



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 9.2

Delegations to Officers

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	22 March 2023
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Edna Murphy, Lead Member for Governance
From:	Edwina Adefehinti, Interim Chief Officer Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Key decision:	Yes
Forward Plan ref:	KD2023/013 [General Exception]
Recommendations:	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Agree delegated authority to the Interim Associate Skills Director in consultation with the Lead member for Skills for approval of the Local Skills Improvement Plan;b) Agree delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Mayor or Deputy Mayor as appropriate for the commissioning of the refresh of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review;c) Agree delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place and Connectivity in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer for the retendering of any bus routes which an operator gives notice that it will cease to provide between 22 March and the next meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee;d) Agree delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place and Connectivity in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer to approve commencement and mobilisation of the delivery of activities and associated spend allocated to the 2023-24 year as set out in the approved Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) proposal for Local Growth Capacity Funding;

- e) Agree delegated authority to the Executive Director for Place and Connectivity in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer to determine splitting the extra £125k awarded to the Authority as additional local growth capacity support funds across the three agreed work strands, and to approve commencement and mobilisation of delivery of those activities.

Voting arrangements:

A simple majority of Members present and voting,

To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.

1. Purpose

1.1 Delegated authority is sought in order to enable expedient decisions regarding the following time sensitive matters:

- The Local Skills Improvement Plan
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review
- The retendering of bus routes
- Commencement and mobilisation of the delivery of activities and associated spend allocated to the 2023-24 year as set out in the approved DLUHC proposal
- Determining the monetary split of additional funding received as part of the Capacity and Capability Grant allocation from DLUHC and mobilisation of delivery of activities

2. Background

Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)

- 2.1 The Skills and Post-16 Education Act was passed in April 2022; one statutory requirement is the introduction of the LSIPs. These should set out a clear articulation of employers' skills needs and the priority changes required in a local area to help ensure post-16 technical education and skills provision is responsive and flexible enough to meet local labour market skills needs.
- 2.2 Statutory guidance states that the Mayoral Combined Authority should be engaged in the development of the LSIP and should work closely with the designated Employer Representative Body (the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce) to ensure the plan is effective and has impact.
- 2.3 The LSIP needs to be submitted to the Department for Education by 31 May 2023 and the Secretary of State needs to be satisfied that due consideration was given to the views of the Mayoral Combined Authority during the development of the plan.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER)

- 2.4 Workstream A of the Combined Authority Improvement Programme has been focusing on the development of strategy. In January 2023 a new 2023-2024 Combined Authority Corporate Strategy and Business Plan was approved, within this reference is made to undertaking a State of the Region Review in 2023.
- 2.5 Refreshing the 2017/2018 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review will provide an updated evidence base that will take into account a wide range of factors arising from exiting the European Union, the urgency of the response to climate change, the impact of the COVID pandemic and health of the economy.
- 2.6 This refresh will inform future policy and strategy development and lobbying activity across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Retendering of Bus Routes

- 2.7 The meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 15 March 2023 received a report on the Bus Strategy summarising the public consultation feedback and presenting the final version of the strategy.
- 2.8 A recommendation within that report was for delegated authority to be given to the Executive Director for Place and Connectivity, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer, to tender and procure for further bus services subject to there

being approved funding.

- 2.9 Specific delegated authority is requested regarding any bus routes that the operator advises they will cease to provide between now and the next meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee (14 June 2023).

Capacity and Capability Grant Funds

- 2.10 Through the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), DLUHC is committed to developing longer term capacity and capability in local government and supporting local authorities to help them deliver capital projects. As part of that, grant funding was made available to MCAs to build the necessary support infrastructure to support local authorities within their geographical area to assist them in delivery of capital projects as part of a devolved, sector-led approach.
- 2.11 CPCA proposed the work strands as outlined in the table below in its initial proposal to DLUHC which was approved.

Details of Support Element (e.g. Peer network support, training offer etc)	Scope of support (all LAs in your area vs. qualified support and why)	Will this support cover the whole of the funding period? (Please state if it will only cover this year)	Indicative cost for this support element
<u>Project Management Support</u>	Association of Project Manager training - area wide IT – PM software - area wide HR Performance Risk training and support - area wide	<u>Multi year</u>	<u>23-24 - £169,000</u> <u>24-25 - £75,000</u> <u>25-26 - £65,000</u>
<u>Bid Management Support</u>	Business case training – area wide Procurement – area wide Contract Mgt – area wide	<u>Multi year</u>	<u>23-24 - £147,000</u> <u>24-25 - £40,000</u> <u>25-26 - £40,000</u>
<u>Capacity Building to deliver LUF bid</u>	Support for LA capital projects (e.g. including projects that the MCA may not routinely be involved in, such as smaller, local projects).	<u>Multi year</u>	<u>23-24 - £184,000</u> <u>24-25 - £185,000</u> <u>25-26 - £95,000</u>

- 2.12 An additional £125k has now been awarded which will be split across the three work strands.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications at this stage regarding the Local Skills Improvement Plan.
- 3.2 An earmarked reserve exists to fund the refresh of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review which will be required to support funding bids in the future.
- 3.3 Any impact on budget as a result of the retendering of bus routes would be assessed as part of the tender exercise.
- 3.4 The initial 2022-23 grant payment from DLUHC for the Capacity and Capability Development Grant is expected at the end of March 2023.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 In accordance with the Constitution and section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Combined Authority Board has the power to delegate its functions, which are not reserved to it, to Committees, Sub-Committees, Officers, Joint Committees or other Local Authorities. The Board cannot delegate its functions to individual members of the Board.
- 4.2 Officer Delegated Decision notices where required, will be published in accordance with the constitution following the exercise of the delegated authorities outlined in this report.

5. Public Health Implications

- 5.1 There are no public health implications in these proposals.

6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 There are no environmental or climate change implications in these proposals.

7. Other Significant Implications

- 7.1 There are no other significant implications.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.

9. Background papers

- 9.1 None.