



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMISSION  
6 SEPTEMBER 2004

Report of the Director of Education

## Adult Learning Service Future Accommodation – Rycote Centre

### RECOMMENDATION

1. To note and comment on the report on Adult Learning Service Future Accommodation – Rycote Centre, as considered by Council Cabinet on 10 August 2004.

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 As contained in the attached report.
- 2.2 Council Cabinet considered the attached report at its meeting on 10 August, and the decision was to refer the report to the Education Commission for comment prior to final decisions being taken at the Cabinet meeting on 7 September. The budget virements proposed in 1.2 was agreed.
- 2.3 During the presentation of the report, a number of issues that had been raised with Cabinet Members were addressed by the Director of Education. These are noted below as further supporting information to this report.
- 2.4 In planning for the use of the Rycote Centre, the Adult Learning Service has been very conscious of the needs of current users of the centre. Social Services' staff and the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, who are current users of the space concerned, have been fully involved in planning, and are positive about the proposals. The club for the deaf community uses the top floor of the centre. A letter has been sent to the chair of the club giving reassurance about future use and consultation over long-term use and developing the existing partnership.
- 2.5 Most importantly, the aim of the ALS is to actively encourage current users to participate in all of the activities regardless of any additional or special needs they may have. An earlier registration opportunity is being provided for them, and taster sessions have also been provided. Social Services clients will continue to be provided with meals.
- 2.6 The service will consult staff and users, as noted in the Council Cabinet Forward Plan, about needs and aspirations for future provision in the centre as part of the planning work for future use.
- 2.7 With regard to parking facilities, these are restricted at the centre. However, we are able to continue to use parking facilities at St Helen's House, which is relatively close to the Rycote Centre, for the time being, and there continues to be access to parking at Rycote for people with disabilities.

- 2.8 As noted in the report, the Adult Learning Service has the right to apply for up to £900,000 of capital funding to support improvement to the buildings, and hence the quality of provision. A condition survey will need to be carried out, and a bid to the LSC developed in partnership with the Council's Property Services. There have been ongoing discussions with Derbyshire Learning & Skills Council about our intentions for future provision.
- 2.9 A concern was also raised about the loss of courses for sign language learners. In fact the programme for 2004/2005 offers two more level 1 courses than in 2003/2004, and the same number of level 2 courses. Last year's level 1 learners have been informed by letter of the progression courses available to them in September.
- 2.10 Finally, there was discussion at the meeting about alternative options for locating future adult learning provision. In view of the cost and suitability issues, it was imperative for the Adult Learning Service to move out of St Helen's House. Whilst wishing to take adult learning into communities across the city, it was also important to replace the core of activity that has been offered up to now at St Helen's House. The service is fortunate that current and planned future use of the Rycote Centre provided an opportunity for a suitable space in terms of size and location. There are also opportunities for inclusive partnership with those existing users which are entirely in line with the priorities and strengths of the Adult Learning Service. There are no obvious alternatives currently that meet service requirements in a city centre location so close to current provision. An options appraisal for St Helen's House and the Rycote Centre confirmed the latter's suitability.
- 2.11 In addition, a number of venues across the city were considered, and in some cases will be used, for provision next year. These include:
- the Allpark Centre – based in the old Allpark Infant School and now a base for the Adult Learning Service providing a range of courses
  - the Polish Club on Kedleston Road – this will provide further teaching space across the road from the Rycote Centre
  - there will be increased use of Bemrose, Littleover, Sinfin and Noel Baker Community Schools for evening courses
  - shop premises in the Park Farm Centre at Allestree – it was hoped that this would provide facilities for learners in the north of the city, some of whom would previously have used St Helen's House. Having closely examined the possibility, the facilities were ultimately not available
  - other schools located near the city centre were considered, but could not make the necessary provision, for various reasons.
  - a location for office accommodation was also considered, but the revenue costs were too high.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Jenny German / 01332 716957 / jenny.german@derby.gov.uk
<b>Background papers:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
---------------------

**Financial**

1. These are contained in the original report.

**Legal**

2. These are contained in the original report.

**Personnel**

3. These are contained in the original report.

**Equalities impact**

4. These are contained in the original report.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

5. These are contained in the original report.