



## EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2ND JULY 2019

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING GRANTS 2019-20**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with details of grant funding available to the Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate in 2019-20. To update with regards to grant funding that will span financial years, particularly with regards to capital funding.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides brief details of the grant funding currently available, although Members need to be aware that further grants can be made available in year subject to new funding sources or the successful outcome of bids.
- 2.2 The report provides a brief description of the intended purpose of the grant funding. More detailed information on individual grants can be made available to Members, if requested.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that Members are informed with regards to confirmed and indicative grant funding in 2019/20, both capital and revenue funding.

### 5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The attached Appendix 1 provides summary details of grants currently available to the Directorate in 2019-2020. It includes a list of the grants, the grant funding bodies, the value of the grant, a brief description of the purpose of the funding, together with details of the responsible officer.
- 5.2 Members will note that there is a significant level of grant funding available to the Directorate in 2019-20, with the revenue figure currently estimated at £31m. The funding linked to capital, which spans a number of years is potentially estimated at £65m. Members will note that funding is made available from a number of different sources.

- 5.3 Members should note that at the end of financial year 2018-19, the Authority received some one off grant funding from Welsh Government linked to School Maintenance (£2.4m) and Period Products in Schools (£140k). Whilst this funding was received in financial year 2018-19, this was with a commitment to match this level of funding in 2019-20.
- 5.4 Each grant offer made to the Authority is dependant on adherence to a pre defined set of terms and conditions, as stipulated by the awarding body. The purpose of the terms and conditions is for the grant body to be able to satisfy itself that the grant has been spent within the scope and purpose of the funding.
- 5.5 In addition the terms and conditions will outline the period of the grant, how the grant will be paid, the timescale for submission of grant claims and reports and also whether the grant is subject to an annual audit review. The requirement for an audit review will stipulate whether this needs to be undertaken by either the Authority's Internal or External Auditors. The purpose of the audit review is to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant through a process of sample testing. The attached Appendix 1 identifies which of the 2019-20 grants require an audit review. During the review any queries raised are investigated and any further information required by Audit is provided prior to an Audit Report being produced. The details of the outcome of the audit are then made available to the awarding body as specified.
- 5.6 To be aware, even where a grant does not require a specific audit the Grant Body reserve the right to have access to documents and information relating to grant monies and may exercise this right, at all reasonable times, if deemed necessary.
- 5.7 Within the Directorate, the Finance Division maintains a database of all grants that have been awarded to the Directorate for the year. This provides key information for financial planning and also ensures that grant income and the associated expenditure are incorporated into the budget monitoring reports that are produced for the Directorate.
- 5.8 It is important to advise that the Education Achievement Service has a key role in the co-ordination of a number of regional grants, as identified in Appendix 1.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 Any assumptions are detailed within the report and appendix.

## **7. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 7.1 The effective use of grant funding and resources within the Directorate is necessary to ensure that key strategies are achieved. This will support the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, in particular as follows:
- A healthier Wales, supporting vulnerable learners can improve their well-being and educational achievement.
  - A more equal Wales, a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background is; and
  - A Wales of cohesive communities, improving the quality of life with attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 8.1 Effective financial management is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are met.

## 9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct equality implications to this report, therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. All grant schemes are implemented in line with the requirements of the Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 and in compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. All operational work undertaken to implement the Directorate's key strategies will be assessed individually as appropriate.

## 10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 In 2019-20 there is currently an estimated £31m due into the Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate in the way of revenue grant funding. The issue with regards to grant funding is the degree of uncertainty for future planning purposes, since in most instances the grants are awarded on an annual basis which poses issues for medium and long term planning. Estimated capital funding totals £65m but this would cover a number of financial years.
- 10.2 As mentioned previously, all grants are subject to specific terms and conditions and this could include a requirement that the grant is subject to External Audit. If this is the case the Authority's External Auditors will scrutinise financial and non financial data relating to the grant, as per the Audit Instructions, to ensure that all expenditure complies with the terms and conditions. If External Audit identify that there has been a failure to comply then potentially the grant funding body could claw back the grant funding previously awarded and paid, impacting directly on the Authority's budget in that year.
- 10.3 In 2019/20 Members should be aware of the following:
- As part of the Education Learning Grant, Welsh Government has increased the Authority's funding for Minority Ethnic Achievement / Gypsy Roma Travellers from £76k to £142k. The longer term funding position will be considered as part of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.
  - Local Authority Education Grant - PDG Access funding continues in 2019-20. The purpose of this grant is to provide assistance to families on low incomes. It is aimed at supporting pupils who are eligible for free school meals because of the benefits or support payments that their parents **currently** receive. In addition to supporting the purchase of school uniform, this funding can also be used for kit and equipment for extra curricular, enrichment, after and out of school activities. In 2019-20, this funding is available to year 3 and year 10 pupils, in addition to reception and year 7 pupils (only reception and year 7 in 2018-19). Funding of up to £125 is available for eligible learners in reception, year 3 and year 10, with funding of up to £200 for eligible learners in year 7.
  - A number of the Directorates Welsh Government funding streams have been brought together under the umbrella of the new Children & Communities Grant. This grant includes 7 previous funding streams, some of which were received in Education – notably Flying Start, Out of School Childcare and Families First Funding. The amalgamation of these grants is intended to provide greater flexibility within the Authority with regards to targeting funding. In 2019-20 the total grant amounts to £9,742,237 of which circa £6m is received into Education (as per details in appendix). In 2019-20, funding for the Education projects is comparable to 2018-19 funding.
  - Post 16 Funding into the Authority has reduced by £211k in 2018/19, due to a reduced number of predicted learners (3 year predicted average over 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/210).
  - Youth Support Grant Funding has increased significantly to £582k.
  - New European Project – NET (Nurture, Equip, Thrive).

## 11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In circumstances where grant funding is reduced or withdrawn, employees placed at risk will be supported via the appropriate Council policies relating to redeployment and ultimately redundancy if necessary.
- 11.2 It is most likely that these redundancy costs would need to be met by the Authority.

## 12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 Consultation discussions and responses have been reflected in this report.

## 13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Local Government Act 1972.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1: Grants available to the Directorate in 2019-20