



CABINET – 30TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT: REDUCED FUNDING FOR ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING 2014-2015

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & S151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The report, which was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on the 8th July 2014, informed Members of the reduction in funding for Adult Community Learning in the 2014/15 academic year and offered options to be considered for future delivery of the service.
- 1.2 Adult Community Learning is facing significant reductions to the budget in 2014/15 academic year. The report informed members of the reduction in funding which amounted to £235,470 in this financial year. The report highlighted options for consideration regarding delivery of service for 14/15.
- 1.3 Members considered the financial and personnel implications as detailed within the report and expressed concerns that a number of posts may be affected, although they were advised that actions would be undertaken in line with the Council's Redeployment and Redundancy Policy.
- 1.4 Following detailed consideration, Members expressed their concerns that the grant funding had been reduced and reference was made to the impact on the low-income residents living in the county borough.
- 1.5 Members were informed that the reduction in grant funding as outlined in Table 1 although confirmed by the Welsh Government (WG), Coleg Gwent and Coleg Cymoedd, was dependant on Caerphilly achieving the targets for delivery detailed in the grant agreement.
- 1.6 The report outlines the impact of the reduction in funding on Management, Administration and Venue costs required to run eligible courses.
- 1.7 There are a number of courses previously funded by the grant that now do not qualify for grant funding. Paragraphs 4.5/4.7 detail options for charging learners and increasing room hire charges to try to maintain provision.
- 1.8 The Scrutiny Committee supported the proposals as outlined in paragraphs 4.5 and 4.7 of the report, as set out below, and recommended their approval to Cabinet:-
 - (i) In order to mitigate the impact of the reduction in tutor hours, it be considered that the Service offers courses on a cost recovery basis. It is estimated that the cost would be £4 per hour per learner with an additional £3 per hour per learner for accreditation, if required (Courses would continue if they are viable due to the number attending)
 - (ii) With regard to the marginal increases in room hire, it be proposed that these fees be increased at a level which remains competitive.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 The Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Report dated 8th July 2014