

# ITEM 04

Time started 2.30pm  
Time ended 2.42pm

## **Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meeting 30 April 2020**

Present: Councillor Poulter (Chair)

In Attendance      Councillor Williams  
                             Andy Smith, Strategic Director of People  
                             Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and  
                             Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer  
                             Anna Mimms Acting Head of Derby Adult Learning  
                             Service  
                             Alex Hough, Acting Head of Democracy

### **23/19      Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **24/19      Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-in will not                  apply**

There were none.

### **25/19      Declarations of interest**

There were none.

### **26/19      Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2020 were agreed.

## **Contract and Financial Procedure Matter**

### **27/19      Derby Adult Learning Service – Ministry of Housing,                  Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) English                  for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Integration                  Fund – Permission to Submit Bid**

The Leader of the Council considered an urgent report of the Strategic Director of People which sought permission for the Adult Learning Service to submit a bid application for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Integration fund.

- Bid deadline for submission: 6 May 2020

- Project duration: 1 year – with a view to being extended if successful.
- Project start date: 1 September 2020

Derby Adult Learning Service (DALs) was seeking approval to bid for approximately £306,750 of funding through the MHCLG ESOL Integration Fund to engage with and deliver ESOL related learning opportunities to approximately 500 beneficiaries across Derby. The fund particularly welcomed bids that demonstrated collaboration with eligible local partners to deliver elements of the Community Engagement and ESOL delivery. These partners would be co-ordinated by DALs, who would ensure they had sufficient track record and quality management processes to provide compliant outcomes.

### Aims:

Successful local authorities would be expected to support all participants' integration into British society and improve their connection to the local area. This could be achieved by building confidence to use English and engage with people outside their immediate community – mixing with those from different backgrounds and accessing services.

Delivered locally and engaging learners who may be isolated or within segregated communities with little or no English language skills. Community-based tuition was the most effective means of engaging people who were in greatest need of support and may not have previously taken steps to learn English.

This fund would support highly localised English language provision in community buildings that learners may already be familiar with, such as schools, community centres and places of worship.

DALS wanted the fund to provide high-quality learning experiences. DALs know some learners new to English language learning may not have literacy skills in a first language, causing learning journeys to be slower or inconsistent. MHCLG aimed to increase literacy skills through the teaching of reading, writing, speaking and listening to learners at New to ESOL Level ('Pre-Entry'- Entry Level 1).

DALS was writing a collaborative bid with strategic partners in Derby spanning cultural, community and education sectors. DALs were specifically working with those 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations who had access to hard to reach, new, emerging and non-English speaking communities. This collaborative work was inclusive spanning services within Derby City Council including cultural strategic partnerships, community and Move More Derby.

### **Options considered**

1. Do Nothing
  - DCLG would see a 'no bid' as a lack of interest in any future potential funding opportunities.

- Community groups would not have access to valuable funding and services at a time of significant challenge
2. Seek alternative funds to offer this type of English provision – there were none available.

## **Decision**

1. To approve the submission of a bid for the value of approximately £306,750 to the ESOL Integration Fund to MHCLG.
2. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for People Services' following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and the Section 151 officer to accept a successful bid and subsequent offer of funding.
3. To approve the proposal for DALs to co-ordinate the ESOL Integration Project.
4. To approve the proposal for the ESOL integration fund to be delivered within a Quality Management Hub and Spoke Model. Set out at appendix 1 of the report.
5. To delegate authority for awarding any ESOL Integration Project grants to the Strategic Director of People Services' following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

## **Reasons**

1. This funding represented an excellent opportunity to inject our communities with the funds, resources, skills and support necessary to address issues of isolation, racial tensions, confidence and English-speaking skills.
2. This project would increase the capacity of The Adult Learning Service to engage with hard to reach, pre-entry level ESOL learners in Derby City; providing a highly qualified and structured ESOL Level 5 coordinated learning programme.
3. DALs had recently concluded a highly successful project similar in nature called: 'Talk English'. This project looked to continue the successful work of the Talk English project however, for the first time MHCLG had chosen to directly fund 25 local authorities rather than colleges or universities. Total fund was worth approximately £7.5 Million.
4. DALs was specifically approached by MHCLG to submit the bid as we have a good reputation and track record of delivering high quality ESOL provision. This approach gave no indication of potential bid success.
5. DALs had recently been working on community projects to address racial tensions in schools and communities with the New and Emerging

Community Team and could further support these community groups with this offer to support the acquisition of language and community-based activities.

MINUTES END