

Decision Pathway Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 02 July 2018

TITLE	Adult Education Budget Allocation 2019/20			
Ward(s)	Citywide – particularly wards with the highest proportion of adults 19+ with few or no formal qualifications			
Author: Jane Taylor	Job title: Head of Service: Employment, Skills and Learning			
Cabinet lead: Cllr Anna Keen	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen			
Proposal origin: BCC Staff				
Decision maker: Mayor Decision forum: Cabinet				
Purpose of Report: To provide an update on the WECA Adult Education Budget (AEB) application process and the 2019/20 agreed allocation for Bristol City Council and the Community Learning West Consortium.				
<p>Evidence Base: Since 2005, the Bristol Community Learning Team has used ESFA AEB funds to deliver targeted community learning provision for adults aged 19+ with few or no formal qualifications, engaging adults through community based learning to increase their confidence and skills, and then supporting their progression to further learning, volunteering and employment opportunities. Our AEB curriculum provides critical ‘second chance’ learning opportunities, including literacy, numeracy, ESOL, digital skills, employability and family learning courses. At our last inspection, Ofsted graded Bristol City Council as a strong grade 2.</p> <p>Bristol City Council is the second largest provider of government funded adult education in Bristol. Since 2009, Bristol City Council has been the managing agent for the Community Learning West Consortium, involving a local partnership and sub-contracting arrangements with South Gloucestershire and North Somerset Councils. In 2017/18, the Community Learning Consortium reached a total of 3573 learners, including Bristol 1793, South Gloucestershire 828 and North Somerset 843.</p> <p>Although there is a high level of graduates in the Bristol population, there remain approximately 19,000 adults aged 16-64 without a full level 2 qualification, including people who experience many challenges that impact on their access to formal learning. Bristol City Council is dependent on continued AEB funding from WECA to continue to provide essential community learning provision in Bristol and across our Consortium.</p> <p>For 2018/19, Bristol received £1.80m AEB funding from the ESFA. This includes the following funding elements and distribution of funds across Consortium partners:</p>				
	AEB Grant 18/19	Community Learning	Adult Skills	Total
	Bristol	825,560	120,474	946,034
	South Gloucestershire	447,479	69,927	517,406
	North Somerset	311,532	28,000	339,532
	Total	1,584,571	*218,401	1,802,972
*This does not include estimated growth funding generated in year				
As a result of the devolution of AEB, Bristol City Council will in future receive two contracts: AEB funding from WECA for learners based in Bristol and South Gloucestershire and from the ESFA for all other non-WECA learners. To calculate grants for 2019/20, the ESFA and WECA are using a funding formula based on the 2017/18 AEB baseline.				

In March, the ESFA wrote to Bristol City Council with a funding allocation of £366K for non-WECA provision for 2019/20, primarily covering sub contracted provision managed by North Somerset Council. This allocation reduced funding for Bristol by approximately £19K. The Council was also invited to submit an application to WECA based on our 17/18 allocation and also allowing for 5% growth. The Council submitted an application which requested an increase of funding based on the 18/19 allocation to Bristol and South Gloucestershire, plus growth. The total amount requested was: £1.614m. WECA have agreed to an AEB allocation of £1.56m.

Community Learning

ESFA calculated 2017/18 baseline	2018/19 actual allocation	2019/20 application and uplift (including 5%)	19/20 WECA offer	variance between BCC application and WECA offer	variance between 18/19 and 19/20 funding levels
£1,216,639	£1,273,259	£1,336,922	1,305,959	-30,963	+ 32,920

Adult Skills

ESFA calculated 2017/18 baseline	2018/19 estimated income generated	2019/20 application and uplift (including 5%)	19/20 WECA offer	variance between BCC application and WECA offer	variance between 18/19 and 19/20 funding levels
£240,417	£410,000	£430,500	£254,333	-23,160	+ 64,032

This means our total AEB grants from the ESFA and WECA combined for 19/20 will be £1.926m. This includes the following estimated allocations across consortium partners:

AEB Grant 19/20	Community Learning	Adult Skills	Total
Bristol	846,325	168,728	1,015,048
South Gloucestershire	459,634	85,710	545,344
North Somerset	340,708	25,309	366,017
Total	1,646,667	279,742	1,926,409

This represents an overall funding increase of £123K for the Community Learning West Consortium, including an additional £69K for Bristol adult learners. Whilst it is very positive to see a 5% increase for Community Learning, restricting Adult Skills growth to 5% means that we will be unable to meet the growth demands in Bristol, including literacy, numeracy and ESOL.

WECA are proposing to hold back £200K for in year growth and for applications from both existing and new providers. Bristol City Council has made strong representation that first priority should be given to existing providers who can provide evidence of growth demands in 2018/19.

Cabinet Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet accepts the ESFA and WECA allocation for 2019/20 as set out in the Report.

Corporate Strategy alignment: AEB funding directly support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy themes and commitments: Fair and Inclusive – by improving educational outcomes and reducing educational inequality experienced by adults who have few or no formal qualifications. Well Connected – by reducing social and economic isolation and helping connect people to people, people to jobs and people to opportunity through high quality, community based and responsive community learning programmes.

City Benefits: The Community Learning Team has been very successful in aligning adult learning resources and provision with wider Bristol City Council and WECA priorities, for example: helping to reduce the risk of homelessness through customised tenant programmes (e.g. Roof Over My Head); improving parental engagement in children’s early development and learning; improving adult mental health and wellbeing through informal learning; helping to meet the needs of local public and private sector employers through pre-employment courses. The Community Learning Team is also very successful at reaching under-represented groups with protected characteristics that face additional barriers to mainstream Further Education, including: women returners; Disabled people (including people with mental health issues); people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities (including refugees and asylum seekers).

Consultation Details: Internally advice has been sought from Bristol City Council Section 151 Officer. Externally we are working closely with are consortium partners - South Gloucestershire Council and North Somerset Council. The City of Bristol College and other Training providers are also involved in regular discussions about AEB.

Revenue Cost	£1.926m	Source of Revenue Funding	WECA Grant
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: “This report is seeking permission to accept the allocation offer from WECA for adult learning in academic year 2019/20. The 2018/19 funding of £1.8m came directly to Bristol City Council from the Education and Skills Funding Council. For 2019/20, WECA has confirmed a total allocation of £1.926m. Bristol City Council would not be required to contribute any funding of its own for the Adult Education Budget, as activities and courses would be funded either by WECA or from fees charged to the learners themselves. The service has indicated that it will continue to bid for in-year resources from WECA to address learner demands and needs.”

Finance Business Partner: David Tully, Finance Business Partner, 30th May 2019

2. Legal Advice: “Progressing the application does not in itself raise any particular legal issues, however consideration will need to be given to any conditions attached to any grant, and the actual use of the funding may raise procurement issues”

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews, Senior Solicitor, Legal Team, 21st May 2019

3. Implications on IT: ““There are no directly identifiable IT implications arising from the submission of this bid. There may be such implications if the bid is successful; should they become apparent then the appropriate prioritisation will need to be progressed via CLB at the relevant time.”

IT Team Leader: Ian Gale, Head of Service ICT, 18th May 2019

4. HR Advice: “Now the allocation is confirmed, we will undertake further work to identify how the money secured will be spent and whether there are any HR implications for the Community Learning Team”.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner, 11th February 2019

Background Documents: not applicable

EDM Sign-off	Dr Jacqui Jensen	22nd May 2019
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Anna Keen	22nd May 2019
For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off	Mayor’s Office	3rd June 2019

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO