

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DECISION RECORD

Re: Adult Learning and Skills Service Fees and Charging Policy Statement 2020-2021

This record is produced in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

This form should be used to record:

- **EXECUTIVE decisions (key or otherwise) taken by an individual Executive MEMBER; and**
- **EXECUTIVE decisions (key or otherwise) taken by an OFFICER (either alone or in consultation with an Executive Member)**
- **A non-Executive decision taken by an OFFICER which falls into one of the following descriptions:-**
 - (i) **under a specific express authorisation; or**
 - (ii) **under a general authorisation to officers to take such decisions and, the effect of the decision is to**
 - **grant a permission or licence;**
 - **affect the rights of an individual; or**
 - **award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects that relevant local government body's financial position.**

(One form per decision)

The following decision has been taken: -

That the fee for Community Learning be increased from £4.00 per hour to £4.50 per hour for the academic year 2020/21.

That the Community Learning learner fee policy statement for 2020/21 be approved for publication as required by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

By whom: *Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director – Children and Young People's Service in consultation with Cllr Patrick Mulligan, Executive Member for Education & Skills.*

On: 23 June 2020

Was this an executive decision?

YES

If an executive decision, was it also a key decision?

YES

Reasons for decision: -

The context for this review is that in February 2020, the County Council approved a new fees and charges policy which states:

- Unless limited by Statute, fees and charges must be uplifted by the relevant inflation that the fees and charges relate to (finance would calculate the inflation rate specific to the relevant cost base)
- There must be a review of opportunities to introduce new fees and charges
- Fees and charges must be at full cost recovery including corporate and departmental overheads (unless limited by Statute as above)

- If it is not possible to charge/ uplift to a minimum of full cost recovery, then the service should be discontinued
- There must be clear benchmarking of fees and charges against other local authorities/ providers/ competitors that evidences why the recommended fees and charges are proposed

Some limited benchmarking has been undertaken by the service (see table at 7.4 of the report) which was established that some authorities do charge at a higher rate than North Yorkshire.

The purpose of Community Learning is fee remitted and is to develop the skills, confidence, motivation and resilience of adults of different ages and backgrounds in order to:

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

These types of courses will remain free to the learner and will not attract a cost.

The Service also offers a small amount of new provision through the Community Learning funding to enable learners to join learning activities for their own enjoyment and to learn or improve skills. This is mainly offered through the Arts and Crafts programmes but there are other offers in the curriculum. These are the courses that will attract the fee charge.

This offer is costed at £4.50 per hour (£4.00 2019/20) for full fee paying learners and £1.80 (£1.60 2019/20) for fee remitted learners as shown in Appendix 1 (Fee and Charging Policy Statement); this will be applied through the same funding entitlement and fee remission rules as Accredited Learning.

The fee level was last updated for the 2014/15 academic year.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: -

None

Conflicts of Interest

Please record below details of any conflict of interest declared by a Member or Officer regarding the decision and any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer in respect of that conflict.

Conflict	Dispensation?

Background Papers

Please attach to this decision notice, for publication, the background papers that disclose any facts or matters on which this decision, or an important part of the decision, was based and which were relied on to a material extent in making the decision, but this does not include

published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10).

Signed

Publication Date: 23 June 2020

Stuart Carlton, Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Service

Note 1 regarding Executive decisions only: This decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 clear working days after publication, unless any 6 members of the Council object to it and call it in by notice in writing (including e-mail) to The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services).

Signed

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Executive Member for Education & Skills

Note 2: non-executive and non-key executive decisions by Officers are not subject to call in.

Directorate: Children and Young People’s Service

Contact for further information: debbie.breatcliffe@northyorks.gov.uk

Contact for copy of report considered marion.sadler@northyorks.gov.uk

To: The PA to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) - for onward circulation to:

All Members of the Council; All Management Board; All Management Board Secretaries; All Senior Managers; All Democratic Services Officers; All Corporate Development Officers; Senior Press Officer; Communications Officer