

27<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Your ref: Email dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
Our ref: R00173

## **Freedom of Information Request – Oxford City Learning Communities project**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request, dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009, concerning the final statement of accounts for the Oxford City Learning Communities project.

Your request to SEEDA is:

*“Please could you send me the final statement of accounts for the Oxford City Learning Communities project which ended on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.”*

## **Information Held**

### ***Oxfordshire Area Programme***

The Connected Learning Communities Project was the main project in the Oxfordshire Area Programme, a devolved programme of learning projects supported by SEEDA between 2005/06 – 2007/08. The focus of Area Programmes was on targeting disadvantaged communities in areas of wider economic success in order to promote economic activity within those communities. SEEDA’s funding was supplemented by other agencies during the three year life of the Programme.

The Programme was overseen by a partnership board comprised of representatives from numerous relevant organisations and the funding was managed by an ‘accountable body,’ in the case of the Oxfordshire Area Programme this was Oxfordshire County Council. Between 2005/06 and 2007/08, SEEDA invested £1,990,000 in this Programme and the SEEDA contribution was the major element.

## ***Connected Learning Communities Project***

	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>SEEDA Funding</b>	£21,440	£403,869	£286,751	£220,000	£932,060

This project aimed to develop 'Connected Learning Communities' in three neighbourhoods of Oxford City exhibiting multiple deprivation; namely Barton, Blackbird Leys and Rose Hill. The local level development of each learning community included cross-neighbourhood activities bringing the three communities together.

Two priority tasks have been addressed: tackling underachievement and developing and implementing sustainable plans for future learning provision so that no resident in the three estates is disadvantaged by where they live. Tackling underachievement focussed on supporting adults and young people to increase their skills, both through gaining formal qualifications and through providing access to more broad-brush skills development. The formal training included a range from basic skills (through the Skills for Life Strategy), to Level 2 qualifications.

Work was also done to provide a smaller number of unemployed learners with support towards a job. However, the primary emphasis of developing learning communities is to bring people into mainstream provision by providing accessible and informal learning as a first step.

The project initially ran from 2005/06 until 2007/08 (the same duration as Oxfordshire Area Programme). In response to local demand SEEDA provided support for an extra year during 2008-09 to ensure a smooth transition to the future. This aims of the project have now been incorporated into the Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) priorities, and integrated into the work of Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council.