

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Date of meeting:	
Title of report:	Learning skills Improvement Fund
Type of report: Delete as required	Decision
Is this presented in advance of an Executive Member decision?	Yes
Does this report contain exempt information of the type defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)?	No
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	The report details the opportunity for the Adult Learning and Skills service to receive funding through the Learning skills Improvement Fund (LSIF)
Implications	Financial
Recommendations:	1. To agree to receipt of the additional funds through LSIF
Appendices: To be attached	1. LSIF Service level agreement draft SLA
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1.1 This report presents the background to support the Adult Learning and Skills Service to receive funds via the Learning Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF).

2.0 Summary

2.1 Following the successful publication of the York and North Yorkshire Learning Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), by West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce. The region was granted £2.5m of funding from the Learning Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) to be managed as consortium by York College. It is proposed that North Yorkshire Adult Learning and Skills Service (ALSS) receives up to £201k as part of this consortium.

3.0 Background

3.1 The purpose of the LSIF grant is to enable Further Education (FE) providers to respond collectively to the priorities set out in their respective Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), i.e. the York and North Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan, published in August 2023.

3.2 LSIF will:

- Provide investment of new facilities and equipment.
- Fund development and delivery of new courses and curriculum.
- Support college leaders, governors and teaching staff to develop the skills needed to create a sustainable approach to addressing local skills needs, particularly at levels 3 to 5.

3.3 The York and North Yorkshire region have been granted £2.5m over two years to support the achievement of the Local Skills Improvement Plan published in August 2023. This funding is for financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 with year 1 being a 50:50 split between revenue and capital and capital only in the final year.

3.4 The Adult learning and Skills Service are one member of a consortium led by York College, comprising FE colleges and City of York Council York Learning

4.0 Key Issues

4.1 The Adult Learning and Skills Service proposal using these funds is across two projects in line with the wider aims of the York and North Yorkshire LSIF

4.2 PROJECT 1: Digital technologies driving digitisation across key priority sectors –

- To address key skills related challenges within the adult learning and high needs learning sectors. Funding will upskill staff to effectively embed the use of technology across all programmes to digitally upskill learners but also ally many of the digital fears faced by adults. In addition, technology will be utilised to increase 'real-world' focus for high needs learners, in particular to overcome workplace anxieties.

4.3 PROJECT 2: Health and Social Care

- to address key skills related challenges within the adult Health and Social Care sector. Funding will upskill staff to effectively engage with hard-to-reach learners and those already employed with the Health and Social Care. In addition, we will run a minimum of 2 roadshows to act as a catalyst for learners to engage with

learning as a progression route into the development of higher-level Health and Social Care skills with partner colleges.

4.4 Funds initially requested are show below:

	Revenue (£)	Capital (£)	Total (£)
2023/24	£36,000	£40,808	£76,808
2024/25	£0	£112,225	£112,225
2025/26	£0	£0	£0
Total	£36,000	£153,033	£189,033

4.5 The overall LSF consortium has a projected underspend for the 2023/24 academic year and we have the opportunity to increase the available funding as below, with an opportunity to invest more time into staff development activity which would be the preference for the service

	Revenue (£)	Capital (£)	Total (£)
2023/24	£48,291	£40,808	£89,099
2024/25	£0	£112,225	£112,225
2025/26	£0	£0	£0
Total	£48,291	£153,033	£201,324

5.0 Consultation Undertaken and Responses

5.1 The service made a full contribution to both strategic boards for LSIP and LSIF and has worked closely with colleagues at partner colleges and the York and North Yorkshire LEP to understand need and identify a key role within the consortium.

6.0 Proposals

6.1 To gain authorisation to receive funds to support the engagement work and curriculum development of the Adult Learning and Skills Service in line with its agreed strategic direction.

7.0 Alternative options considered

7.1 Proposals are designed to maximise opportunity for increased learner engagement without incurring further financial costs maintaining the balanced financial position of the service. As such the alternative approach would be to add to projected costs to deliver these outcomes.

8.0 Impact on other services / organisations

8.1 Increased adult learning engagement, particularly in rural regions is in line with the strategic direction of the council supporting the aims of colleagues in localities and economic development.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 The funding must be spent in line with a designated SLA enclosed and has no further financial implications for the service.

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 We would be bound by agreements laid out, and agreed to, within the SLA

11.1 Equalities Implications

11.1 The aim of the funding is to improve access to adult learning for a range of groups and as such will have a positive impact on groups named within legislation.

12.0 Climate Change Implications

12.1 There are no identified Climate implications, although it is hoped that by use of technology there may be a lesser need to travel to learning, particularly from rural isolated locations.

13.0 PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Proposals seek to enable the service to enhance its performance, but also to build a platform for greater engagement in line with the approved strategic direction.

14.0 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

14.1 Investment in technologies and improved awareness of the service should improve service performance. The risk attached is linked to ability to spend the funds received and to cash flow based on the fact funding is paid on receipt of claims at set periods in the year in line with the table below:

Claim Period	Payment by DfE
16 th September - December 2023	31 st January 2024
January - March 2024	30 th April 2024
April - May 2024	28 th June 2024
June - July 2024	30 th August 2024
August - September 2024	31 st October 2024
October - November 2024	31 st December 2024
December 2024 - January 2025	28 th February 2025
February - March 2025	30 th April 2025

15.0 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

15.1 Direct staff costs as part of a revenue claim must not be against existing staff without defrayal arrangements in place, this process is underway with designated project staff identified.

16.0 Conclusions

16.1 The LSIF provides several benefits to the service and the council, increasing investment, engagement and upskilling the workforce. In addition, the opportunity to work closer with colleagues in the wider FE sector will allow us to cement our position as gateway to the sector which will be vital in maintaining funding post devolution.

17.0 Reasons for Recommendations

17.1 The opportunity to obtain additional funds allows us to purchase equipment and invest in training to enable us to more effectively deliver against our strategy.

18.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To agree to receipt of the additional funds through LSIF

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Draft SLA

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

1. [York and North Yorkshire LSIP](#)
2. [Adult Learning and Skills Engagement strategy](#)

Stuart Carlton
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4th January 2024

Report Author – *Paul Cliff (Shared Head of Adult Learning and Skills (York and North Yorkshire))*
Presenter of Report – *Paul Cliff as above*

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.