

**ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS STRATEGY FRAMEWORK**

*To:* **Cabinet**

*Date:* **15<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

*From:* **Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:* **N/a** *Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **To outline and seek approval for the Adult Learning and Skills Strategy Framework following a recent consultation.**

*Recommendation:* **To approve the Adult Learning and Skills Strategy Framework for Cambridgeshire 2012-2020.**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Cabinet approved the Adult Learning and Skills Strategy for consultation on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012. Consultation took place with both internal and external partners a list of external partners is provided at **Appendix 1**. These included key voluntary sector networks, the Greater Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Economic Partnership, the Community Learning and Skills Partnerships in each district and other key stakeholders.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 The majority of the responses to the consultation were positive and supported the proposed framework. Four respondents made more detailed written responses and these have been considered in the drafting of the final Adult Learning and Skills Strategy Framework. The written responses were from the Citizens Advice Bureau, Volunteering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Fenland District Council and the GET (Guidance Employment and Training) Voluntary Sector Network Group. All the responses were focussed on the emphasis made on certain aspects and not on the Framework itself. Emphasis on the voluntary sector role and volunteering, the differing needs of communities and the link to the Local Economic Partnership were strengthened in the revised document as a result of the feedback.
- 2.2 The full strategy is attached as **Appendix 2**. This contains any suggested amendments and additions arising from the consultation.

## **3. ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING**

- 3.1 By acting as a strategic lead and promoting the Adult Learning and Skills Strategy Framework, the County Council will be improving opportunities for young people and adults to progress into employment. The development of the skills of the young people and adults in Cambridgeshire will benefit individuals, businesses and the local economy and support the investment in growth.

### **3.2 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

- 3.2.1 The development of higher skill levels across the County is vital to improve the ability for people to get jobs and therefore for the economic health of the County and country.

### **3.3 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

- 3.3.1 Reducing the educational and skill disparities will increase people's ability to get jobs and in turn to live more independent and healthy lives.

### **3.4 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

- 3.4.1 The strategy will promote skills development for those who need it most thus protecting the most vulnerable members of our society.

### **3.5 Ways of working**

3.5.1 Maximising our economic potential also means investing in our future workforce. This starts with further improving our educational outcomes, and ensuring more young people take part in post-16 education and training. We will also invest in improving adult skills that meet employers' needs.

#### **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

##### **4.1 Resource and Performance Implications**

4.1.1 There are no significant implications for any of the prompt questions within this category.

##### **4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications**

4.2.1 None.

##### **4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications**

4.3.1 None.

##### **4.4. Engagement and Consultation**

4.4.1 The proposed strategy was initially shared extensively with a variety of multi-agency networks including the voluntary sector, Community Learning Partnerships, provider networks and the Local Economic Partnership Skills Strategy sub-group. It has also been shared across the County Council by the cross-Directorate Adult Learning and Skills Strategy Group.

4.4.2 As part of the post Cabinet approval consultation it has been shared more widely with a variety of Key Stakeholders see **Appendix 1**.

##### **4.5 Public Health Implications**

4.5.1 No significant implications, although reducing the educational and skill disparities will increase people's ability to get jobs and in turn to live more independent and healthy lives.

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
The Adult learning and Skills Strategy Framework for Cambridgeshire 2012-2020	attached