


London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham ECONOMIC REGENERATION, HOUSING AND THE ARTS POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE 26 April 2017		 hammersmith & fulham
West London Area Review of Adult Community Learning		
Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Councillor Andrew Jones and the Acting Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Sue Fennimore		
Open Report		
Classification - For Information Key Decision: No		
Wards Affected: All		
Accountable Director: Jo Rowlands Lead Director for Regeneration, Planning & Housing Services		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Hammersmith and Fulham Adult Learning Service Community Learning courses support the health and wellbeing of local residents, and supports social return on investment for local communities. The service is delivered at our Macbeth Centre and 2 satellite centres at ACLC in White City (next to Ark Swift Primary Academy) and at Normand Croft Community centre, next to Normand Croft school on Lillie Road. It also works in over 10 Schools and Community centres across the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham.
- 1.2. The West London Adult Community Learning (ACL) Area Review aims to establish the future strategic direction of ACL and together with the Further Education (FE) college-focussed post-16 education and training area reviews to develop recommendations for the future commissioning and delivery of post 16 education in London. The review was completed in March 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the PAC review the content of the report and make comment on the proposed principles for the service.

3. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 3.1. The London Mayor is committed to pursuing a skills devolution deal, subject to a set of conditions. GLA officers are continuing to discuss the process and implications of skills devolution with central government officials. The intention was to sign a devolution deal by parliamentary summer recess in order to be on track for full devolution in 2019/20.
- 3.2. At its meeting on 21st September 2016, West London Economic Prosperity Board (WLEPB) commissioned a Task and Finish Group to consider the findings of the review of Adult Community Learning in London and develop recommendations.
- 3.3. The ACL task and finish group made up of all 7 local authority boroughs and supported by the West London Alliance (WLA) identified existing synergies between services and used these as a basis to develop and outline strategy for ACL services in West London. This includes a shared vision, mission statement, desired outcomes and principles under which ACL services should operate. The group has also developed a roadmap to enable the development and consideration of options for closer collaboration going forward. (More information is available in the paper to the West London Economic Prosperity Board on 21st March 2017 (agenda item 8 - <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=765&MIId=9155&Ver=4>)
- 3.4. West London ACL Task and Finish group recognised, and commended to the Economic Prosperity Board, the importance of West London ACL providers collaborating during the transition of funding from the Skills Funding Agency to the Mayor to ensure financial protection and sustainability post devolution. As a foundation for closer working, the Task and Finish Group developed a proposed outline strategy for Adult Community Learning for West London, which includes a shared vision, mission statement and set of strategic objectives, based on the synergies between borough services recognised by the task and finish group.
- 3.5. The West London ACL task and finish developed a set of eight principles for future delivery of Adult Community Learning Services in London. These reflect a core aim of all borough services which is to deliver excellent, fair, and responsive, Adult Community Learning built on the promotion of opportunity, resilience and social cohesion. These are that West London ACL services should be:
 1. **STRATEGIC:** The WL ACL strategy should form part of a broad skills strategy to achieve shared outcomes, overseen by the West London Skills and Employment Board, liaising with the pan-London governance structure.
 2. **FOCUSED:** ACL services should broadly focus on supporting the most disadvantaged residents over the age of 25 without basic skills, in low paid employment or furthest away from work, as well as enabling learners with

health and well-being issues and/or learning difficulty or disabilities to take steps towards healthier, more independent lifestyles.

3. **RESPONSIVE:** Service delivery should support West London’s ‘Vision for Growth’ and be responsive to current labour market and employer needs.
 4. **MEETING BASIC SKILLS NEEDS:** The curriculum offer in West London should concentrate on Basic_English including ESOL, maths and digital skills programmes, health and wellbeing, family learning, social inclusion, LDD, community engagement, retraining and cohesion programmes. Learners’ views should continue to be sought, considered and used to influence and design the offer.
 5. **ENABLING PROGRESSION:** ACLs across West London should work towards developing clear progression pathways, including into FE and HE. All adult learners should be offered careers support. Learners should also be encouraged to be active citizens and be healthier, more self-sufficient and resilient.
 6. **LOCAL:** Future ACL delivery in West London should enable variable delivery models. Learners should remain at the heart of the provision and there should be mechanisms to engage learners in the development of any proposed changes and to assess the impact of any proposed changes on all learners.
 7. **JOINED-UP ON POLICY:** West London Boroughs should strive to develop joined up policies – making use of pan-London policies where they have been developed.
 8. **FAIRLY FUNDED:** Funding for Adult Community Learning in West London should be fairly allocated while avoiding destabilising any one provider. Resources should be used to deliver ACL effectively in the broader context of funded skills delivery in West London.
- 2.6 Adopting this outline strategy and principles would enable West London boroughs to move towards a coherent, consistent offer to West London residents – recognising differing demand in different localities. It would provide a strategic framework for ACL in West London for future negotiation with the Mayor post-devolution and be a first step towards a broad skills strategy for West London.
- 2.7. The West London Alliance ACL Area Review also considered the possibility of each local authority providing segregated ACL services and not pursuing steps toward closer collaboration. However, given the changing context of reducing funding and the potential to devolve the SFA Adult Education Budget grant to London it may put service resilience at greater risk.
- 2.8. The London Review of Adult Community Learning recommended the development of a sub-regional community education hub either through a single LA, College or Institute for Adult Learning. The West London Alliance

ACL Area Review considered that while there could be potential for a cross-borough ACL service operating in West London, further work is required to establish whether the benefits would outweigh the costs of such a move and whether this would improve outcomes for learners in West London.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1. All 7 West London Local authorities were involved in the ACL Area Review, supported by the West London Alliance. The Chief Executive of Hounslow LA Chaired the ACL Task and Finish group and further support was provided by Hoxley (the national Network for all ACL providers). All final decisions were made by representatives of the West London Prosperity Board. The Task and Finish group have agreed to continue to work together in preparation for the proposed devolution of the Adult Skills Budget in 2019-20.
- 3.2. The principles of future delivery of ACL learning in London include a commitment to engage all ACL learners in the development of any proposed changes.

4. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. HFALS Community Learning courses support the health and wellbeing of local residents, and supports social return on investment for local communities. The service has a robust and effective approach to Safeguarding and PREVENT as recognised in their recent Ofsted report in November 2016.
- 4.2. The principles of future delivery of ACL learning in London include a commitment to assess the impact of any proposed changes to service delivery on all learners. The roadmap also includes a recommendation to develop a single Equalities and Diversity strategy for ACL in West London.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The WLEPB Joint Committee's role and purpose on behalf of the Participating Boroughs relates to ensuring appropriate, effective and formal governance is in place for the purposes of delivering the West London Vision for Growth and advancing Participating Boroughs' aspirations for greater economic prosperity in West London, including promoting "the Economic Prosperity Agenda", in partnership with employers, representatives from regional and central government, and education and skills providers.
- 5.2. The Joint Committee is not a self-standing legal entity but is part of its constituent authorities.
- 5.3. The Function and Procedure Rules of the West London Economic Prosperity Board include representing the participating local authorities in discussions and negotiations with regional bodies, national bodies and central government on matters relating to economic prosperity for the benefit of the local government areas of the participating authorities.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Area Review is designed to optimise spend on ACL, particularly in the context of anticipated changes in funding arrangements, including potential reduction in funds for local government from 2019/20.
- 6.2. Hammersmith & Fulham Adult Learning & Skills currently receives a direct grant from the Skills Funding Authority of approximately £2.7M per year. This constitutes the second highest allocation in West London out of all the 7 boroughs delivering ACL. Any changes to devolution could potentially see a reduction in LBHF allocation under the “equal and fair” distribution across all 7 West London boroughs.
- 6.3. Hammersmith & Fulham Adult Learning & Skills (HFALS) will require continuous investment in its buildings and ICT teaching resources to ensure that it can maintain its high standards and compete with other FE and ACL providers.

7. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

- 7.1. The proposals support the West London Vision for Growth and Growth Plan on employment and skills, as well as the WLEPB ambition for skills devolution and borough priorities for their ACL services.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1	None.		