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# **Report to Children and Young People’s Services Scrutiny Committee**

**18 January 2023**

## **Commissioning of Adult Community Education – Focus for Scrutiny**

**Report by Director of Law and Assurance**

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### **Summary**

Adult Community Learning is a non-statutory provision, externally funded via the Department for Education through the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The County Council currently receives £3.1m funding to commission Adult Education in West Sussex.

The Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills proposes to take a decision to approve a new delivery model for Adult Community Learning and launch a procurement exercise for the delivery of Adult Learning in readiness for the new curriculum in the Autumn of 2023.

### **Focus for scrutiny**

The Committee is asked to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the proposed new approach for Adult Community Education and provide any comments to the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills for consideration as part of the decision-making.

Key lines of enquiry include:

- 1) How well the new delivery model will meet the aims identified for the community of West Sussex and support the five outcomes set out in the Adult Community Education Mission Statement (Annex 1)
- 2) Whether the new model has fully taken account of changes in customer needs and expectations and new ways of learning.
- 3) How well the approach will ensure the sustainability of the future Adult Learning provision.
- 4) Any risks or issues identified and whether the plans in place to manage these are sufficient.

The Chairman will summarise the debate for consideration by the Committee.

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## **1. Background and context**

- 1.1 The County Council receives funds from the ESFA for the provision of learning for adults to obtain skills and/or qualifications for work, to improve the quality of their life or to enhance wellbeing.

- 1.2 The County Council currently procures adult education through a subcontracting model. The term of the current contract is due to expire during 2023. Future options for the delivery model for Adult Learning have been considered to enable the County Council to develop a new approach for Adult Community Education now being proposed for implementation.
- 1.3 The background and context to the service proposal are set out in the attached draft decision report together with an account of the information and considerations provided to support the proposed decision presented for the committee's scrutiny and comment.

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**Appendices**

Appendix A: Draft Key Decision Report -Commissioning of Adult Community Education

Annex 1: WSCC Adult Community Education Mission Statement

**Background Papers:** None