

West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network

WYLLN Projects

1. Background

1.1. There is £318,000 in the budget for project work. In addition, there is £107,000 available from capital funding generated through additional student numbers. There is no clear definition on what or how this funding can be spent. At a previous meeting of the Board, consideration was given to the development of systems associated with course information that would benefit the whole partnership. It was also agreed that further discussions with strategic partners should take place before final decisions are made. With these conditions being met, it means that there is a potential of £425,000 available for project work.

2. Activity to date

2.1. The activity to date is given in the table below

Project	Outline	Amount
Competency Framework for Creative Entrepreneurship	Through consultation with employers, a competency framework that will be developed that could be incorporated into academic qualifications through the development of new work-based modules and providing new opportunities for the accreditation of work-based learning.	£40,000
E-Portfolio for generic framework foundation degrees	Four generic foundation degrees were developed in the Business Services sector. This model is now being adopted by other sectors. Because of the uniqueness of these developments existing e-portfolios were not fit for purpose. The development will be used by several institutions on different foundation degrees.	£30,000
Motivational Mathematics	This project will improve mathematics education with innovative pedagogy that makes use of Flash technology to contextualise teaching and learning. Through the development of ICT and web learning tools the theories, principles and concepts of mathematics can be connected to real construction and engineering scenarios. There will be opportunities for the development to be utilises schools and colleges particularly in the delivery of the maths content of the new diplomas	£70,000
Training Needs Analysis for IAG	This is a pilot project to develop a tool which can be used to analyse the training needs of a range of staff that are now undertaking IAG without any specific training.	£6000

2.2. A business case was developed for each project and the projects initiated following Chair's action. This was agreed at the September 2008 Board meeting. The amount of money committed through this process is £146,000, leaving a total of £279,000 available for future project work.

3. Future Activity

3.1. Through a range of sources, several other proposals have been put forward for future project work, although business cases have not been produced in every case. The table below outlines the range of projects that could be funded.

Project	Outline
Implementation of XCRi	Exchange of Course Related Information is a standard that is being used to describe courses. It enables easy uploads to all national databases. Implementation of the standard is being explored at the University of Huddersfield through JISC funding. Using the lessons learned from this pilot the standards could be introduced to other partners. Currently 10 FE/HE partners are interested with several other non-education partners. This project would meet the criteria for capital funding. (see also Director's Report)
Regional Logistics Skills Academy	With YEHLN, this funding would provide the appointment of a person to establish the Academy. Approval has been given in principle, but requested actions have yet to be carried out.
IAG Training Needs Analysis	This would roll out the outcomes of the pilot project to the rest of the Network.
Elluminate Project	Currently a JISC funded project is being carried out from the University of Huddersfield on the use a communications tool through video and audio technology. Additional support would be required to allow take up of this technology across the Network.
School Progression Partnership	Working with Leeds Trinity and All Saints, Notre Dame 6 th Form College and the catholic schools in Leeds, a model of support for learner progression, where the curriculum is being delivered by a range of providers, will be developed and tested. The model is one that will have implications for the delivery of the new diplomas through the 14-19 partnerships.
Developing linkages with Skills and Work Boards	Discussions are underway with a range of Skills and Work Boards on how the work of HE providers could link with local economic strategies. There is a potential for a series of projects, one within each local authority.
Leadership journeys for SMEs	<p>To deliver a programme consisting of a range of well-researched activities which are suited to SMEs. It is seen as a journey lasting initially for one year with the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensuring short-term survival of the business ➤ Identifying a path for business improvement ➤ Achieving a measurable increase and growth of the business ➤ Creation of a sustainable network ➤ Creation of a sustainable frameworks for SME's to continue to learn and develop in the future (and access appropriate progression routes)

A holistic approach to blended learning delivery	The project will develop a suite of best practice and generic e-learning modules and provide an integrated staff development programme.
Engineering sector engagement, methodology development and implementation	This project will research and develop bespoke sector methodology for FE/HE employer engagement, together with measured implementation to support the curriculum, IAG and progression aims of the WYLLN.
Partner support for the 14-19 curriculum	Above and beyond the project work currently being commissioned on progression on the 14-19 diplomas, this will allow partners to address some of the findings at an institutional level.

3.2. The total costs for these projects, if all were carried out, is £574,800, far in excess of the £279,000 available. However, ideas for projects will still be considered, particularly if they will have a major impact on the aims of the WYLLN.

4. Conclusions

4.1. To assess which projects are funded, a panel will be convened in May for final recommendations in June. This will mean that the projects will have to be completed within the next academic year, unless HEFCE approves an extension.

4.2. It is recommended that the Management Board supports the approach outlined in this paper for utilising the funds available for project work.

4.3. The Management Board is also requested to consider the membership of the assessment panel.