



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CABINET**  
**6 JUNE 2006**

Cabinet Member for Adult Services

## **ITEM 8**

### **Adult Learning - LSC Capital Bid**

#### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 There is a capital funding stream from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to support the refurbishment of existing buildings or the construction of new buildings for Adult Learning. A provisional bid has been submitted in order to meet the LSC deadline.
- 1.2 The bid is to provide facilities on the site of Becket Primary School, which is a phase 1 Children's Centre and is developing extended and much-needed services in the Abbey Ward.
- 1.3 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendations.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To confirm the bid for LSC capital funding to support a new build local learning centre on the Becket Primary School site.
- 2.2 To approve the phasing of the project and the funding from the Capital programme as detailed in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 To approve the commencement of the design and procurement process and start of the project, subject to the outcome of the bid.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Becket Primary School, working together with Firs Estate and Bishop Lonsdale Primary Schools, is currently one of two extended schools projects in the city.
- 3.2 Becket Primary School will also be part of the proposed Children's Centre in the Abbey Ward of the city.
- 3.3 Children's Centres and Extended Schools have a remit to provide Adult Learning opportunities for parents, carers and local residents.
- 3.4 The construction of a new build local learning centre on the Becket Primary School will support the remit for extended schools and children's centres and will add value to existing plans.



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Report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People

## **Adult Learning - Learning and Skills Council Capital Bid**

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 1.1 Derby Adult Learning Service can apply for Learning and Skills Council Adult Community Learning Capital Funding of up to £900,000 to support the refurbishment of existing buildings or the construction of new buildings. 10% of the total sum must be made up of match funding.
- 1.2 Becket Primary School, working with Firs Estate and Bishop Lonsdale Primary Schools, is currently one of two extended schools projects in the city. Becket Primary School will also be part of the proposed Children's Centre in the Abbey Ward of the city.
- 1.3 Children's Centres and Extended Schools have a remit to provide Adult Learning opportunities for parents, carers and local residents. The construction of a new build local learning centre on the Becket Primary School will support the remit for extended schools and children's centres and will significantly add value to existing plans.
- 1.4 Due to a lack of suitable accommodation day time adult learning provision in the Abbey ward is limited. There is a substantial evening programme at Bemrose Community School.
- 1.5 A needs analysis carried out by Adult Learning Service staff in partnership with CAST, a local community development project, shows day time provision to be the preferred option for many residents.
- 1.6 The bid to the Learning and Skills Council, if successful, will enable a local learning centre to be built. Local residents will form a steering group for the centre and act as learning advocates for their neighbourhood. This strategy has already proved to be successful on the Austin Estate where residents actively support and engage in learning at the Village Learning Store on the former Village Community School site.
- 1.7 The proposed centre will offer first step learning and personal development opportunities for local residents, parents and carers from the children's centre and from three local primary schools. Activities at the centre will be designed so that learners are supported in accessing both further training and paid or voluntary employment. Courses will also contribute to the development of community sustainability and cohesion.

- 1.8 The proposed building offers 4 large teaching spaces on two floors, together with a reception area and office space for a centre manager and a support worker.
- 1.9 The centre could offer learning opportunities to up to 1,000 learners each week. Childcare facilities will be available within the planned children's centre.
- 1.10 This model is one that has had considerable success at the Village Learning Store on the former Village School site. The centre would operate as the 'Becket Learning Store'.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 No further options for externally funding an Adult Learning centre in this area of the city are available. This site offers the best opportunity to meet need and to integrate with Children's Centre facilities, making best use of the funding and extending the range of services.
- 2.2 The Council could choose to fund a new build of this kind from within its own budget, though resources do not currently permit this.

**For more information contact:** Jenny German Head of Adult Learning, Tel 01332 716957

**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:** Appendix 1- Implications  
Appendix 2 – Capital programme implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 Bids of up to £900,000 can be made to the Learning and Skills Council Adult Community Learning Capital Fund. 10% of the total sum is to be made up of match funding.
- 1.2 A sum of £84,154.00 of match funding is therefore needed and it is proposed that this is provided from the Education capital development programme, given the strong link to the Extended Schools agenda.
- 1.3 Staffing costs can be met from within the Adult Learning Service's existing core budget.

**Legal**

2. Planning permission will be required.

**Personnel**

3. Staffing to support the centre can be met from the existing establishment.

**Equalities impact**

4. Local data show a range of learning needs exist within the local community which are not currently being met.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

5. The proposal is consistent with a number of priorities in the Corporate Plan, ie
  - improving the quality of life in Derby's neighbourhoods
  - encourage lifelong learning and achievement
  - build healthy and independent communities.

## Capital Programme Implications Appendix 2

Scheme	Scheme Description	Cost of Scheme	Modernisation Funding	LSC Capital	Ward	Start	Phasing	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	Total
Becket Learning Store	This will enable a local learning centre to be build attached to Becket Children's Centre and to Becket Firs and Bishop Lonsdale Extended Schools Project	£841,538	£84,154	£757,384	Abbey	4Q 2006-2007	LSC Capital		£403,831	£353,523	£757,384
							Modernisation	£2,000	£82,154		£84,154
							<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£485,985</b>	<b>£353,523</b>	<b>£841,538</b>