

## APPENDIX 1

Meeting:	Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	10 January 2006
Subject:	Adult and community learning scrutiny review
Responsible Officer:	Director of Organisational Performance
Contact Officer:	Heather Smith, Scrutiny Officer 020 8420 9203 <a href="mailto:heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk">heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk</a>
Portfolio Holder:	Education and Lifelong Learning
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

### **Section 1: Summary**

#### **Decision Required**

1. To consider and approve the report of the scrutiny review group.
2. To refer the report to Cabinet
3. To agree the publication and dissemination of the report
4. To request a report on progress

#### **Reason for report**

To provide the Sub-committee with progress made on the review and to enable the Sub-Committee to approve the review group's report.

#### **Benefits**

The provision of an adult and community learning service impacts across all of the Council's priorities, including strengthening Harrow's communities, developing a true learning community and impacting through partnerships. The review contributes to the achievement of these priorities by considering the potential future shape of the service as well as ensuring the services provided

reflect local need.

### **Cost of Proposals**

This report is not seeking additional financial resources. The scrutiny programme of work will be delivered within existing budget provision for scrutiny activity.

### **Risks**

If the Sub-Committee does not reach a decision on the issues identified, this could result in a reduced opportunity to influence the future development of the Council's Adult and Community Learning service.

### **Implications if recommendations rejected**

If the Sub-Committee does not reach a decision on the issues identified, the programme of reviews will be seriously delayed and the capacity of the Sub-Committee to deliver its work programme jeopardised.

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2.1 Brief History**

- 2.1.1 At its meeting on 19 April 2005, the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee agreed to undertake a review of adult and community learning in the borough and that this would be the main area of focus of the Sub-Committee for 2005-06.
- 2.1.2 The review is particularly timely. Nationally, adult and community learning has had a high profile in recent months as services face major future changes in the planning and funding of provision. At the time of writing, unknown factors include the funding allocation for 2006/07, the potential for a national redistribution of funding, as well as the construction of a national framework for first step and personal development learning.
- 2.1.3 The report explores ways in which the ACL service in its current form should respond to these challenges, around the areas of the setting of fees and concessions and communications. The report concludes that the service needs to consider its future direction in a more fundamental sense in order to ensure that it can best meet the needs of local people in the years to come. The key challenge relates to how to fund services that fall outside of the framework set by the Learning and Skills Council, but provide services that local people can benefit from in order to make Harrow a true learning community.

### **2.2 Options considered** Not applicable.

- 2.3 Consultation  
Consultation with learners was undertaken through a visit to a number of local centres and a learner survey. The review group also met with the Chief Executive of the London West Learning and Skills Council (LSC).
- 2.4 Financial Implications  
There are no financial implications of agreeing the report at this stage. However the implementation of the recommendations within the report could have financial implications.
- 2.5 Legal Implications  
The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for funding and planning education and training for over 16-year-olds in England. Funding from the LSC is given to Harrow Council to support Adult and Community Learning in Harrow.
- 2.6 Equalities Impact  
The Adult and Community Learning service has a key role to play in widening participation in learning by all sections of the community and this is explored within the review group's report.
- 2.7 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations  
No specific implications.

### **Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents**

Background Documents:

- Scope of the review (included in the draft report)