

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Clyde Valley Learning and Development Joint Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>13 December 2010</b>
Report by:	<b>Chair of Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group</b>

Subject:	<b>Future Funding for the Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project</b>
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## **1 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval from the Joint Committee to pursue funding contributions from Member and Associate Member Councils in order to continue the work of the Project

## **2 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that efforts should be made to continue the work of the Project through securing funds to cover the running costs; and
- (2) that members of the Clyde Valley Implementation Steering Group seek the support of their respective councils and Associate Member councils to contribute to the running costs of the project.

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 The Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project was established as a pilot programme in 2005, to develop a shared approach to Learning and Development across the eight Clyde Valley Councils. A business case was developed and presented to the National Board for Shared Services in 2007 with a view to securing funding for the project. A grant of £560,000 was awarded to the Clyde Valley on a one-off basis from the Efficiency and Reform Fund (ERF).
- 3.2 Approximately £220,000 of this grant was apportioned to support the first year purchase of the Brightwave LMS.
- 3.3 Funding has also been used to support development of Clyde Valley initiatives, e.g. establishment of CMI centre, Diversity and Equality benchmarking, staff secondments to deliver programmes and administrative charges for accounting and audit. Project management is also funded from the grant through the secondment of project staff. This comprises a Project Manager, Development Officer (Social Care) and an Administration Assistant.

- 3.2 Member councils contribute to the project in kind through officer and Elected Member time. As South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) is the lead authority, it is SLC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders on Contracts which apply in relation to project matters. SLC also provides additional services to the project as a contribution including, secretariat to the Joint Committee, legal advice, procurement advice, financial and accounts management and centralised administration of specific learning provision.
- 3.3 As currently managed the costs associated with delivering the project (project staff salaries, national insurance contributions and pension plus travelling and administration expenses) are approximately £86,000 per annum.
- 3.4 It was a condition of the grant funding that those outcomes, benefits and learning achieved and developed by the project should be shared by other members of the local government community and the wider public sector in Scotland. This continues to be an underlying principle for the Clyde Valley Group. As a means of achieving this, the guiding principles set out in the Joint Committee's Minute of Agreement (MoA) allow for the admission of Associate Members to join the group.

#### **4 Options**

- 4.1 The existing funding has supported the project's operating costs and investments in technology during the past 3 years. It is, however, evident that this funding source is no longer able to sustain the running costs beyond March 2011.
- 4.2 The most likely source of funding is to seek a contribution from all Member Councils to cover the project costs, setting this against the benefits gained from the shared services approach to learning and development.
- 4.3 The Clyde Valley Project Implementation Steering Group has considered some possible funding models and has generated the following options for consideration:-
- ◆ reduce the costs of delivery
  - ◆ Member Councils make a contribution based on an equal share of the running costs
  - ◆ Member Councils make a pro rata contribution based on their relative size
  - ◆ a contribution is made from Associate Member councils
  - ◆ a contribution from all Member Councils is made on an arbitrary basis recognising the relative size and nature of their involvement in the project

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 Based on the figures included in Appendix 1, it is recommended that contributions should be sought on the following basis:-
- ◆ reduce the costs of delivery by 20% (to be achieved through better use of technology, reduced meeting frequency etc)
  - ◆ additional contribution of £1,000.00 from Associate Member Councils
  - ◆ Consideration of options to continue the work of the Group based on examples set out in Appendix 1

#### **6 Employee Implications**

- 6.1 There are no employee implications regarding the proposal.

#### **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 As detailed above.

## **8. Other Implications**

8.1 If funding is not secured the risk is that the Project would not fulfil its objectives and deliver savings.

## **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

9.1. No immediate action required.

9.2 Initial consultation has been undertaken with members of the Project Implementation Steering Group.

**Gill Bhatti**

**Chair**

**Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group**

25 November 2010

## **List of Background Papers**

Clyde Valley EGF Training Bid

NBSS Clyde Valley Consortium Submission November 2006

NBSS Clyde Valley Consortium – Secondary Paper December 2006

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Gill Bhatti, Chair, Clyde Valley Learning and Development Project Implementation Steering Group

Ext: 5604 (Tel: 01698 455604)

E-mail: [gill.bhatti@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:gill.bhatti@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

**Appendix 1**

Council	Staff	% of Clyde Valley	Options		
			1	2	3
East Dunbartonshire	5,040	5.75	£3,957.72	£8,600.00	£3,000.00
East Renfrewshire	4,842	5.53	£3,802.24	£8,600.00	£3,000.00
Glasgow	23,753	27.11	£18,652.34	£8,600.00	£5,000.00
Inverclyde	4,869	5.56	£3,823.44	£8,600.00	£3,000.00
North Lanarkshire	17,869	20.40	£14,031.86	£8,600.00	£5,000.00
Renfrewshire	8,858	10.11	£6,955.86	£8,600.00	£5,000.00
South Lanarkshire	15,922	18.17	£12,502.95	£8,600.00	£5,000.00
West Dunbartonshire	6,461	7.37	£5,073.58	£8,600.00	£3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	87,614		£68,800.00	£68,800.00	£32,000.00
<b>Shortfall</b>			£0.00	£0.00	£36,800.00
<b>Associate Members' Contribution</b>					
Flat rate	£1,000.00		N/a	N/a	£12,000.00
<b>Shortfall</b>			N/a	N/a	£24,800.00

Running costs reduced by 20% **£68,800.00**

Current Number of Associates: 12

Headcount based on Scottish Government Statistics Q2 2009