
Report to: Employment and Skills Panel

Date: 23 February 2021

Subject: **Level 3 Entitlements**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Panel on Level 3 (L3) entitlements and to seek the Panel's view on further qualifications that should be considered for inclusion on the published DfE list.

2. Information

- 2.1 A new L3 entitlement that allows adults (aged 24+) to study a first full L3 qualification for free was announced by the Prime Minister in November, as part of the 'Lifetime Skills Guarantee'. This announcement has been confirmed in the recent FE White Paper.
- 2.2 A list of 379 eligible qualifications has been developed against a methodology set out by DfE based on earning potential and existing labour market needs¹. The funding can only be used for ESFA funded provision, and not employer led bootcamps. The intention is to remove funding approval from qualifications with low or no publicly funded enrolments.
- 2.3 The list of funded qualifications will remain under review. Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs), Greater London Authority (GLA) and awarding bodies are able to submit additional courses to the list where they are able to provide evidence that they should be funded.
- 2.4 Qualifications that will be funded are in the following subject areas:
- Accounting and finance
 - Agriculture

¹ A full list of courses to be funded at Level 3 is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifications-in-new-funded-offers

- Building and construction
- Business management
- Child development and well-being
- Engineering
- Environmental conservation
- Health and social care
- Horticulture and forestry
- ICT for users
- ICT practitioners
- Manufacturing technologies
- Mathematics and statistics
- Medicine and dentistry
- Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine
- Public services
- Science
- Teaching and lecturing
- Transportation operations and maintenance
- Warehousing and distribution

2.5 Funding to meet the entitlement will be delegated to MCAs / GLA for the academic year 2021/22. The allocations have not yet been communicated, but there is around £95m available nationally to fund the entitlement.

West Yorkshire L3 take-up²

2.6 An analysis of the list mapped to West Yorkshire provision shows that 62 of these qualifications had take-up in 2018/19 or 2019/20 academic years, with a total of 919 enrolments across the two years. The most popular were:

Advanced Diploma in Accounting - Level 3	189
Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator)	127
Diploma in Engineering Technology	108
Diploma in Leadership and Management	101
Diploma in Adult Care	72
Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement	65
Diploma in Counselling Skills	19

2.7 39% (358) of West Yorkshire enrolments were delivered by out of area providers. Of the 61% (561) delivered by West Yorkshire providers, the West Yorkshire colleges delivered all but one of the enrolments.

² All figures based on enrolments by learners aged 24+ resident in West Yorkshire and include the aims funded through various funding streams including loan-funded activity and activity with no public funding or loan funding.

- 2.8 Twenty of the DfE qualifications with some local take-up had no West Yorkshire providers delivering them - these had 150 enrolments between them. 101 of these enrolments were for one qualification - Diploma in Leadership and Management. Further analysis and suggestions for additional L3 qualifications that could be proposed will be presented at the meeting.
- 2.9 Additionally, over these two years there were around 5,200 enrolments for qualifications not on the DfE list but in the eligible sector subject areas. The biggest areas are construction, health and social care and teaching / lecturing.

Eligibility Criteria for further qualification proposals

- 2.10 The following criteria applies to funded L3 qualifications:
- be regulated by Ofqual
 - be already approved for funding in the funding year 2020 to 2021 through the ESFA funded adult education budget, advanced learner loans, or the European Social Fund (ESF) offer
 - be operationally available for all or part of the funding year 2021 to 2022
 - be at Level 3
 - be at least 60 guided learning hours (GLH) in size
 - support a student to enter into a specific job role, or directly into employment (this includes qualifications that can be delivered in a workplace setting and support upskilling or specialisation)
 - be in one of the sector subject areas listed above
 - not be in scope to have funding approval removed as a result of the review of qualifications with no or low publicly funded enrolments
 - not mainly serve as an introduction to further training or study
 - not be an Access to Higher Education diploma, because this offer focusses on directly entering and progressing through employment, rather than progressing to higher education
 - not be a Technical Qualification in T Levels
- 2.11 In addition to the subject areas listed at 2.4, MCAs and awarding bodies may propose additional qualifications where the following evidence can be provided:
- robust evidence of shortages in valuable skills
 - being identified in a regional skills plan, linked to the [Industrial Strategy](#) or other strategic skills-based strategies and plans
 - support from Skills Advisory Panels, MCAs and/or GLA, or a LEP.
- 2.12 Submission can be made on a single monthly submission and will be reviewed in January, March, May and July 2021.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 Availability of L3 qualifications in relation to future green skills needed in the region should be considered as part of the review.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 Availability of L3 progression routes across a range of occupations should be considered as part of the review.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Disbursement of funds will be informed by the Employment and Skills Panel and overseen by the Adult Education Budget team.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Delegation of funds will be via MOU for Adult Education Budget.

7. Staffing Implications

- 7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

8. External Consultees

- 8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Panel is asked to review the analysis of take up and propose additional Level 3 qualifications for submission.

10. Background Documents

None.

11. Appendices

None.