



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 3.1

Adult Education Budget Annual Return 2021/22

To:	Skills Committee
Meeting Date:	9 January 2023
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, Lead Member for Skills
From:	Parminder Singh Garcha, Senior Responsible Officer - Adult Education
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	N/A
Recommendations:	<p>The Skills Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) approve the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Annual Return for submission to the Department for Education (DfE) for the 2021/22 academic yearb) note the additional local participation data for devolved AEBc) note the three-year Impact Evaluation of AEB that is being commissioned and the request for members to participate.
Voting arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members present and voting

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To share with the Skills Committee, the third submission of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Annual Return to the Department for Education (DfE), in respect of the 2021/22 academic year and third year of devolution. This requirement is set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) National Growth Assurance Framework (V.4 September 2021).
- 1.2 To note the additional district-level local participation data from devolved AEB, that would not have been published under the national non-devolved funding model and requested by members at previous Skills Committees.

2. Background

- 2.1 The devolved Adult Education Budget fully aligns with the Combined Authority's Employment and Skills Strategy (2022) in delivering pillars three and four:
 - **Lifelong and Life wide Learning** – by increasing access and widening participation in adult learning and skills development. AEB funds a wide range of Adult Skills courses from entry level to level 3 and community learning courses
 - **Support into and between work** – by funding a range of fully-funded employability support programmes, courses and upskilling opportunities for residents seeking to upskill or reskill into a new sector.
- 2.2 Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) are required to provide a base-level monitoring report to Government each January on the delivery of devolved functions, as part of wider monitoring and evaluation submissions, as per their devolution agreements and set out in the National Growth Assurance Framework.
- 2.3 As part of our commitment to promote transparency and public accountability, the Annual Return plus additional local data the Combined Authority is shared with the Skills Committee and published. Previous Returns to the DfE were shared with Skills Committee as follows: Year 1 (2019-20) on 11 January 2021 and Year 2 (2020-21) on 17 January 2022. It was resolved at the meeting on 11 January 2021 that Annual reporting would form part of the annual cycle at Skills Committee. The DfE Return is included in Appendix A to this report.
- 2.4 **Evaluation**

In both 2019-20 and 2020/21, Independent Evaluation of AEB has been undertaken by Cambridgeshire Insights on behalf of the Combined Authority. The Evaluations include quantitative analysis of provider data as well as qualitative research through a survey completed by AEB providers, followed up with interviews with providers and stakeholders. A learner survey was included in 2020/21. These reports have been shared with Members and published on the Combined Authority website. The findings have been implemented as part of the Continuous Improvement Cycle.
- 2.5 For 2021/22, a three-year evaluation is being commissioned to look at the impact that devolution of skills and AEB has made in the mayoralty. This will include:
 - qualitative analysis of the learner data, demographics, outcomes, and destinations for learners
 - impact of devolved funding flexibilities

- development of the skills landscape
- alignment to labour-market need
- delivery of wider outcomes of learning (including improved health and wellbeing, building community resilience and employability)

2.6 A longer period has been allocated for the evaluation to allow learner and employer surveys to be undertaken and meaningful primary research with stakeholders and providers. The evaluation finding will be reported at the June 2023 Skills Committee and Employment and Skills Board. It is expected the Evaluation will contribute to ‘telling the story’, of the positive impact of devolution and building the case for deeper skills devolution in the future.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

3.1 The Combined Authority received its Section 31 Grant Determination Letter for Devolution of the Adult Education Budget for the Financial Year 2021-22 (Determination: 31/5507): which confirmed the academic year allocation of £11,959,794 for the academic year 2021-22.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 Under orders made from the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, adult education functions from the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 were transferred from the Secretary of State for Education to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority from August 2019 as part of the Devolution Agreement. The recommendations within this report support the discharging of these functions.

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 underspent AEB, as a ringfenced budget is ‘recycled’ and utilised for adult education.

5. Public Health implications

5.2 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, 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 No environmental or climate change implications identified.

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 Appendix 1 – AEB Annual Return to DfE 2021-22
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Additional Local Participation Data

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 [Grant Determination Letter for 2021-22 \(31/5507\)](#)