



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.3

Mid-year Performance Review of Skills funded provision 2022-23

To:	Skills Committee
Meeting Date:	9 January 2023
Public report:	This report contains an appendix 1 which is exempt from publication under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, in that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in publishing the appendix.
Lead Member:	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Lead Member for Skills
From:	Fliss Miller, Interim Associate Director of Skills
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	N/A
Recommendations:	The Skills Committee is recommended to: a) Note the current in year performance of Combined Authority funded Skills Programmes.
Voting arrangements:	No vote required.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the early findings of the first term of delivery of funded provision including Skills Bootcamps, Adult Education Budget, Apprenticeships, Turning Point, Careers Hub and Multiply.

2. Background

- 2.1 **The Adult Education Budget (AEB)** is devolved to the Combined Authority with a recurrent c£12m budget, reaching approx. 10,000 learners per year. The AEB funds four statutory entitlements to full funding for adult learners:

- English and maths, up to and including level 2, for individuals aged 19 and over, who have not previously attained a GCSE grade A* - C or grade 4 or higher
- First full qualification at level 2 for individuals aged 19 to 23
- First full qualification at level 3 for individuals aged 19 to 23
- Essential digital skills qualifications, up to and including level 1, for individuals aged 19 and over, who have digital skills assessed at below level 1.

AEB funds qualifications for upskilling and reskilling residents into and between work and a rich lifelong learning offer to help eligible learners engage in learning, build confidence, and enhance their wellbeing. For residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, additional flexibilities have been introduced to increase access and participation in learning such as full funding for first level 2 and 3 qualifications for all, full funding for ESOL, a second level 3 offer, a low-wage scheme, and a bursary for Care Leavers.

To note, there is a separate report, 3.1 Adult Education Budget Annual Return 2021-22, which sets out performance for the 2021-22 academic year. Enrolments by residents at R04 (November 2022) are included in the exempt appendix.

Recently we have secured additional skills funding via Skills Bootcamps and Multiply. Both programmes target different individuals.

- 2.2 **Multiply** – c£4m of additional funding has been secured up to March 2024 to deliver adult numeracy courses to c8,500 participants and provision to build capacity and awareness around the importance of maths and number confidence. The programme officially launched during Number Confidence Week on the 7-11 November. The first Multiply return from delivery providers is due in January 2023 and therefore ILR and financial information was not available at the time of writing this report. However, based on information received from providers, we estimate that c200 learners had started on Multiply since October 2022. Further information regarding forecasted spend and delivery is included in the exempt appendix.
- 2.3 **Skills Bootcamps** - £4,891,985 of funding has been secured up until March 2023 to deliver Skills Bootcamps courses of up to 16 weeks in duration in the Green, Construction and Digital sectors ranging from Levels 2 – 5. Skills Bootcamps provision provides flexible course opportunities with the aim of supporting people into new jobs upon course completion and provides local employers with the opportunity to access funding to upskill existing staff.

2.4 **Careers Hub** – The Careers Hub has funding allocated on an academic year basis and this academic year is the first year of a full Careers Hub model. Core funding for 2022/23 is £289,800. The Careers Hub is designed to support schools in developing high quality Careers Education programmes aligned to the local labour market, with employers at the heart. To date, a further £88,250 has been secured to deliver enhanced activities to support primary education, increasing the awareness of technical education and developing teacher encounters with industry.

2.5 **Turning Point** (funded via the Community Renewal Fund) – is a funded scheme to help more unemployed people into work, delivered by the Combined Authority via Growth Works with Skills. The funding secured for the project which ended in December 2022 was £864,251. Turning Point was targeted to Fenland and Peterborough as per the funding requirements. The funding provided funded internships and provided access to free short course training not currently funded via other means. This scheme has been very successful and delivered more than the targeted outputs.

2.6 **Apprenticeships** – Whilst the Combined Authority does not have overall responsibility for the funding and delivery of Apprenticeships in the region, it is a metric we closely monitor and seek to increase both the supply and demand of Apprenticeship provision in the region. There was an +8% increase compared to 2020/21 this is benchmarked to National starts increased by +9% this period.

The first data point for Apprenticeships for the 2022/23 academic year is not available until January. In 2021/22 there were 2,016 Apprenticeship achievements in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This is a -11% decrease compared to 2020/21 (from 2,263 to 2,016) Compared to 2019/20 they were +1% up (from 2,004 to 2,016). Nationally achievements decreased by -12% from 2020/21 due to the impact of the pandemic.

2.7 All skills funding is aligned to the Employment and Skills Strategy. Where possible targeting of funds is directed to where there is most need, in reducing inequalities and areas of the sub-region that are relatively most deprived.

Table A	Overall funding programme starts up to R04	Target	Completions	Total spend
Turning Point (Community Renewal Fund) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internships • Training vouchers issued 	106 123	100 80	100 102	Final calculations awaited
Apprenticeships (21/22) *	4777	N/A	2016	N/A

* Based on 2021/22 full year data.

2.8 Careers Hub Performance 2021/22

Table B below illustrates the performance of the Careers Hub in 21/22. It is too early in the academic year and reporting cycle to share performance for 2022/23.

Table B Careers Hub	Schools in Hub	Schools matched with EA	Av Bmks (3) Achieve d	Av Bmks achieved	Bmk1 achieved	Upgrade to Compass +	Compass completions
Target	100%	98%	100%	5	80%	75%	100%
%	100%	96.67%*	100%	6	76.67%	60.00%	86.67%
Variance %	0.00%	-1.33%	0%	1	-3.33%	-15%	-13.33%

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 A separate paper: Item 3.5 Finance and Performance Report sets out the financial position, forecast to year-end and their implications.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no significant legal implications. As per the protocol with DfE, MCAs may not publish in-year data prior to official publication by the department. This data has therefore been redacted from publication in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 on account that the information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person or organisation (including the authority holding that information).

5. Public Health implications

- 5.1 The recommendations outlined in this report have positive implications for public health. Participation in adult learning improves the health and wellbeing of participants and wider society. Additionally, the Combined Authority funds skills training for professionals in the health care sector as well as short courses for adults on managing physical, mental health and wellbeing.

6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 The recommendations outlined in this report have positive implications for the environment. Environmental Conservation courses and Carbon literacy are some of the courses that are funded. In addition, training for retrofit occupations (in construction trades) and electric vehicle maintenance and charging are also funded. Delivery of learning at local settings, potentially reducing travel also reduce carbon emissions.

7. Other Significant Implications

- 7.1 The recommendations outlined in this report have due regard to the Combined Authority's Equalities duties under the Equality Act 2010 in implementing funding policies which seek to widen participation and make learning opportunities more accessible for all citizens including all protected characteristics.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 **Exempt Appendix 1** In year Review of Skills Programmes

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 None