

3.1 Adult Education Budget

Appendix A: AEB Annual Statutory Return 2020/21

A. General Context

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (“the Combined Authority”) has continued to build on the strong foundations established during the first year of devolution in 2019/20. Most notably this year, capacity to enhance the delivery of AEB was strengthened, with the appointment of a new Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) and a new Business Support Officer, to an agile but full complement of four staff, to build expertise and deliver greater impact in the sub-region. Further functions such as finance, legal, marketing and procurement are provided corporately. Data management and analysis is provided through a Service Level Agreement with Cambridgeshire Insights (part of Cambridgeshire County Council).

Governance: The Combined Authority (CA) has continued to ensure strong governance, with open and transparent decision making and delegation through the Skills Committee. Key decisions are recommended to the CA Board for approval. Papers for all Skills Committee meetings (including recordings of live streaming) is available at this link: [Skills Committee Meetings](#). A Programme Management Board is also convened half termly, consisting of cross-departmental CA staff, for regular performance monitoring and to provide internal challenge and support. The co-terminus Local Enterprise Partnership, The Business Board and the Employment and Skills Board (the Skills Advisory Panel for the sub-region) also received reports on AEB.

Internal Assurance and Audit: RSM have been instructed to review internal controls from transactions in 2020/21 and are due to report findings in January 2022.

Audit of Providers: An Audit Plan is in place. External audit firms have been instructed to undertake provider financial assurance functions.

Local Assurance Framework: The CA’s [Local Assurance Framework](#) sets out the processes for ensuring accountable and transparent decision making, roles and responsibilities, project management, monitoring arrangements and evaluation. The first independent evaluation is published [here](#). The evaluation of the second year will be published in February 2022.

• Adult Education Policies and Funding Flexibilities

Our achievements in 2020/21 have been to:

- contract with eleven grant funded Colleges and Adult Learning Institutes and four Independent Training Providers. Allocations for 2020/21 are published [here](#).
- enable and assist providers to continue delivering through the national lock-down and provide support so learners continue to enrol and progress
- support economic recovery as per our [Local Economic Recovery Strategy](#) through AEB funded opportunities for reskilling and upskilling. Building referral routes through DWP for the unemployed and the CA’s [Growth Works for Skills](#), our new skills brokerage service. A [Course Finder Tool](#) was created to promote local courses. Support for redundancy was also provided through AEB.
- Embed the performance management cycle in line with the published process and [AEB Funding Rules](#).
- Rebase providers who were underperforming and terminate contracts for unsuccessful providers. Two contracts were ended in 2020/21.

- Provide system-leadership, utilising AEB to promote co-operation and partnership in the furtherance of our [AEB Commissioning Strategy](#)
- Introduce an Innovation Fund – small grants programme, utilising the AEB underspend from 2019/20, match-funded with Local Growth Fund to provide a mix of capital and revenue grants to drive forward innovative practice. Fourteen projects were supported for funding of £0.5m.
- Work towards co-design and co-production with providers and stakeholders, to build trust and partnership. To improve the local skills system through regular briefings, intelligence sharing and input into CA policy and process development.
- Consult with providers, local stakeholders and citizens on future funding flexibilities and priorities (nearly 100 people replied to our open AEB consultation in February)
- Implemented a responsive commissioning process to bring new providers on-board. Four new providers have commenced delivery to fill gaps in provision
- Ensured a ‘soft-landing’ for the Level 3 Adult Offer from April 2021. Commissioned and implemented a promotional campaign ‘[Unlock with Level 3](#)’ to promote the Level 3 Offer to potential learners
- Greatly increased the communications function and number of press releases, with regular coverage in local publications and social media channels to promote AEB and the impact in our local communities. Improved the information available on the CA’s website.

The following funding flexibilities were provided in 2020/21:

- Fully funded first full level 2 qualification for all ages
- Fully funded English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Low wage threshold set at £18,000 before fees become payable
- A four per cent funding uplift for the 20 per cent most deprived post-codes (IMD 2019)

B. Spend from AEB in 2020/21

<u>Income</u>	
ESFA Grant	£13,288,322
Underspend from previous Academic Year	£345,800
Total Income	£13,634,122
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Programme Costs	£377,037
Grant Providers	£8,799,711
ITPs	£867,935
Innovation Fund	£203,928
Sector Based Work Academies	£5,541
High Value Courses	£37,927
Level 3 NSF	£75,048
Total Spend	£10,292,079

C. Analysis of Delivery in the Area

The following table sets-out the overall participation for the 2020/21 academic year:

Overall Participation in AEB Funded Provision		
Funding Category 2020/21	Learner Participation*	Number of Enrolments
Adult Skills Learning (Including Learning Support Funding)	7,512	11,848
Community Learning	2,794	3,512
Total	9,802	15,360

Source – Individualised Learner Record (2020/21, R14), Education and Skills Funding Agency

NOTE: *Learners are counted using a count of UKPRN+Learner Reference Number. A learner who has taken part in learning across multiple providers may, therefore, be double counted. As a learner can enrol in multiple learning aims an individual may have taken part in both Adult Skills and Community Learning aims. Therefore the total will not equal an addition between the number of Adult Skills Learners and Community Learners

Compared to the 2019/20 academic year, there was a

- nine per cent increase in enrolments
- 15 per cent increase in participation

D. Local Impact

Learners Exercising their Statutory Entitlement to Full Funding

The following table sets out the number of learners, enrolments and adult skills funding that were a part of the legal entitlement for eligible learners. That is:

- English and maths, up to and including level 2, for residents who have not previously attained a GCSE grade A* - C or grade 4, or higher, for residents aged 19 and over
- First full qualification at level 2 for residents irrespective of age; and
- First full qualification at level 3 for residents aged 19 to 23

Entitlement 2020/21	Learner Participation*	Number of Enrolments
Digital	11	15
English	864	923
Maths	743	791
Level 2	41	41
Level 3	140	142
All Entitlement	1,490	1,912
Non-Entitlement	6,321	9,936
Total Adult Skills	7,512	11,848

Source – Individualised Learner Record (2020/21, R14), Education and Skills Funding Agency

NOTE: *Learners are counted using a count of UKPRN+Learner Reference Number. A learner who has taken part in learning across multiple providers may, therefore, be double counted. As a learner can enrol in multiple learning aims an individual may have taken part in both Adult Skills and Community Learning aims. Therefore the total will not equal an addition between the number of Adult Skills Learners and Community Learners

E. Achievements

The following table shows the enrolments for 2020/21 against their completion status:

Funding Model	Total Enrolments	Completed Learning Activities	Withdrawal Break in Learning or Transfer to New Aim	Study Continuing/Outcome Unknown
Adult Skills	11,848	9,596	1,203	1,049
Community Learning	3,512	3,338	160	14
All Enrolments	15,360	12,934	1,363	1,063

Source – Individualised Learner Record (2020/21, R14), Education and Skills Funding Agency

The table below shows the enrolment by funding model and their achievement status

Funding Model	Total Enrolments	Achieved	Partial Achievement	No Achievement	Withdrawal, Break in Learning or Transfer to a new aim	Study Continuing
Adult Skills	11,848	8,960	48	575	1,203	1,062
Community Learning	3,512	3,322	8	8	160	14
All Enrolments	15,360	12,282	56	583	1,363	1,076

Source – Individualised Learner Record (2020/21, R14), Education and Skills Funding Agency