

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

<b>DECISION TAKEN BY</b>
Mr Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities

<b>DECISION NO.</b>
11/01646

*If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972*

**Subject:**  
Adult Education : Changes to concessions for people of 60 years of age and over

**Decision:**  
As Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities I hereby authorise:

- A reduction of the level of universal concession offered to learners of 60 years of age and over from 40% to 20%
- That this level of reduction be implemented with immediate effect for courses starting from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011

**Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken:** None

**Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information**  
The decision takes into account:

- Government Agenda – the Growth Investment Strategy of the Department for Business Innovation & Skills states that public funding should be used for the benefit of people who are disadvantaged. "Those who are able to pay should do so".
- Government Funding – the Skills Funding Agency Adult Safeguarded Funding ie the funding that subsidises Informal Adult Learning, has been frozen since 2003/2004. This represents a reduction of 20%.
- KCC Medium Term Budget Plan – this includes an increase in contribution through the adjustment of concessions.

A Consultation Exercise has been carried out which has identified ways in which the change can be minimised for these learners. In addition, we are in the process of developing further ways in which the change can be mitigated by introducing discounts for on-line enrolment and the creation of a Membership Scheme which would offer tangible benefits.

**Background Documents:**  
Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth - Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills. Nov 2010 (Government policy on funding for learning and skills which states that public funding for Adult and Community Learning will in future be focussed on disadvantaged groups)  
Briefing paper for the Big Society Roundtable – Department of Business Innovation and Skills March 2011 (Part of the current Review process for Informal, Adult and Community Learning)

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signed

1st JUNE 2011  
.....  
date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published			