

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 9 MAY 2005
REPORT ON: LITERACIES ACTION PLAN – ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2005/2006
REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES
REPORT NO: 301-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the allocation of funding, through local authorities, to the Community Learning Partnership, for the period 2005-2008.
- 1.2 To inform the Committee of the allocation of resources to deliver on key elements of the action plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 notes the allocation of resources for 2005-2008, as follows:-

2005-2006	£437,000	increase of £39,888 on allocation previously reported (Report No 280-2003)
2006-2007	£439,000	
2007-2008	£443,000	

- 2.2 notes the allocation of European Regional Development Fund money for the development of marketing and infrastructure for literacy work 2005-2006 £24,975.
- 2.3 agrees the allocation of Literacies Action Plan funding 2005/2006 as recommended by the Community Learning Partnership (Literacies Sub Group) on 20 April 2005 and as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this proposal.

4.0 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.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposals will continue to reflect the priorities of the Council and the Community Learning Partnership to equal opportunities. The resources made available are targeted at the 23% of the population identified as having literacy needs and aim to provide equality of opportunities to learning.

6.0 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 Nationally, £37 million has been allocated to adult literacy for the period 2005–2008, to underpin the national strategy aimed at raising levels of adult literacy and numeracy. Learners who can benefit from programmes delivered through these funds should have an ability level at or below intermediate level one.
- 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 – Communities Department/Education Department; Dundee College; Tayside Chamber of Commerce; Dundee Trades Union Council; Scottish Trades Union Council; Job Centre Plus; Scottish Enterprise Tayside and Dundee Voluntary Action.
- 6.4 The Partnership Sub Group has approved the award detailed in Appendix 1.
- 6.5 The current Action Plan submitted to the Scottish Executive outlined a broad-based and flexible delivery 2004–2006 programme for the city.

The continuation of funding from the Scottish Executive is dependent on the submission of a further action plan on literacy and numeracy.

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:

Year	Target Number of learners	Actual Numbers Achieved
2001 – 2002	50	57
2002 – 2003	520	795
2003 – 2004	1320	1237
2004 – 2005	1587	not yet available
2005 – 2006	1607	

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.

6.7 The Executive expects that local authorities will ensure:

- that the Partnership Group responsible for community learning strategies makes effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy.
- 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.
- all partners, including Further Education and the voluntary sector, have equal access to the new resources.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) 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.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities

Date: 29 April 2005

**DUNDEE COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
LITERACIES ACTION PLAN
PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2005/2006**

Ref No	Applicant Group	Details	Amount Requested £	Recommended Allocation £
LF62/05	Outreach Gateway	To work in partnership with other agencies across the City adding a literacy referral service to job shops, information events and outreach activities	6,437.20	6,437.20

Total Allocation of Challenge Fund 2005/2006	250,000.00
Previously approved allocation 2005/2006	231,392.32
Proposals contained in this report	6,437.20
Balance remaining	12,170.48