



Notice of a public

Decision Session - Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities

To: Councillor Smalley (Executive Member)

Date: Tuesday, 11 January 2022

Time: 11.00am

Venue: Remote Meeting

In view of the changing circumstances around the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting will now be held remotely. Any decisions made will form recommendations to the Chief Operating Officer.

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00pm** on **Thursday 13 January 2022**.

*With the exception of matters that have been subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00pm** on **Friday 7 January 2022**.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests;
- any prejudicial interests;
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which he may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 7 September 2021.

3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Friday 7 January 2022**.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact the relevant Democracy Officer, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Remote Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this remote public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. York Learning and North Yorkshire Adult Learning and Skills Engagement Strategy 2021-2025 (Pages 3 - 12)

This report proposes a consultation on a draft York Learning and North Yorkshire Adult Learning and Skills Engagement Strategy for the years 2021 to 2025.

5. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Louise Cook

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Email: louise.cook@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting.

- Registering to speak
- Written Representations
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 **(01904) 551550**

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities
Date	7 September 2021
Present	Councillor Smalley (Executive Member)

1. **Declarations of Interest**

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interest not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or discloseable pecuniary interests that he might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

2. **Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 2 March 2021 be approved and signed by the Executive Member as a correct record.

3. **Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

4. **York Learning Services Strategic Plan**

The Executive Member considered a report that presented York Learning's position for the academic year 2021/22, detailing areas for development and areas of the provision that continued to grow and demonstrate success. The York Learning Strategic Plan 2021-22 was included at Annex 1 of the report. The Assistant Director (Customer & Communities) and Head of York Learning were in attendance to present the report. It was explained that the plan had been updated to meet the needs of the Council Plan and that targets had increased slightly.

The Executive Member thanked the staff at York Learning for their support and professionalism during the pandemic. Following a question from the Executive Member it was confirmed that the jobs fair at York RI would be held on either 6

October and that 16 employers would be attending. This was welcomed by the Executive Member. He then;

Resolved: That the York Learning Strategic Plan 2021/22 (As detailed as Annex 1 of the report) be approved.

Reason: To help York Learning to plan and monitor its service and to ensure sound governance arrangements.

Cllr Smalley, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 9.30am and finished at 9.34am].



**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Culture, Leisure and Communities**

11 January 2022

Report of the Director of Customer and Communities

**York Learning and North Yorkshire Adult Learning and Skills
Engagement Strategy 2021-2025**

Summary

1. This report proposes a consultation on a draft York Learning and North Yorkshire Adult Learning and Skills Engagement Strategy for the years 2021 to 2025.

Recommendations

2. The Executive Member is asked to:
 - comment on the draft strategy and, subject to any proposed amendments,
 - approve further public consultation being undertaken to include FE colleges, YNYLEP Skills Board, North Yorkshire and York Community Learning Partnership, and other education, voluntary sector and business partners.

Reason: To advance partnership working between the two adult learning services and local stakeholders to stimulate engagement with adults to support the aspirations of local, regional and national skills strategies.

Background

3. September 2021 saw the appointment of a new Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills with a brief to determine a clear strategic vision for the adult learning provision provided by City of York Council and North Yorkshire County Council. This strategy and direction is required to support adults to access the training and support that can be provided by engagement in education.
4. Aligning both services across a common strategy is important to support the wider economic needs and skills strategies of the York and North Yorkshire sub-region, as well as to ensure a strong lobbying position for the services once the adult education budget is

devolved under a combined mayoral authority, which is expected to happen in 2024/2025.

5. Research commissioned by York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (YNYLEP), as part of the work to develop their skills strategy, paints a picture of the local adult education landscape that suggests a current disconnect between the education offer for adults and local skills need. It cites limited innovation in community learning, a decreased focus on family learning and learning to support deprived communities, and a lack of support for capacity building in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). With regard to adult learning and digital skills it suggests that, whilst provision seeks to meet the demands of the community, it fails to engage individuals in the breadth of learning experiences necessary to meet the aims of the skills strategy. The reports stress the disconnect between the majority of adults and the skills sector, with the largest proportions of training being in English and Maths or delivered to those already in work, largely in the Health and Social Care sectors.

The Proposed Strategy

6. Reflecting these concerns as well as the important and combined drivers of ESFA funding, the 'Skills for Jobs' Whitepaper and City of York's own ten-year skills strategy, it is essential to set a clear strategy for adult learning between now and 2025 based upon a number of key principles:
 - Adult education must support the development of the local economies,
 - Adult education must feel accessible to the community to be able to deliver on its aims,
 - Adult education curriculum must meet the needs of published skills strategies,
 - All adult education provision must provide a basis for progression in skills, confidence and wellbeing,
 - Adult education programmes must have clear intent, effective implementation to meet this intent leading to demonstrable impact.
7. The draft strategy is attached at Annex 1.

Consultation

8. In addition to discussions already held with key partners and with the council's Skills Teams, initial engagement on the draft strategy has also received positive encouragement from the North Yorkshire FE principals group, the chair of the YNYLEP Skills board and the York and North Yorkshire NEET forum. Should the draft strategy be approved further wider consultation will take place in January and February 2022 with an implementation plan to be in place by March 2022.

Options

9. The principal options open to the Executive Member are:
Option 1: Recommend the draft strategy for further internal and external consultation.
Option 2: Suggest amendments to the draft strategy ahead of consultation.

Analysis

10. Option 1 will reinforce existing joint working and develop key strategic partnership opportunities taking into consideration the contributions of consultees. Option 2 provides an opportunity to make amendments to the text in Option 1.

Council Plan

11. The strategy outlines a key ambition to bring the skills needs of the economy closer to adults in the city and surrounding regions, enabling more adults to move into well paid jobs within the local economy supporting a key ambition of the council plan.
12. In addition, learning, and in particular learning in groups, has been shown to have a positive impact on mental wellbeing. Whilst many of our community learning courses have a direct impact upon physical wellbeing. This strategy aims to protect this vital use of adult education funding supporting the council outcome of good health and wellbeing for residents.
13. Wider partnership working and more effective use of community learning funding will also support council priority outcomes in:
 - Getting a better start for children and young people through effective family learning in English and Maths and Wider family learning supporting a range of themes including transition,

- Safe Communities and Culture for all through effective partnership working within the authority and with key community and voluntary organisation to use education funding to empower individuals and groups to make a difference for themselves.

Implications

14. **Financial** – York Learning is a largely self-financed service reliant upon external grant, contract and other earned income.
15. There are no additional Equalities, Human Resources, Legal, Information Technology, Property, Crime and Disorder or Other implications arising from the report.

Risk Management

16. In compliance with the Council’s risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified associated with the proposals contained in this report are those which could lead to the inability to meet business objectives and to deliver services, leading to damage to the Council’s reputation and failure to meet stakeholders’ expectations. The level of risk is assessed as “Low”. This is acceptable but means that regular monitoring is required of the operation of the new arrangements.

Contact Details

Author:	Chief Officer responsible:			
Paul Cliff Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills (York and North Yorkshire) Email: paul.cliff@york.gov.uk	Charlie Croft Assistant Director (Communities, and Culture)			
	Report Approved	✓	Date	13.12.21.
Specialist Implications Officers:				
Wards Affected: All				
For further information please contact the author of the report				

Annex 1: The draft Summary York Learning and North Yorkshire Adult Learning and Skills Engagement Strategy 2021-2025

Abbreviations:

AEB – Adult Education Budget

ESFA – Education and Skills Funding Agency

EHCP - Education and Health Care Plan

FE – Further Education

IAG – Information, Advice and Guidance

NEET – Not in Employment, Education or Training

RARPA - Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement

VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector

YNYLEP – York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

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Draft York Learning and North Yorkshire Adult Learning and Skills Engagement Strategy 2021-2025 Summary

Background

York Learning and North Yorkshire Adult Learning Service provide largely Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funded adult and community learning provision, with additional income deriving from contracts, dedicated project work, apprenticeships and the support provided for those learners aged 19-25 with EHCPs.

The services are supported by a shared head of service to enable closer harmony with the economic needs and skills strategies of the York and North Yorkshire region. This area is working towards potential devolution of its adult learning budget under a combined mayoral authority, potentially from 2024/25.

Grant funded community learning is defined by the ESFA as learning that develops the skills, confidence, motivation and resilience of adults of different ages and backgrounds in order to:

- progress towards formal learning or employment
- improve their health and well-being, including mental health
- develop stronger communities

The Adult Education Budget (AEB), on the other hand, has the aim of 'engaging adults and providing the skills and learning they need to progress into work or equip them for an apprenticeship or other learning'. It enables more flexible tailored programmes of learning to be made available, which may or may not require a qualification, to help eligible learners engage in learning, build confidence, and/or enhance their wellbeing'.

Expectations on the post-16 education sector have never been greater, with the focus of national policy firmly fixed on the sector as a cornerstone of post Covid-19 recovery. The 'Skills for Jobs – Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth' whitepaper published in January 2021 laid out a bold ambition to place employer skills needs at the heart of the post-16 system and to empower individuals to use learning to progress into work and in the workplace to higher paid and higher skilled jobs. Local Authority adult education is discussed in this paper alongside Further Education colleges as a key cornerstone of the policy and the importance of community level education is stressed, but the context

stresses the importance of progression to higher level qualifications and in offering provision that meets local and national skills needs.

Research commissioned by York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise partnership (YNYLEP), as part of the work to develop their skills strategy, paints a picture of the local adult education landscape that suggests a potential disconnect between the education offer for adults and local skills need, citing limited innovation in community learning, a decreased focus on family learning, learning to support deprived communities and a lack of support for capacity building in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). At the same time, reviews of adult learning and digital skills suggest an educational landscape that, whilst aiming to meet the demands of the community, fails to engage individuals in the breadth of learning experiences necessary to meet the aims of skills strategy. The relevant reports stress the disconnect between the majority of adults and the skills sector, with the largest proportion of training being in English and Maths or provision delivered to those already in work, largely in the Health and Social Care sectors.

The impact that the pandemic has had on the accessibility of learning must also be considered. Both services have coped admirably to adapt to new ways of working demanded by the pandemic. Delivery moved swiftly online and across two funding years have enabled the full grant funding to be received for work carried out with only minimal clawback due to ring-fenced funding initiatives that have taken place after curriculum planning has taken place. Movement to online delivery has for some programmes been effective and led to more efficient deliver models, but this movement has been taken as a direct result of the pandemic and not through formal strategic planning for a modern and responsive service.

Against the important and combined drivers shown below it is essential to set a clear strategy for the services between now and 2025:

1. Adult education must support the development of the local economies
2. Adult education must feel accessible to the community to be able to deliver on its aims
3. Adult education curriculum must meet the needs of published skills strategies
4. All adult education provision must provide a basis for progression in skills, confidence and wellbeing

5. Adult education programmes must have clear intent, effective implementation to meet this intent leading to demonstrable impact.

Aims

Against this backdrop the strategy must meet the following aims:

1. To clearly define the purpose of the adult learning services
2. To develop a curriculum offer that is in line with local skills needs
3. To reach and inspire learning for the full breadth of the community demographic with the offer
4. To be the provider of choice for those furthest away from the skills offer
5. To protect the full aims of community learning within York and North Yorkshire
6. To grow provision into areas not well supported by other providers
7. To support a clear progression pathway for all adult learners from entry through to higher education
8. To provide effective value for money for the communities of York and North Yorkshire

To achieve these aims we must:

- Use the widest range of media to promote the link between learning and personal growth, whether that be in the ability to earn better wages, create a better work-life balance or make a more effective contribution to employers and communities.
- Develop effective partnerships with communities of interest, under-represented groups and the disadvantaged to provide clear engagement points for learning
- Develop close working relationships with other providers of education to offer clear pathways into the higher skills agenda
- Work closer with the VCS to support effective use of community learning and develop their capacity to support targeted communities
- Develop a flexible, blended curriculum offer that supports access to learning , developing digital skills were possible
- Provide face-face engagement points for those hardest to reach and engage

- Use an appropriate combination of digital and face-face IAG to work with learners to identify appropriate next steps at the start of provision, using RARPA to maintain 'next-steps' focus and measure progress, develop and recognise transferable skills
- Increase progression from engagement programmes into main curriculum offer and onwards to specialist skills and higher education provision.
- Use established links with community learning partnerships, CVS, intra- and inter-authority networks to develop a wider network of community groups to plan engagement opportunities with hardest to reach individuals
- Continue to develop provision and project funding to widen the income streams available to the service, e.g. apprenticeships, traineeships, Nationals Skills Fund Level 3 offer, Multiply