

Skills Committee – 6 March 2023

Overview and Scrutiny Questions

	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	<p><u>Agenda Item 2.1 – Adult Education budget – Grant Funding Allocations and Policy Changes for 2023/24 Academic Year</u></p> <p>Table B – (Page 34 of the pack)</p> <p>How does the CPCA track the delivery of this funding to make sure that it is being spent on students from the CPCA area?</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<p>The Combined Authority only funds students in eligible Cambridgeshire and Peterborough postcodes, tracked through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).</p> <p>All Learning Organisations funded by MCAs and ESFA must complete an Individual Learning Record, as a requirement of funding, for each learner. This captures the necessary data for each learner. This data is aggregated into a dashboard which enables the Combined Authority to monitor and track performance and provide the learner and geographic analysis that is reported to Skills Committee and DfE.</p>
2.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	<p><u>Agenda Item 2.1 – Adult Education budget – Grant Funding Allocations and Policy Changes for 2023/24 Academic Year</u></p> <p>Funding Policy Changes</p> <p>Can officers clarify how the CPCA will phase in the new Funding Policy changes with local learning organisations on the new Skills Fund, bearing in mind the need expressed</p>

			by the colleges to have a blanket increase in costs and the weaknesses identified in the Community Learning data.
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	The Combined Authority is fully committed to working in partnership with learning organisations as per our Memorandum of Understanding with the sector. The challenge of implementing the Funding and Accountability reforms that the DfE are introducing nationally are acknowledged. Officers intend to work closely with our local learning organisations and seek advice and best practice from national bodies such as HOLEX, LGA, Learning & Work Institute and other MCAs to ensure we have a phased approach that leads to successful implementation. The outcome we expect to see is a much richer reporting of Community Learning – both curriculum intent and outcomes that demonstrates the value of this learning to residents and communities.
3.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	<u>Agenda item 2.3 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Strategic Projects</u> Table 2.5 (Page 51 of the pack) Please could officers confirm that the variation in spend between the regions is based wholly on need and not on constituent authority officers' abilities to better exploit the bidding process?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response:
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	The funding allocation was set by central government and was based on 2011 census data.

4.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	<p><u>Agenda item 2.3 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Strategic Projects</u></p> <p>Table 2.6</p> <p>Please could officers provide clarity on what the administration costs outlined in table 2.6 are spent on.</p>
	Response From:	Response to:	Response:
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Administration costs are split across the district authority and the CPCA and allow for governance of the programme of projects, carrying out appropriate due diligence and best value reviews of proposals. Once projects start delivering services it allows for the collection of data and submission of central government returns and then it allows for the evaluation of projects and the programme overall in terms of delivery against outputs & outcomes.
5.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Skills Committee	<p><u>Agenda Item 3.1 – Growth Works – Management Update Q8</u></p> <p>The Growth Works report includes many different metrics but no evidence to prove the quality of the training, or concrete measures of how the training has improved things. Are we likely to see that information in the future?</p>
	Response From:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha – Chair of the Skills Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Yes. We are in dialogue with Growth Works around how performance data and metrics are presented going forwards, especially around district reporting. Growth Works with Skills do not themselves provide training and act as an honest broker to training providers already operating in the Combined Authority.