



**ROCHDALE**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH  
**COUNCIL**

**ITEM NO. SFL104**

---

**Subject:**

Review Skills Budget for Foundation Learning

---

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Donna Martin, Children, Schools & Families

---

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS / DECISION REQUESTED**

1.1 To reduce the Skills budget (Foundation Learning) by £100k

**2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Rochdale Borough Councils' statutory duty is to work with a range of partners and providers to ensure the mix and balance of Education, Training and Employment meets the needs of its young people from 16-19 (up to 25 for LLDD).

A strong partnership exists that ensures the needs of young people are articulated, so that providers in particular can respond and develop provision through mainstream skills funding arrangements.

There is therefore no longer a need to fund provision from Rochdale Borough Councils' resources.

**3. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 Partnership working is now in place to ensure enough high quality provision is in place to meet the needs of 16-19 year olds who are learning below L2. Where gaps in provision exist, providers working alongside LA colleagues develop provision to meet individual needs.

**4. BACKGROUND & SUMMARY**

4.1 In previous years funding has been provided to Local Authorities through grant funding to lead the drive to ensure adequate Foundation Learning Provision (below L2) is in place for those young people who, for whatever reasons, do not achieve, and are not likely to achieve L2 (GCSE A\*-C) qualifications.

Due to changes in national policy and better partnership working, Rochdale Borough Council and a wide range of providers ensure provision is in place through other non LA mainstream skills funding streams.

**5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

5.1 Consultation has taken place through the Skills Lead Group about how to ensure a high quality offer is in place for young people learning below L2.

Post 16 providers have agreed to ensure provision for these young people is adequate to meet their needs ensuring progression into Education Employment and Training is in place.

5.2 The Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families has been consulted on this proposal.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. **Theme:** Building Success

6.2. **Proposal Title:** Review Skills Budget for Foundation Learning.

### 6.3. Breakdown of Savings from the Service

Service Name: Children, Schools and Families

Area of Service: Support for Learning

Cost Centre affected:

Is this a cost or additional saving: a saving of £100k

	Savings 2013/14 £000		Savings 2014/15 £000		Total Savings £000	
	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off	Ongoing	One Off
Employees Other Costs Income lost (Show as minus)	100				100	
Net Savings Additional Income Generated (show as a positive figure)	100				100	
<b>Total Savings</b> Implementation Costs	<b>100</b>				<b>100</b>	
<b>Total Savings less Implementation Costs</b>	<b>100</b>				<b>100</b>	

6.4 Financial Impact on another service?

There is no financial impact on another service as a result of this proposal.

6.5 Details of the Financial Impact on another service: N/A

6.6 Voluntary Sector Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact on the voluntary sector as a result of this proposal.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no significant legal implications as a result of this proposal. We are confident that we can deliver statutory duties as outlined above.

## 8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This proposal does not have any staffing implications for the council.

## 9. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

## 10. ASSET IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no asset implications for members to consider arising from this report.

## 11. JOINT WORKING

11.1 Partnership arrangements are in place across the borough with schools, providers, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector providers and other partners to ensure that the mix and balance of provision is adequate to meet the needs of learners below L2, particularly for those from vulnerable groups.

## 12. EQUALITIES IMPACT

12.1 **Workforce Equality Impacts Assessment:** This proposal has no staffing implications and therefore there are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.

12.2 **Equality/Community Impact Assessments:** An equality/community impact assessment will be completed for this proposal.

## 13. VOLUNTARY SECTOR IMPACTS

13.1 This proposal does not impact on the voluntary sector.

<b>Background Papers:</b> There are no background papers relating to this report.
---