



## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 7TH JULY 2015**

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING GRANTS 2015-16**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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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 2015-16.

### **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. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The effective use of grant funding and resources within the Directorate is necessary to ensure that key strategies are achieved.
- 3.2 The report also supports the Learning theme of "Caerphilly Delivers" and the Prosperous Theme.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The attached Appendix 1 provides summary details of grants currently available to the Directorate in 2015-16. 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.
- 4.2 Members will note that there is a significant level of grant funding available to the Directorate in 2015-16, with the figure currently estimated at £34m. In addition Members will note that funding is made available from a number of different sources.
- 4.3 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.

- 4.4 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 2015-16 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 It is important to advise that the Education Achievement Service now has a key role in the co-ordination of a number of regional grants, as identified in the Appendix.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 In 2015-16 there is currently an estimated £34m due into the Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate in the way of 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. Also the terms and conditions of some grants may not be in line with the Authority's longer term priorities, which may be a consideration.
- 6.2 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.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 It is most likely that these redundancy costs would need to be met by the Authority.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

## **10. STATUTORY POWER**

10.1 Local Government Act 1972.

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Lynne Donovan – HR Service Manager, Customer Services  
Councillor Wynne David, Chair, Education for Life Scrutiny  
Councillor J Pritchard, Vice-Chair, Education for Life Scrutiny

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Grants available to the Directorate in 2015-16