

Cabinet

NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING IN DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES (NLDCF) 2009/10

**Report of Assistant Executive Director, External Partnerships
Portfolio Responsibility : Cllr Thompson**

17th March 2010

Officer Contact : John Eley
Ext. 5254

Purpose of Report

To advise of the allocation of Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Funds (NLDCF) from the Learning and Skills Council for 2009/10.

Recommendations

It is agreed for Oldham Council to act as Accountable Body for the 2009-2010 Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Neighbourhoods Programme totalling £189,000.

Allocations to activity are noted.

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1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise of the allocation of Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Funds (NLDCF) from the Learning and Skills Council for 2009/10.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is agreed for Oldham Council to act as Accountable Body for the 2009-2010 Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Neighbourhoods Programme totalling £189,000.

- 2.2 Allocations to activity are noted.

3 Background

- 3.1 Oldham Partnership has secured almost £180,000 revenue funding from Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities Funding (NLDCF) in 2009/2010 to help local voluntary and community sector organisations deliver and support learning opportunities for residents of disadvantaged neighbourhoods, with an emphasis on assisting those who wish to enter employment. Up to 75% of the NLDC funds can be used to align with Skills for Jobs activities to support workless people with pre-employment activity.
- 3.2 The allocation from the LSC also provides an additional £9,000 allocation that will fund the management of the programme by the Partnership Support Team.
- 3.3 An open commissioning process has been undertaken to determine and approve organisations to deliver appropriate activity against this criteria as detailed below:

H20	Digital Skills	£21,100
OHIP	Easy PC	£15,686
Oldham Boxing Club	Boxing is NEET	£48,095
Manchester Methodist HA	Love Your Neighbourhood	£4,024
Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale	CSI Oldham	£30,310
ESOL activity	Various organisations/groups	£60,785
Programme Management <i>*additional allocation</i>		£9,000
TOTAL		£189,000

- 3.4 A panel composed of representatives drawn from Oldham Council, Learning + Skills Council – Greater Manchester, The Oldham College and Oldham Lifelong Learning Service met on Thursday 10th September to appraise the project proposals. The projects were individually scored against a detailed Appraisal Form supplied by the LSC and subsequently ranked on a preference-based list.
- 3.5 The make up of the panel ensured compliance with both local and sub regional strategies. This proposal allows funding to provide added value to this regional provision of employment and skills development support by targeting groups with specific needs that are under represented in Oldham. One of the key aims of the Greater Manchester Strategy is increasing access to employment opportunities in deprived areas. Whilst there are general sub regional services for support into work, the NLDCF support will target specific barriers to work in Oldham.
- 3.6 Oldham Council has acted as Accountable Body for previous NLDCF funding programmes and other funding streams. The Council has considerable experience and expertise undertaking this role and procedures are in place to ensure there is clear accountability and audit trails. The Partnership Support Team, who have extensive experience of managing external funding programmes, will provide the programme and performance management function alongside the Economy and Enterprise Board of the Oldham Partnership.
- 3.6 NLDCF is a time limited funding stream and therefore all commissioned activity will cease when the funding terminates. This is the intention of NLDCF and guidance stipulates that funding should only support one off activity.

4 Current Position

- 5.1 That the Council agrees to act as Accountable Body for the 2009-2010 Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Neighbourhoods Programme totalling £189,000.
- Allocations to activity are noted.

5 Options/Alternatives

5.1 None

6 Preferred Option

6.1 NA

7 Consultation

7.1 None

8 Financial Implications

8.1 The financial implications are set out in the above paper. The legal team have been consulted and no issues have been highlighted. Finance comment that this seems to be self financing expenditure and this does not impact on the budget framework.

9 Legal Services Comments

9.1 As above

10 Human Resources Comments

10.1 None

11 Risk Assessments

11.1 None

12 IT Implications

13.1 None

14 Property Implications

14.1 None

15 Procurement Implications

15.1 None

16 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

16.1 None

17 Community Cohesion Implications [including Crime & Disorder Implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Act] and Equalities Implications

17.1 None

18 Forward Plan Reference

18.1 ACE-03-10

19 Key Decision

19.1 Yes

20 **Background Papers**

- 20.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act :

File Ref : NLDCF 1
Name of File : NLDCF
Records held in Asst Chief Executives
Officer Name : Dave Catherall
Contact No : 5165

21 **Appendices**

- 21.1 None