

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	31 May 2012
<b>Title:</b>	Adult and Community Learning (ACL) Funding Distribution and Commissioning Proposals for 2012-13
<b>Reference:</b>	4004
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Hampshire County Council (HCC) receives annual funding from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to support adult and community learning (ACL) and aims to secure high quality learning provision through a combination of service level agreements with HCC services and grant allocations to local learning providers.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the allocation of SFA, ACL funding by district and provider for 2012-13.
- 1.3 On 19 April 2012, managers approved Hampshire County Council's Strategic Commissioning Plan for Adult and Community Learning 2012-13 and a funding option, equating to £1.7m, to provide grant support to prospective applicants.
- 1.4 This commenced an application process that included widespread distribution of relevant funding documentation to many organisations across Hampshire. It included the promotion of funding opportunities to potential new applicants as well as current providers and briefing sessions were held across the county. Subsequently, Hampshire Learning received a high volume of applications from a variety of organisations.
- 1.5 Formal appraisal and assessment of all submitted applications occurred between 14-17 May 2012. These assessments have resulted in recommendations for funding support per provider and per district that are included in Appendix 1.
- 1.6 Approval of funding will enable grant aid to 42 organisations to provide adult and community learning activities across all 11 districts within Hampshire during 2012-13. It will provide a diverse range of activities including leisure learning as well as support for various needs and targeted groups of learners; access to qualifications; support for disadvantaged families; employability skills enhancement; and digital inclusion.

- 1.7 It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves grant funding for 2012-13, totalling £1.701m for the providers and within the respective districts contained in Appendix 1 of this report. The total level funding proposed represents an increase of £0.411m (31.8%) on the current total 2011-12 funding of £1.289m.

## **2. Contextual information**

- 2.1. Hampshire Learning is an integral part of the Children's Services Department and the in-house provider of adult and community learning (ACL) across the county. Hampshire Learning receives annual funding from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to provide broad-based ACL. It is seeking to utilise £1.7m of SFA funding to deliver, with its key partners, learning activities through a programme of grant funding during 2012-13. This funding is complemented by £600,000 provided by the SFA to a group of Hampshire FE Colleges to deliver community learning.
- 2.2. As part of its objective to achieve a coherent and impact-based offer of learning activities, CSDMT has endorsed a Strategic Commissioning Plan (SCP) for 2012-13. The Plan includes proposals to achieve a broad range of goals such as: improved qualifications, employability, support for vulnerable families and progression pathways. It also seeks to support a wide demographic of Hampshire residents including disabled people, those who are digitally excluded, older people, and the unemployed.
- 2.3. Currently, the Service provides over 3,000 courses from over 300 locations to 18,000 learners in Hampshire. The provision includes a universal learning offer including a wide range of leisure provision as well as specifically targeted courses such as health and wellbeing, community participation and personal development that are delivered in widespread locations including schools, community centres, children's centres, village halls and libraries.
- 2.4. Proposals for 2012-13 seek to increase learner volumes to 20,000, which would represent a 20% increase over two years and for this to be achieved via a commissioned programme of grant funding.
- 2.5. Detailed discussions have taken place with CS Procurement and Legal Services relating to the formulation of a grants commissioning procedure in accordance with HCC regulations. Legal Services and CS Procurement endorsed the grant application process.
- 2.6. Hampshire Learning activities are subject to the Ofsted Common Inspection Framework regulations. The Service received Good grades at inspection in June 2010 and an apparently favourable outcome of the interim Monitoring Inspection of the Service in May 2012 (this is subject to moderation and confirmation and will be the subject of a future report to the Lead Member).

## **3 Consultation**

- 3.1 The Hampshire Learning funding process commenced on 20 April 2012 when application information and documentation was widely distributed across the county. The deadline for receipt of applications was 11 May 2012.
- 3.2 Various sources have been utilised to highlight and promote the 2012-13 funding programme. They include: HCC website, Schools Communications,

Hampshire Learning Network, Community Learning Partnerships and local providers. In addition, all Hampshire College Principals, Chief Executives of CVSs and the Chair of each Community Learning Partnership were notified of funding plans and proposals.

3.3 Hampshire Learning received over 60 direct enquiries in relation to funding guidelines and criteria. Clarification and guidance was provided for enquiries and prospective applicants.

3.4 Funding Briefings were held in Fareham on 2 May and in Basingstoke on 3 May 2012. The Briefings had a combined attendance of 80 people from representative organisations.

#### 4 Application process

4.1 The application process resulted in the following outcomes:

- Widespread distribution of funding documentation resulted in a high volume of applications.
- 43 bids were received totalling £2.2m against available funding of £1.7m.
- Within some districts such as Gosport and East Hants, funding requested was significantly higher than proposed district expenditure.
- Proposals will ensure that no district receives reduced funding in 2012-13 compared to district allocation for 2011-12 (see Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1

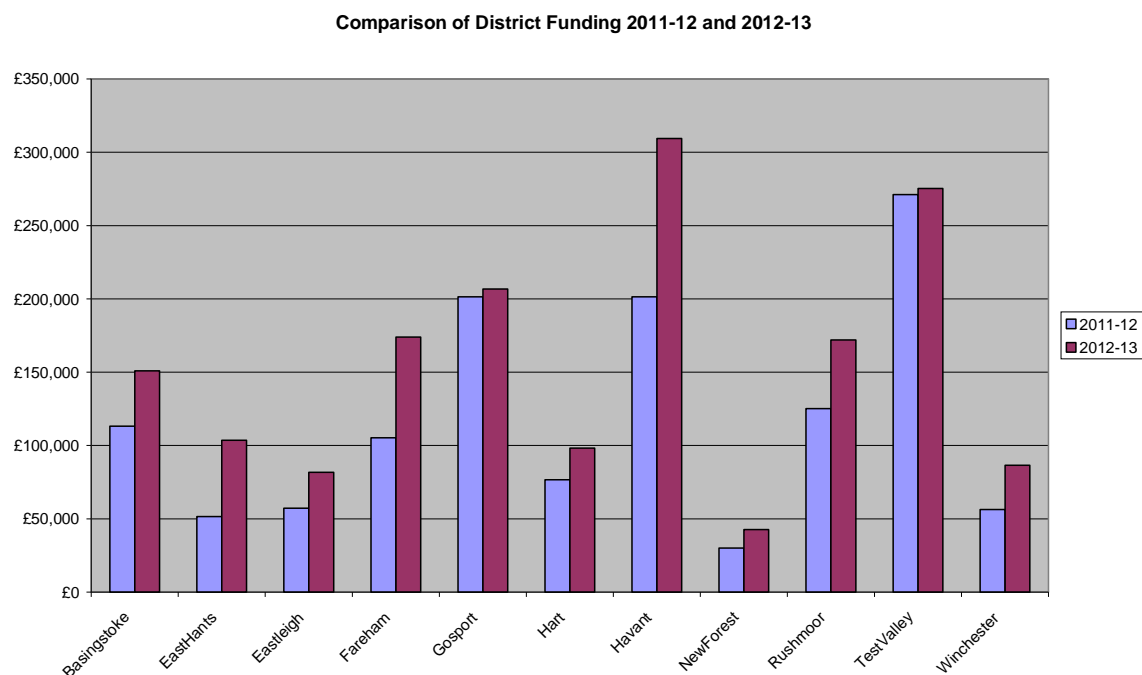


Table 2

District	Current Funding 2011-12	Proposed Funding 2012-13
Basingstoke	£113,251	£150,928
East Hants	£51,521	£103,536
Eastleigh	£57,293	£81,673

Fareham	£105,318	£173,942
Gosport	£201,421	£206,781
Hart	£76,660	£98,286
Havant	£201,360	£309,432
New Forest	£30,036	£42,630
Rushmoor	£125,116	£172,021
Test Valley	£271,194	£275,319
Winchester	£56,286	£86,498
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,289,455</b>	<b>£1,701,045</b>

- Of the 42 bids recommended for approval, 18 are below £20k and three bids are in excess of £100k.
- Of the current 2011-12 providers (who account for approximately 80% of applicants for 2012-13) none will receive a significant reduction in their current funding levels for 2012-13.
- The recommended funding allocations represent a split of 75% targeted and 25% universal provision which is line with the policy commitment.
- £600k of SFA-supported college funding will complement Hampshire Learning funding within the districts of Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, Gosport, New Forest and Winchester (see Table 3).

Table 3

District	FE College funding for Adult Learning direct from Skills Funding Agency
Basingstoke	£49,000
East Hants	£0
Eastleigh	£40,000
Fareham	£0
Gosport	£129,000
Hart	£0
Havant	£0
New Forest	£357,571
Rushmoor	£0
Test Valley	£0
Winchester	£41,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£616,571</b>

- Organisations recommended for funding support include schools, children's centres, colleges, libraries and voluntary and community sector organisations.

## 5 Conclusions

5.1 This report summarises the Hampshire Learning application process for 2012-13 and recommendations for funding per provider and per district as described in Appendix 1. Consultations, briefings and widespread dissemination of bidding documentation produced a diverse and broad-based range of applications.

- 5.2 Although it was not feasible to fully meet all funding requests, it is significant that no district is proposed to receive a reduction from their current 2011-12 allocation. A number of districts are proposed to receive increased allocations and the recommendation would mean that no existing individual applicant receives a significant reduction in funding for 2012-13 based on current 2011-12 allocations.
- 5.3 Commissioning has been undertaken in an open and transparent manner and the funding proposals are strategic, balanced and proportionate. We are confident that the outcome of the bidding process and funding approvals will receive a generally supportive response from applicants, organisations and partners from across Hampshire.

## **6 Recommendation**

- 6.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approves funding of £1.7m apportioned per district and per provider as outlined in Section 4 and within Appendix 1 of this report.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u>		<u>Date</u>
Skills Investment Strategy 2011-14 (BIS)		1 December 2011
New Challenges, New Chances (BIS)		1 December 2012

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hampshire County Council Strategic Commissioning Plan for Adult and Community Learning 2012-13	Hampshire Learning website

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1 An equality impact assessment has been considered in the development of the Strategic Commissioning Plan for Adult and Community Learning and in the funding allocation processes outlined in this report. No adverse impact has been identified and the needs of equality groups are actively considered at all stages in the planning and delivery of adult and community learning provision. The impact assessment concluded that the proposals are likely to address needs of targeted groups where levels of deprivation are higher and that ACL funding should contribute towards closing the outcomes gap.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

- 2.1 There is no direct impact but it is reasonable to assume that improved and extended delivery of effective adult learning programme, with a particular emphasis on learning for targeted or vulnerable groups, will make a positive impact on some of the indirect causes of crime such as unemployment and poor literacy.

### **2 Climate Change:**

- 3.1 N/A