



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 8.1

Adult Education Budget Contract Awards for 2022-23 (MDN40-2022)

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 17 October 2022

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

From: Fliss Miller, Interim Associate Director for Skills

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: N/A

Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

- a) Note Mayoral Decision Notice MDN40-2022 – Contract Awards for 2022-23 academic year to Independent Training Providers

Voting arrangements: To note. No voting required.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Board on Mayoral Decision Notice (MDN40-2022) published on the Combined Authority website on 20 September 2022, for £4,542,730.50, out of the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) and National Skills Fund (NSF). This relates to 15 contract awards made to Independent Training Providers (ITPs) for delivery of adult education courses for the 2022/23 academic year.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following a successful and rigorous procurement process, the Skills Committee at its meeting on 5 September 2022, unanimously approved the following recommendations:
- a) Recommend that the Combined Authority Board approve the contract awards to Independent Training Providers for the 2022/23 academic year, from the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) and National Skills Fund as set out in the report and increase the commission from £3.8m, to c£4.5m
 - b) Recommend the Combined Authority Board delegates authority to the Interim Associate Director of Skills in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to enter and sign contracts for services with the Independent Training Providers set out in the paper.
- 2.2 Due to the postponement of the Combined Authority Board on 21 September 2022, the above recommendations from the Skills Committee could not be approved by the Board in September. By further delaying the decision, there was a risk that ITPs would be hindered in their ability to deliver adult education and skills training to local citizens. This would in turn, impact on the overall delivery and performance of AEB and NSF.
- 2.3 Given that the published date in the procurement process for commencement of contracts was 5 September 2022 (the beginning of the academic year), there was a reputational risk if the decision to award contracts to the successful providers was further delayed. Therefore, a Mayoral Decision Notice was approved on 20 September 2022 enabling officers to issue contracts and enable delivery to commence.
- 2.4 The Skills Committee had discussed the contract awards in some detail at the meeting on 5 September 2022 and approved the recommendations for Board approval. By entering into the contracts with the 15 providers that are set out in the Report to the Skills Committee (referenced below), the Combined Authority has significantly increased the available capacity to deliver adult education and skills courses. This will address the historic underspend of the budget through a more balanced and mixed marketplace of training providers, delivering widely across the sub-region.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Adult Education Budget is devolved ring-fenced budget with sufficient funds available for these contract awards in the 2022/23 academic year.
- 3.2 The Combined Authority received its Section 31 Grant Determination Letter for Devolution of the Adult Education Budget for the Financial Year 2022-23: No. 31/6040 (DfE Grant Reference: AEBDEVO-22-23) on 24 March 2022, which confirmed the 2022/23 financial year budget for 2022/23 of £11,973,20 and academic year budget of £11,977,722. Funding for Free Skills for Jobs (National Skills Fund) was confirmed at £954,632 for the 2022/23 financial year and academic year budget of £994,969.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The MDN outlined in this report are to discharge the Combined Authorities' statutory duties under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. Under the devolution agreement of 2016, specified adult education functions from the Secretary of State were transferred to the Combined Authority.
- 4.2 The Combined Authority discharges its devolved adult education functions with due regard the DfE Statutory Guidance for Devolved AEB for Combined Authorities (July 2018) ensuring that all 'recycled' AEB is utilised for the purposes of adult education.

5. Public Health Implications

- 5.1 The MDN outlined in this report has positive implications for public health. Participation in adult learning improves the health and wellbeing of participants and wider society. Additionally, AEB 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 MDN outlined in this report has positive implications for the environment. Environmental Conservation courses and Carbon literacy are some of the new courses that are funded by AEB. In addition, training for retrofit occupations (in construction trades) and electric vehicle maintenance and charging are also funded by AEB.

7. Other Significant Implications

- 7.1 The MDN 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 Appendix 1 – Mayoral Decision Notice MDN40-2022

9. Background Papers

[Skills Committee Report 5 Sept 2022 – Contract Awards to Independent Training Providers](#)

9.1 Address where it can be obtained:

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority,
2nd floor, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 3TN.