



Cabinet (Resources) Panel

8 July 2014

Report title	Grant agreement with the Education Funding Agency for 16 – 19 Education and training Funding for Academic Year 2014 - 2015	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Philip Page Schools, Skills and Learning	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
Originating service	Skills Development	
Accountable employee(s)	Paul Doherty Tel Email	Head of Service 01902 558087 Paul.Doherty@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, in consultation with the Assistant Director Finance, to confirm and sign the Grant Agreement with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) as soon as it is received by the Council for the funding total detailed in the EFA Payment Schedule for local authority maintained schools' sixth forms, the Adult Education Service (AES) and special schools with sixth form provision, for the academic year 2014/15, which will be approximately £7 million. The actual amount will be confirmed by the EFA in the Grant Agreement

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to:

- Brief Cabinet (Resources) Panel on the Council's responsibilities for 16-19 education and training funding for school sixth forms, the Wolverhampton Adult Education Service (AES) and five Special Schools with sixth form provision;
- Brief Cabinet (Resources) Panel on the approximate value of 16-19 funding from the EFA for those institutions;
- Seek approval to delegate authority, to the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, in consultation with the Assistant Director Finance to agree and sign the Grant Agreement with the EFA, as was the case for the 2012/13 and 2013/14 Grant Agreements with the EFA and the 2010/11 and 2011/12 Grant Agreements with the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act (ASCL) 2009 received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009. A principal provision of the Act transferred responsibility for planning and shaping 16-19 education and training from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local authorities on 1 April 2010.
- 2.2 Wolverhampton City Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in the local area. Young people are defined as those who are over compulsory school age but less than 19 years of age, or are aged 19-25 and subject to a learning difficulty assessment.
- 2.3 The local authority has a strategic leadership role as champion of young people's learning and has a responsibility to meet the needs of employers and the local community. The local authority is responsible for shaping provision in the area by identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market.
- 2.4 In carrying out this duty the local authority must have particular regard to the quality of provision and challenge wherever that quality is poor or inadequate.

3.0 Funding Values – School Sixth Forms and Adult Education Service

- 3.1 In 2013/14 the EFA will provide approximately £7millionof funding for the local authority maintained secondary schools with sixth forms in Wolverhampton, for 16-18 year olds with the AES and for five special schools with sixth form provision. The EFA funding is routed through the City Council and this requires a grant agreement between the two organisations.

3.2 The funding is for the academic year 2014/15 and the values are those set by the EFA based on a national funding formula. The mainstream school sixth forms, the AES and special schools received notification of their funding allocations in March 2014.

3.3 There will be no changes this year to the way the Council administers the funding.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 The expected allocation from EFA of £7 million will be received and fully allocated in academic year 2014/15. There are no further financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

[CF/20062014/M]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 The Council is required to enter into a Grant Agreement with the EFA to receive funds for maintained school sixth forms, the AES and special schools with sixth forms.

[RB/20062014/M]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no further implications for the Council's Equalities policies arising from this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no direct corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Cabinet (Resources) Panel, 'Grant agreement with the Education Funding Agency for 16 – 19 Education and training Funding' – 23 October 2013

10.2 Cabinet (Resources) Panel. 'Grant agreement with the Education Funding Agency for 16 – 19 Education and training Funding' – 16 October 2012

10.3 Cabinet (Resources) Panel. 'Grant agreement with the Education Funding Agency for 16 – 19 Education and training Funding' – 26 July 2011