunities is made more readily available to those whose initial experience of education may have been characterised by under-achievement. The Community Learning Partnership seeks to promote opportunities for all, but will target its efforts on supporting initiatives designed to have the effect of equalling opportunities.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 In April 1999, the Scottish Executive issued Circular SO4/1999 providing advice to local authorities in Scotland on the future of community education, and requiring local authorities to produce a Community Learning Strategy as an integral aspect of their Community Plans.

6.2 To advance the production of this Strategy for Dundee, the City Council invited a wide range of organisations together, many of which have subsequently committed themselves to working in partnership for both the generation and delivery of the Community Learning Strategy for the city.

- 6.3 The Strategy recognises both the needs and the opportunities which exist to promote community learning in Dundee.
- 6.4 At its meeting in January 2000, the Community Learning Partnership adopted the following vision:-
- "Dundee is a vibrant city where every citizen contributes to community life and community learning in order to dream, to discover and to develop"*
- 6.5 The Strategy has set out to distinguish the key features of community learning, its value base and its relationship to other aspects of lifelong learning.
- 6.6 The Strategy sets out goals for community learning in terms of personal development and community capacity building.
- 6.7 In the course of preparing the Strategy, the Partnership have carried out an audit of current provision, and have highlighted the excellent partnership working which already exists in Dundee.
- 6.8 The adult literacy provision provided by the City Council is recognised as of the highest standard in Scotland. The contribution made through the partnership with Dundee College for the delivery of community based adult learning is also recognised as a model of excellence.
- 6.9 The contribution made by voluntary organisations particularly those committed to community based adult learning is also recognised in the Strategy.
- 6.10 Across the city, the richness of resources and opportunities are set in sharp contrast to the barriers expressed by residents of social priority areas, and others who are not currently engaged in community learning activity.

7.0 COMMUNITY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Partnership have agreed the following areas of strategic priority:

- 7.1 Develop closer links and strengthen partnership working
- 7.2 Improve strategic information on levels of participation in community learning activity and investment by the partners
- 7.3 Target resources towards communities which experience the effects of poverty and other factors which can lead to social exclusion
- 7.4 Develop local learning bases and promote access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- 7.5 Promote greater understanding and support for volunteers as learners
- 7.6 Identify and respond to the distinctive learning needs of specific groups
- 7.7 Address the community learning needs of young people through a strategic review
- 7.8 Respond to the needs and interests of older people who form a significant proportion of the city's population
- 7.9 Promote parental education and support for parents
- 7.10 Promote access to information/adult guidance and advice
- 7.11 Support adults with special needs and those with physical disabilities
- 7.12 Support adults seeking to improve their own abilities in skill areas (literacy and numeracy)

- 7.13 Develop "Active Communities" through community learning structures (community-based Adult Education Associations/Community Associations/Neighbourhood Centres/Tenant Groups and other local self-help initiatives).

The Strategy incorporates an Action Plan which details the supporting targets and timetable for each of these objectives.

8.0 COMMUNITY LEARNING PLANS

- 8.1 The Government guidance for the production of Community Learning Strategies suggested that concurrent with the development of the Strategy itself, partnerships should take forward a number of community learning plans on a pilot basis. These pilots are intended to address priority concerns such as social inclusion, and will be prepared during the first year and rolled out over years 2 and 3.

- 8.2 Three different approaches have been proposed by the Community Learning Partnership for Dundee. These are -

- Geographic communities - a community learning plan focusing on the learning needs of those living in the social inclusion priority areas of Ardler, Kirkton, Mid Craigie/Linlathen and the Hilltown;
- Community of Interest - a plan focusing specifically on volunteers engaged in community learning activity;
- Community of Need - a pilot which will focus on the development of a community learning plan for young adults with special needs.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Community Learning Strategy for Dundee has been produced by a partnership involving:-

Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Community & Voluntary Alliance
Dundee City Council
Dundee College
Dundee Voluntary Action
LEAD Scotland
Network for Adult Guidance, Tayside
Northern College
Tayside Careers
Tayside Health Board
Scottish Enterprise Tayside
University of Abertay
University of Dundee
Volunteer Information Point

- 9.2 The Strategy has also been the subject of consultation and discussion at a number of meetings including a public meeting for organisations in the voluntary sector, the Tayside Adult Guidance Network, and other structures involving Council departments and staff.

- 9.3 Within the Council, consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, the Director of Finance, the Director of Support Services, the Director of Social Work, the Director of Education, the Director of Housing, the Director of Leisure and Parks, the Director of Arts and Heritage, and the Director of Corporate Planning.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 A significant number of key policy reports which impact on community learning have been reviewed and are referred to in the Strategy. These include:-

- Communities Change Through Learning*, SOEID, published November 1998
- New Library - The People's Network*, Department for Culture, Media & Sport, July 1997
- New Community Schools prospectus*, Scottish Office, November 1998
- Opportunity Scotland*, published September 1998
- Opening the Door to a Better Scotland*, Scottish Executive, March 1999
- A Scotland Where Everyone Matters*, Scottish Executive, November 1999
- Active Communities - Supporting Active Communities in Scotland*, published January 2000
- Opportunities for Everyone - a strategic framework for Scottish Further Education*, published March 1999

Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development

Date.....