

# COMMUNITY JOINT VENTURE (CJV) UPDATE

Plymouth Adult and Community Learning



The Public Sector Mutual (PSM) proposal for Plymouth Adult and Community Learning has been reviewed in light of a number of issues, not least funding cuts by the Skills Funding Agency. This has resulted in a change to the proposal which has now been developed in conjunction with Plymouth YMCA and Shekinah, 2 large 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations operating in the City.

Whilst the legal vehicle of a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee will remain, the membership of the Board will change to 50% existing adult learning staff, 25% Plymouth YMCA and 25% Shekinah. This provides a far more robust partnership approach to the decision making and leadership of the new organisation.

A full business plan has been developed for the new entity – On Course South West CIC Ltd – which has received in principal approval to proceed to full Business Case from all parties. The plan is positive, seems viable on the information available and offers the City the best chance of sustaining and growing adult learning in light of the financial constraints on public services. The innovative solution of this partnership approach is being observed by other local authorities and the Skills Funding Agency as a possible way forward for other services. Formal approval will be sort from the Council in November with an intended launch date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

Discussions are underway to resolve a number of issues crucial to the success of the plan. These include:

- transfer of assets;
- transfer of contingency funds;
- transfer of employees (including pension etc)
- state aid implications
- novation of SFA contract

Cabinet Office is continuing to provide legal advice to support the new entity set-up and the transfer of staff and services. Other support will ensure marketing and branding is in place.