

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

MINUTES of the meeting held following the withdrawal of the press and public on Monday, 16 July 2012

3 **ADULT LEARNING FEES 2012/13**

(Agenda Item. 5)

The Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Melinda Tilley had before her a report which sought approval to harmonise fees over the course of the academic year 2012/13 of the Oxfordshire Skills and Learning and the Ethnic Minority Business Service who both provide English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses, but under widely different fee structures.

Mr Bardsley reported that the adoption of a further flexibility to the Council's differentiated fees policy would allow Adult Learning to strengthen its equalities approach in this area. The introduction of a no-cost or low-cost rate would enable Adult Learning to offer attractive courses to first-time learners who fall within the hard-to-reach target groups.

Furthermore, ESOL learners with both Oxfordshire Skills and Learning Service and the Ethnic Minority Business Service would benefit from less confusion about fees, making provision more accessible by becoming more transparent.

Decision

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

- (a) the amendments to the fees schedule for 2011/12 as set out in Annex 1 to the report, to include a no-cost/low-cost option;**
- (b) the proposal to allow Oxfordshire Skills and Learning Service and the Ethnic Minority Business Service to work towards harmonisation of ESOL fees over 2012/13, having first agreed a compromise starting point.**

..... in the Chair

Date of signing

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