

## Village Learning Store Adult Learning Centre

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Adult Learning Service has been invited to bid for £605,000 from the Learning and Skills Council Adult Safeguarded Learning Challenge Fund to convert Normanton Village Infant School into the New Village Learning Store for Adult Learning.
- 1.2 Normanton Village Infant School, Browning Street, Derby will close in July 2008 at which point the building will become vacant.

### RECOMMENDATION

2. To give approval to the Adult Learning Service to submit a bid for £605,000 capital funding to refurbish the Normanton Village Infants School building to create a new facility for adult learning in the Normanton area.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The former Village Learning Store was demolished in July 2007 to make way for the building of the new Village Primary School.
- 3.2 The provision for adult learning in the Normanton area is currently being maintained in temporary rented accommodation.
- 3.3 The demand and need for adult learning in the area continues to be high. Local residents benefit from a range of courses to improve their basic literacy and numeracy skills, employability and confidence.

## **Village Learning Store Adult Learning Centre**

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 1.1. The Village Learning Store was demolished in July 2007 to make way for the new Village Primary School. Replacement adult learning provision is currently sited in rented accommodation on the Austin Estate on a temporary basis. Normanton Village Infant School, Browning Street, Derby will close in July 2008 and the building will become vacant.
- 1.2 The Adult Learning Service has been invited to bid for £605,000 from the Learning and Skills Council Adult Safeguarded Learning Challenge Fund (Major Capital Fund) 2008-2010 to convert the vacant Normanton Village Infant School building into the New Village Learning Store for Adult Learning.
- 1.3 The refurbishment will ensure that there is a permanent centre for adult learning in the Normanton region, an area of high socio-economic deprivation and high unemployment.
- 1.4 The Village Learning Store was a local learning centre which had an established track record for attracting large numbers of local people who had not previously engaged in adult learning. It was cited as an example of good practice by the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) in 2005.
- 1.5 The programme of courses that is currently based in temporary accommodation in the area would transfer to the new building. The programme at the new centre would include daytime and evening courses aimed at those who have not previously engaged in adult learning and at adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. The building would provide an opportunity to increase and widen participation in the local area. 425 learners could benefit from the project per year.

- 1.6 In 2005/06 309 learners were enrolled on to courses at the old Village Learning Store and the new Village Learning Store will provide similar accommodation. The target number for 2008/09 within the existing temporary accommodation is 340. The relocation of refurbished accommodation in 2009/10 would be 425, broken down as follows:

<b>Subject Sector Area</b>	<b>Daytime</b>	<b>Evening</b>
Health & Social Care	60	30
Arts media and publishing	60	30
Languages Literature & Culture	60	15
Preparation for Life & Work	140	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>105</b>

- 1.7 The New Village Learning Store would be sited on a campus alongside the new Village Primary School, a children's centre and a health centre. There are working links already well established between the adult learning service and other agencies that already work in the local area. Links are also in place with other organisations including Derby Homes, the local church, Austin Community Enterprise and Derby City Council Sports and Leisure department all of whom are currently providing the temporary teaching accommodation for adult learning activities.
- 1.8 The centre would be fully accessible to learners with disabilities and would consist of:
- four teaching areas, two with sinks for art and crafts courses, all four with internet access
  - a crèche with an outdoor play area and toilets
  - an outdoor recreation area
  - space for development that will be used for gardening or horticulture courses
  - toilet facilities including an accessible toilet for wheelchair users
  - office accommodation
  - staff room with a resources area for teaching staff.

The budgeted costs for the alterations are as follows:

Alterations to toilets	£23,400.00
Alterations to kitchen and store	£22,900.00
Alterations to existing classroom and reception	£58,900.00
External works	£129,500.00
Mechanical and electrical upgrade	£288,300.00
Maintenance items	£149,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£672,400.00</b>

- 1.9 A condition survey of the building was completed in February 2007. The bid will include funding to address a substantial number of health and safety improvements identified in the survey which will bring the building back to a high standard of repair.

#### 1.10 The timescale for the project is:

Adult Safeguarded Learning Challenge Fund bid submitted to Learning and Skills Council - 31 January 2008  
Notification of successful bid - 30 April 2008  
Tender proposal - May 2008  
Procurement and contract issued - June 2008  
Start work on site - August 2008  
Completion - December 2009  
New Village Learning Store opens - January 2009

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 It was originally intended that the Village Learning Store would be replaced by the new Adult Learning Centre on the Becket Primary School site. Funding to support this project was secured from the Learning and Skills Council in 2006 but due to unresolved site problems this has not been achieved and the funding is no longer available.
- 2.2 A second bid for funding for the same project is unlikely to be successful as it would not be possible to confirm a date when the building work could commence due to further planned site investigation work.
- 2.3 Failure to develop a new Village Learning Store would seriously hinder the provision of adult learning in the Normanton area.

## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial

1. The total cost of the project is £672,400. Funding available from LSC from the Adult Safeguarded Learning Challenge Fund is £605,000. Derby City Council is required to provide 10% match funding of £67,400. This would be funded from the Adult Learning Service budget.

### Legal

2. Planning permission will be required to improve the vehicular access to the site from Village Street.

### Personnel

3. The provision of a new Adult Learning Centre would not affect any staff who are currently employed. However, it would provide more suitable accommodation for teaching, management and administration staff who are currently based in temporary accommodation.

### Equalities impact

4. An equalities impact assessment of the creation of a new Adult Learning Centre will be undertaken if the funding is secured.

### Corporate objectives and priorities

5. This proposal supports the objective of, "Supporting everyone in learning and achieving."

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**Background papers:** Appendix 1 – Implications  
**List of appendices:**