

## **ADULT LEARNING INSPECTORATE REINSPECTION**

**Report By: Director of Policy and Community**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Committee of the Adult Learning Inspectorate's proposals for the reinspection of the Council's Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded Adult and Community Learning (ACL) provision.

### **Financial Implications**

2. None

### **Considerations**

3. The Council's adult learning provision was inspected for the first time by the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) in January 2003. A number of significant strengths were identified, principally within the areas of learning. There were however a number of key weaknesses which resulted in the ALI considering that the quality of provision was not adequate to meet the reasonable needs of those receiving it. Under these circumstances the Council was advised that its service would be subject to a re-inspection.
4. An initial planning meeting was held with the Lead Inspector and relevant Officers on 6th January 2004 to discuss the re inspection process.
5. Officers were informed that the ALI process for reinspection will take the format of quarterly monitoring visits, culminating in a full reinspection of the whole of the LSC funded ACL provision.
6. The quarterly monitoring visits will commence end of March 2004 and will be conducted by the Lead Inspector, with the support of other appropriate inspectors, and will focus on the Council's progress against its Post Inspection Action Plan.
7. The full reinspection will take place over four days of one week within the period of September to December 2004. The inspection team will consist of one inspector each for Leadership and Management, Equality of Opportunity, Quality Assurance and one inspector for each of the curriculum areas which form the Council's provision. The number of curriculum inspectors required will be identified during the monitoring process. The Lead Inspector has indicated that he is keen to interview Council Members as part of the Inspection process.
8. Peter Ding, Principal Learning Officer, will be the Council's nominee for the reinspection process and will be the primary contact between the Lead Inspector and the Council for the purposes of the reinspection. An ALI Working Group, consisting

of officers of the Council, is being formed to support and guide the reinspection process.

9. As part of its annual planning and development of the service the Lifelong Learning Development Unit facilitates meetings with all stakeholders involved with identifying and delivering its learning provision. The next meeting is being planned for early February and it is proposed that in addition to its original remit this forum can be used as an initial opportunity in preparing for the future reinspection.
10. It is further proposed that the findings and issues identified from the stakeholder meeting, together with supporting information from the local Learning and Skills Council on the current situation regarding funding, form the basis of a report to a future meeting of the Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Committee notes the proposed timescales, scope and programme of reinspection.**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Post Inspection Action Plan