

**COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG
RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision




PWNC | SUBJECT: Adult Learning Course Fees

DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To propose an increase in adult learning course fees so that the provision of hobby/interest based courses can be maintained.

PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:

To approve the increase in adult learning course fees from £2.50 per hour to £2.90 per hour from 2020.

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
|  Llofnod y Prif Swyddog Chief Officer Signature | PAUL MEE Enw (priflythrennau) Name (Print Name) | 22.10.19 Dyddiad Date |
|---|--|------------------------------------|

Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION

Jaylesse

22.10.19

LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET
CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DYDDIAD | DATE

Ghanni

22-10-19.

LLOFNOD SWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL
CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DYDDIAD | DATE

RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYD A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:
IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YDY | YES NAC YDY | NO ✓

Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:

.....

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:

If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

..... **N/A**

(Llywydd | Presiding Member) (Dyddiad | Date)

DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Councils Website:- 22/10/19

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar / Subject to Call In the implementation date will be

28/10/19
DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION : ✓

Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Cyfadran Directorate: | Public Health, Protection & Community Services |
| Enw'r Person Cyswllt Contact Name: | Wendy Edwards |
| Swydd Designation: | Service Director, Community Services |
| Rhif Ffôn Telephone Number: | 01443 425512 |

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

KEY DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

18th OCTOBER 2019

ADULT LEARNING COURSE FEES

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Author: Wendy Edwards, Service Director Community Services - 01443 425512

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an outline of the proposal to increase adult learning course fees for non-grant funded provision.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The content of the report is noted.
- 2.2 Approval is given for the proposed increase to £2.90 per hour for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st March 2021 and thereafter for proposed revisions to fee levels to be incorporated within the annual review of Fees and Charges levels considered by Cabinet.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The majority of adult learning courses are free at the point of delivery. This includes all essential skills and employability related provision as these courses are funded through our Community Learning Grant from Welsh Government and our franchise agreement with Coleg y Cymoedd.
- 3.2 Fees apply only to provision that cannot be delivered from grant funding. The types of courses that fall into this category are hobby or leisure related courses such as local and family history, creative writing, music and arts provision.
- 3.3 The fees for these non-grant funded adult learning courses no longer cover the costs of delivery so that if the provision is to be maintained, the shortfall must be addressed.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Adult Education Service delivers a broad range of adult community learning programmes in the County. The majority of provision is targeted at those who are most disadvantaged and who would benefit from gaining skills and qualifications that will increase their employability. However, provision is also offered that is more leisure/hobby based, which it is recognised, supports people's well-being and prevents them from becoming socially isolated.
- 4.2 The service is supported by a mixture of grant funding sources including:
- A Community Learning Grant from Welsh Government which prioritises essential skills, digital skills, employability skills, social engagement courses through clubs and directed learning and 'hook' courses for people returning to learning;
 - A franchise agreement with Coleg y Cymoedd for the delivery of essential skills;
 - Funding from Communities for Work+ for employability provision; and
 - European Structural Funding for employment programmes for young people aged 16–24 years and adults over the age of 25.
- 4.3 There is demand for wider provision by people who do not necessarily fall into the most disadvantaged categories and who are able and willing to pay for the provision they are interested in. This demand has been met through the offer of full-cost recovery courses at £2.50 per hour (plus the cost of any resources that are required, for example, arts and crafts, floristry and similar courses).
- 4.4 These fees no longer cover the whole cost of provision and there has been no substantial increase in fee levels for several years despite an increase in costs. Consequently, a decision has to be made whether to continue to offer these courses which will require an increase in fees to address the deficit, or whether to discontinue non-grant funded provision.

5. THE PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Adult Learning in Wales (2017) recognises the positive impact that learning has on the wider health and wellbeing of older people and that learning as a form of social engagement and mental stimulation is very important in supporting people to keep active and healthy and reducing loneliness and social isolation.
- 5.2 Hobby/leisure based courses are also a good way to attract more people back into learning as well as offering learners a way to develop new skills and interests. Accordingly, there is a significant value to maintaining this provision.
- 5.3 Current non-grant funded courses delivered by the Adult Education Service cost £2.50 per hour. This cost is amongst the lowest in Wales. Similar provision in other areas cost from £4 (Monmouthshire), £4.20 (Blaenau Gwent) and £5.20 (Cardiff).
- 5.4 It is proposed, therefore, to increase the hourly rate to £2.90 per hour for all non-accredited provision and provision not prioritised by Welsh Government, and to place a minimum limit on the number of enrolments (8) before a class is viable to be

delivered. This will be sufficient to cover all costs related to the provision and prevent any deficit for the service while retaining a fee structure that is still lower than most other areas of Wales for non-grant funded courses.

- 5.5 It is further proposed that the change in hourly rate will apply for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st March 2021 and thereafter (i.e. from 1st April 2021) proposed changes will be considered by Cabinet as part of the annual review of Council fees and charges levels.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken and no issues have been identified in relation to this proposal having a specific impact on people with protected characteristics.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 No consultation has been undertaken with learners in respect of this proposal.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 In 2018/19, cost recovery courses made a loss of £10,000 for the Adult Education Service when all costs related to the delivery were considered. Increasing the hourly rate of the courses will help to address this deficit and enable the service to continue to offer a broad range of courses.

9. LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There is no legislation that applies to this proposal.

10. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 This proposal will contribute to goal 6 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act – a society that promotes culture and heritage as it will enable courses relating to history and culture to continue to be offered by the service. It should be noted that part-time provision of courses relating to these subjects are delivered by very few providers in the County.
- 10.2 It is consistent with the Council's priority of promoting positive lives for everyone as approval will enable the service to continue to offer a wide range of courses to meet identified customer requirements.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 This proposal will enable the Adult Education Service to continue to offer a wide range of hobby/leisure based courses that are popular with customers and retain a level of fees that are lower than in many other areas of Wales.

- 11.2 The Adult Education Service is no longer in a position to sustain this provision without an increase in fees as the costs expended currently exceed the income generated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

18th OCTOBER 2019

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

ADULT LEARNING COURSE FEES

Background Papers

None

Officer to contact: Wendy Edwards, Service Director Community Services