

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Communities Committee - 19 February 2007

REPORT ON: Literacies Action Plan - Allocation of Resources 2007/2008

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 102-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This Report makes recommendations for the allocation of resource to deliver on the key elements contained in the Literacies Action Plan, which was submitted to the Scottish Executive in December 2005.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Communities Committee agrees the allocation of Literacies Action Plan funding 2007/2008 as recommended by the Community Learning Partnership (Literacies Sub Group) on 16 January 2007 and as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the proposal is £194,202 which can be contained within the allocation to the Dundee Community Learning Partnership previously reported to Committee on 9 May 2005 Report No 301-2005.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability

None.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

None required.

4.3 Anti-Poverty

The allocation of resources to support the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan will have a positive impact on Anti-Poverty and Social Exclusion by:

- Targeting the 23% of the population identified as having literacy needs and helping them embark on and sustain work, education or training.
- Helping people access learning and participate in lifelong learning.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals will continue to reflect the priorities of the Council and the Community Learning Partnership to equal opportunities. The resources made available are targeted at the 23% of the population identified as having literacy needs and aim to provide equality of opportunities to access learning.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 In July 2001 the Scottish Executive's Education and Lifelong Learning Department Circular (ELLD) 1/01 provided guidance on the role expected of local authorities in the drive to raise levels of adult literacy and numeracy.
- 6.2 The definition of what constitutes an appropriate level of literacy and numeracy for people is set out as follows:
- “The ability to read, write and use numeracy, to handle information, to express ideas and opinions, to make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners”.
- 6.3 The duties of Community Learning Partnerships and local authorities are outlined as follows:
- Ensure that the partnership groups responsible for the Community Learning Strategy make effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy.
 - Co-ordinate and lead on the creation of clearly defined action plans on Adult literacy as components of Community Learning Strategies.
- 6.4 In March 2005 the Scottish Executive announced an additional £37 million would be made available for the period 2006-2008 to underpin the national strategy aimed at raising levels of adult literacy and numeracy. Learners who can benefit from programmes delivered through these funds should have an ability level below intermediate level 1.
- 6.5 Authority to recommend funding allocations under the Community Learning Partnership – Literacies Action Plan has been delegated to a Partnership Sub Group which has representatives from Dundee City Council – Leisure and Communities Department/Education Department; Dundee College; Craigowl Communities; Dundee Trades Union Council; Scottish Trades Union Council; Job Centre Plus; Scottish Enterprise Tayside, Careers Scotland and Worker Education Association.
- 6.6 The Partnership Sub Group have approved this award as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 6.7 The Action Plan submitted to the Scottish Executive outlined a broad-based and flexible delivery programme for the city targeting the following groups:
- People with limited initial education, particularly young people (limited educational attainment – intermediate level one or below).
 - Unemployed people and workers facing redundancy (this includes people who are on sessional/casual/temporary contracts, or in marginal employment).
 - People with English as a second or other language.
 - People who live in disadvantaged areas (areas designated by Scottish Executive, City Council or Scottish Enterprise Tayside).
 - Workers in low skill jobs (requiring minimal or no pre and on job training).
 - People on low incomes (those receiving state benefits or on minimum wage).
 - People with a health problem or disability affecting learning, speech, sight or hearing (only people who are able to articulate their own learning needs are covered by this funding – it is not acceptable for a carer to set out their need).

6.8 The action plan sets a target number of new learners to be achieved in each year:

Year	Target Number of Learners
2006-2007	1607
2007-2008	1607

6.9 The allocation of funds to Community Learning partners will address the targets contained in the action plan.

6.10 The Executive expects that local authorities will:

- ensure that the Partnership Group responsible for community learning strategies makes effective use of the new resources allocated for adult literacy and numeracy;

- ensure new resources continue to support and, where possible, build on the increased capacity evidenced in the existing Action Plan and improve the quality of local provision;

- ensure all partners, including Further Education and the voluntary sector, have equal access to the new resources.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted in the preparation of this report, which is based on recommendations made by the Literacies Sub Group of the Community Learning Partnership and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and COMMUNITIES
25 JANUARY 2007

**DUNDEE COMMUNITY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
LITERACIES ACTION PLAN
PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES 2007/2008**

Ref No	Applicant Group	Details	Amount Requested £	Recommended Allocation £
LF01/07	Adult Learning Team - Increasing Access and Workplace Learning project.	<p>The Literacies Initiative provision within Mitchell Street Learning Centre has successfully increased learner numbers, the range of learning opportunities available and now has waiting lists. The Increasing Access aspect of this bid looks to increase the availability of provision and provide an extended number of tuition weeks across the year. It is suggested that funding is given to support increased provision but due to financial constraints not to cover the summer opening.</p> <p>The application also aims to extend the current Workplace Learning Project as a result of the large backlog of organisations asking for assistance. As the success of this project has been steadily growing over the last eighteen months it is suggested that this project be funded but that they additionally be asked to provide some limited cover for Remploy.</p>	32,457	24,552
LF02/07	Craigowl Communities	<p>This project has been in operation for over four years and has over this period been able to provide a good quality provision to its learners. The project draws down additional monies from a number of different funding streams to deliver a wide-ranging learning programme delivery service including literacies.</p> <p>This project meets all the criteria but in line with other projects should be asked to take a cut in its application for funding, and will maintain the level awarded in 2006/2007.</p>	39,776.10	32,000
LF03/07	Remploy - Developing Workplace Literacies	<p>Remploy - Developing Workplace Literacies, has operated over the last two financial years, however, the numbers participating have reduced and it would seem that those presently taking part, in order to progress, should move on to Core Skills provision. A member of Remploy staff has undertaken Initial Training in Adult Literacies and it is felt that literacies support should now be provided in-house. Therefore it is suggested that negotiations occur between the Work-based development staff and Remploy, with a view to providing a limited on-going service to Remploy in relation to Core Skills.</p>	8,695.50	No Award

Ref No	Applicant Group	Details	Amount Requested £	Recommended Allocation £
LF04/07	Dyslexia Action	Dyslexia Action has provided a valuable additional service in recent years in terms of both screening and tuition. However at the same time Dyslexia Action has delivered two certificated training courses involving approximately 20 tutors from a number of partners. This means that there is now an enhanced ability to provide high quality assessment and tuition within the partnership itself.	5,600	No Award
LF05/07	ESOL Literacy - Reading, Writing, Spelling	<p>English For Speakers Of Other Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strand One Dundee College • Strand Two Leisure and Communities • Strand Three Access to Learning <p>These projects have been operating successfully over the past three years providing quality learning programmes in a variety of venues. The student numbers have consistently been higher than the stated targets and students highlight their support for the provision.</p> <p>These projects meet all the criteria - this year, however, it is suggested that each of the projects are asked to take a cut in their applications to reflect the reduction in the amount available in the literacies budget. This will keep the allocation at the same level as 2006/2007.</p>	36,828	28,650
LF06/07	ESOL Outreach English For Speakers Of Other Languages (ESOL)	One of the ESOL Outreach Literacies project target groups is economic migrants. Research from Tayside Economic Research centre identifies the general profile of migrant workers as one where they are literate/graduates in their own language, this makes them ineligible under the Literacies Initiative. It is therefore suggested that this project should not receive funding. Additionally it is considered that this project should be forwarded to the Economic Migrant Scoping group for their information and should ESOL strategy funding become available this bid could be considered at that stage.	28,458	No Award

Ref No	Applicant Group	Details	Amount Requested £	Recommended Allocation £
LF07/07	The Learning Curve	<p>The Learning Curve has been operating since 2002 and has grown and developed its provision during this time. The College has always match funded the money from the Initiative thus enabling it to use fully qualified lecturing staff to deliver learning programmes.</p> <p>The project meets all the criteria but in line with other projects should be asked to take a cut in its funding bid – it is suggested that its costs be reduced by £8750. However, this is still an increase on the 2006/2007 allocation.</p>	47,750	39,000
LF08/07	Literacies in the Community	<p>This project has been in operation for four years providing high quality learning programmes in communities across Dundee and has every year met or outstripped its targets. This project was highly praised in the HMIE aspect inspection and sited as an example of good practice.</p> <p>This project meets all the criteria. It is however suggested that the bid for 2007/2008 be reduced and maintained at the level awarded in 2006/2007.</p>	32,550	30,000
LF09/07	16-24 Project	<p>The 16–24 Literacies Project targets young adults who have chaotic lifestyles and has been operating for four years. The project has developed and grown over this time – receiving praise from HMIE, Youthlink Scotland, Communities Scotland and other Literacies Partnerships for its innovative approach. In 2006 it developed a national youth literacies training pack from funds provided through "to the Max". In addition the project has been able to attract funding from outside sources to support its work on an annual basis. The project has developed strong partnership links with many local and national youth organisations.</p> <p>In reviewing this application it would seem that the 16 - 24 project provides a service of considerable quality and is successful in working with this difficult cohort - presently having a waiting list. However it is suggested that the bid is cut at this stage by £30k. An application has been lodged with the NEET strategy group for additional funding - which it is hoped will be successful and assist with making up the shortfall in financial support from literacies.</p>	70,370.30	40,000

Total Allocation of Challenge Fund 2007/2008	£ 195,000
Proposals contained in this report	£ 194,202
Balance remaining	£ 798