



EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING GRANTS 2021/22

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with details of grant funding available to the Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate in 2021-22. 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.
- 2.3 We are currently awaiting a number of formal grant offer letters from Welsh Government; consequently some of the funding values contained in the appendix are indicative at this point in time.

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 2020/21, 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 2021/2022. It includes a list of the grants, the grant funding bodies, the value of the grant, and a brief description of the purpose of the funding, together with details of the responsible officer. At this point some of the figures identified are indicative as we are awaiting formal offer letters from the awarding body.
- 5.2 Members will note that there is a significant level of grant funding available to the Directorate in 2021/22, revenue funding is currently estimated at £33m. The funding linked to capital, which spans a number of financial years is estimated at £64m. Members will note that funding is made available from a number of different sources.
- 5.3 Each grant offer made to the Authority is dependent 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.
- 5.4 In addition the terms and conditions will outline the period of the grant, how the grant will be paid, and 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. 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 Within the Directorate, the Finance Division maintains a record 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.
- 5.7 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.

5.8 Conclusion

The details contained in the body of this report and in the appendix illustrate how important external grant funding is to the Directorate and Schools. This is due to the level of funding and the areas of support that this funding is targeted.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

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

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An IIA is not necessary for this Information Only Report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 In 2021/22 there is currently an estimated £33m 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 £64m but this would cover a number of financial years.

8.2 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.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 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.

9.2 It is most likely that these redundancy costs would need to be met by the Authority.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 Consultation discussions and responses have been reflected in this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2000.

Author: Jane Southcombe, Finance Manager (Education, Lifelong Learning & Schools) southj@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Service – Education Planning & Strategy
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion & ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Grants 2021/22