

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
- 10 FEBRUARY 2003**

REPORT ON: LITERACIES ACTION PLAN – ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2002/2003

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 135-2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This Report makes recommendations for the allocation of resources to Community Learning Partners in order they can deliver on the key elements contained in the Literacies Action Plan, which was approved by the Scottish Executive in April 2002.

2 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 notes the allocation of additional funding for adult literacy as set out in Para 3.2 below.
- 2.2 agrees the allocation of Literacies Action Plan Funding 2002/2003 as detailed in section 6.
- 2.3 agrees the extension of the contract for CM Associates on the basis of previously agreed rates for the next financial year (2003/2004).

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The financial implications of the Report can be contained within the allocation given to the Community Learning Partnership and previously reported to Committee on 14 January 2002, Report No 26-2002.
- 3.2 The Council has received confirmation of the Scottish Executive's intention to extend the period of committed funding from March 2004 to March 2006, ie for a further two financial years.

The additional allocations for Dundee are as follows:

2004/05	£386,475
2005/06	£397,112

This funding is released through the local authority to the Learning Partnership and will be included in the City Council's Revenue Support Grant.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Report seeks to ensure that resources are used as efficiently as possible to achieve departmental and Council agreed service priorities, and ensure a sustainable partnership approach to literacy provision.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposals will continue to reflect the priorities of the Council and the Community Learning Partnership to equal opportunities.

6 BACKGROUND

6.1 In July 2001 the Scottish Executive produced a circular ELLD 1/01 providing guidance on the role expected of local authorities in the new drive to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy. This role is set within the context of the Community Learning Strategies and local authorities duties were outlined as follows:

- Ensure that the partnership groups responsible for the Community Learning Strategy make effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy.
- Co-ordinate and lead on the creation of clearly defined action plans on adult literacy as components of Community Learning Strategies

The definition of what constitutes an appropriate level of literacy and numeracy for people is set out as follows:

“The ability to read, write and use numeracy, to handle information, to express ideas and opinions, to make decisions and solve problems as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners.”

6.2 £22.5 million has been allocated nationally to adult literacy and numeracy work for the period 2001 – 2004 to underpin a drive to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy. Learners who can benefit from programmes delivered through these funds should have an ability level below intermediate level 1.

Dundee's allocation is

- 2001 – 2002 £95,732 (part year)
- 2002 – 2003 £191,465
- 2003 – 2004 £368,747

6.3 Authority to recommend funding allocations under the Community Learning Partnership – Literacies Action Plan has been delegated to a Partnership Sub Group which has representatives from Dundee City Council – Neighbourhood Resources and Development Department/Education Department; Dundee College; Tayside Chamber of Commerce and The University of Dundee.

6.4 The following grants have been assessed and are recommended for approval:

Ref No	Applicant Group	Allocation £
LF19	Tayside Workers Educational Association	1,065
LF20	Dundee College	5,250
LF21	NRDD	800
	Total	7,115

Details of projects contained in Appendix A.

6.5 The Action Plan submitted to the Scottish Executive outlined a broad-based and flexible delivery programme for the city.

The following are the agreed target groups:

- People with limited initial education, particularly young people (limited educational attainment – intermediate level one or below).
- Unemployed people and workers facing redundancy (this includes people who are on sessional/casual/temporary contracts, or in marginal employment).
- People with English as a second or other language.
- People who live in disadvantaged areas (areas designated by Scottish Executive, City Council or Scottish Enterprise Tayside).
- Workers in low skill jobs (requiring minimal or no pre and on job training).
- People on low incomes (those receiving state benefits or on minimum wage).

- People with a health problem or disability affecting learning, speech, sight or hearing (only people who are able to articulate their own learning needs are covered by this funding – it is not acceptable for a carer to set out their need).

The delivery of the Action Plan is based on four aspects:

- A partnership approach – where possible delivery should involve more than one agency.
- Utilising existing networks and professionals to raise awareness with potential learners and refer them to providers through the establishment of a formal Spotters and Referrers Network.
- A common gateway approach utilising a core information gathering structure, assessment approach, individual learning planning framework, recording and evaluation and monitoring structure.
- Delivery of learning to occur at venues and times to suit the learners across the city – this to include community and workplace settings.

The action plan sets a target number of new learners to be achieved in each year

- 2001 – 2002 - 50
- 2002 – 2003 - 520
- 2003 – 2004 - 1320

These figures must be achieved over and above previous student numbers attained by members of the Community Learning Partnership, thus showing a net increase across the partners and the city.

6.6 The allocation of funds to community learning partners will address the targets contained in the action plan. No targets have yet been agreed for 2004/05 and 2005/06.

6.7 The Executive expects that local authorities will:

- ensure that the Partnership Group responsible for community learning strategies make effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy
- ensure new resources continue to support, and where possible build on the increased capacity evidenced in the existing Action Plan and improve the quality of local provision
- ensure all partners, including Further Education and the voluntary sector, have equal access to the new resources

Prior to release of additional funding for 2004/06, the Scottish Executive requires the Community Learning Partnership to submit Action Plans covering the period of extension funding and setting out future outcome agreements. These require to be submitted in September 2003, along with the mid-year review.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, the Directors of Finance, Corporate Planning and Support Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report, which is based on recommendations made by the Literacies Sub Group of the Community Learning Partnership.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 No background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 other than containing confidential or exempt information were relied on to any material extent in the preparation of this report.

Fraser R Patrick
Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development

30 January 2003

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DUNDEE COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
LITERACIES ACTION PLAN
PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

These projects have made application to deliver literacies programmes across the city:

	Bid	Recommended Allocation
<p>LF19 Tayside Workers Educational Association:</p> <p>The project will use an educational approach, working with active citizens to develop a learning plan. Literacy and numeracy tuition will be focussed on employees active in Trade Union and Community Activity whose specific needs are not being met.</p>	1,737	1,065
<p>LF20 Dundee College “Learning Curve 2”</p> <p>The Learning Curve will provide a new type of learning provision at Kingsway Campus for individuals, whose ability is below intermediate Level 1. This innovative provision will provide flexible, roll on – roll off, student centre of learning.</p>	5,250	5,250
<p>LF21 Dundee City Council – Libraries “Family Reading is Fun”</p> <p>Parents will develop literacy learning skills. The project will focus on literacy and learning activities with their children. The object is to encourage parents to develop learning/literacy skills in order that they can be involved in the lifelong learning process with their children.</p>	1,000	800
	Total	7,115

	Literacies Applications Budget £	Previously Committed Expenditure £	Proposals contained in this Report £	Balance remaining £
Total allocations 2002/2003	61,571	54,456	7,115	----