

Multiply – the approach to programme delivery

To:	Skills Committee
Meeting Date:	5 September 2022
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 requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board, to accept the Multiply grant funding of £3,999,186 from the Department for Education and approve the creation of a new budget line in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years as per Table A in this report, subject to receipt of grant funding from the DfE.b) Subject to receipt of grant funding, recommend that the Combined Authority Board delegate authority to the Interim Associate Director of Skills, in conjunction with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to commission, enter into and sign grant funding agreements and contracts for services to the providers listed in Table D and E in this report for ‘on-menu’ delivery and further allocations for ‘off-menu’.c) Approve the funding allocations to Further Education colleges, Local Authority Institutes of Adult Learning and procured Independent Training Providers (ITPs), subject to receipt of grant funding from the DfE.

- d) Approve the approach to programme management of Multiply and note the analysis of numeracy levels in the sub-region.

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members present and voting

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Following the report to the Skills Committee on 4 July 2022, about the new Multiply programme, the Combined Authority expects to receive a grant funding letter week commencing 29 August 2022 and authority is sought to:
- Accept the three-year grant funding allocation of **£3,999,186** from the DfE and create a new budget in the MTFP to manage and administer the funds
 - Seek the necessary delegated authority to the Interim Associate Director of Skills in conjunction with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to commission, enter into and sign grants and contracts for services with suitable providers
- 1.2 At the time of writing this report, the grant funding letter from the DfE had not been received and correspondence from DfE had indicated the Combined Authority would receive notification week commencing 29 August 2022. Given the timelines for delivery within this financial year, it is critical to obtain the necessary approvals and delegations to proceed with awarding grants and contracts to providers, to maximise delivery of learning within the financial year and prevent the risk of under-performance.
- 1.3 Skills Committee are requested to approve the approach to programme management of Multiply, note the proposed delivery interventions and the analysis of numeracy levels in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2. Background

- 2.1 Mayoral Combined Authorities and upper-tier local authorities in England were expected to submit an Investment Plan for their allocation of funding for the new Multiply - adult numeracy programme. The Investment Plan was shared with the Skills Committee on 4 July 2022, having firstly been approved by the Combined Authority Board on 27 June 2022.
- 2.2 The objective of Multiply is to improve the levels of functional numeracy in the adult population by providing a flexible funding programme, that provides additionality to the Adult Education Budget (AEB) funded courses. The aim is to increase participation in numeracy activities, overcome 'maths phobia' and create new and innovative methods of engagement in maths. DfE have set the following success measures:
- **More adults achieving formal maths qualifications courses** (up to, and including, Level 2 – with GCSEs and Functional Skills Qualifications as the qualifications of choice in England – or equivalent) and an increase in participation in numeracy courses.
 - **Improved labour market outcomes** e.g., fewer numeracy skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education.
 - **Increased adult numeracy across the population** – this overall impact, which goes beyond achieving certificates or qualifications, will track both the perceived and actual difference taking part in the programme makes in supporting learners to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work - and to feel more confident when doing so.
- 2.3 Nationally, the programme has a budget of £559m over three years. Funding of £270m is being allocated and the rest retained by the DfE for national programmes. Cambridgeshire

and Peterborough were allocated £3,999,186 over three financial years as detailed below:

Table A: Multiply Funding Allocation			
2022/23	2024/24	2024/25	TOTAL
£1,209,056	£1,395,065	£1,395,065	£3,999,186

2.4 Over-view of proposed delivery – ‘On-Menu’ Interventions.

Following discussions with providers and wider stakeholders, the Combined Authority’s Investment Plan proposed ‘on menu’ interventions proposed by the DfE. Table B below, highlights the high-level targets and funding allocated over the three-year period. This was modelled from information received from providers. To note that we expect there to be some local flexibility with the targets and funding as the programme matures:

	TABLE B: On Menu Multiply Interventions*	Target by 2024-25	Funding allocated
1	Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications	1800 learners reached through 150 courses	£626,989
2	Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money	1440 learners reached through 120 courses	£275,897
3	Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace	2090 learners reached through 315 courses	£651,505
4	Courses aimed at people who can’t apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in numeracy order to access a certain job/career	536 learners participating	£267,690
5	New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification	210 learners participating in 21 courses	£168,000
6	Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills to help their children, and help with their own progression	550 parents participating in numeracy courses	£211,910
7	Numeracy courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence	138 learners participating in numeracy courses	£216,300
8	Numeracy courses aimed at those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system	185 Care Leavers participating in independent living skills	£127,372
9	Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners	135 courses reaching 1520 learners	£372,608
	TOTAL – Learners participating	8469	
	TOTAL - No of Multiply courses	741	
	TOTAL funding of ‘on-menu’		£2,918,271

*Subject to DfE approval

2.5 Off-Menu Activities:

In addition, to the on-menu intervention, there are three 'Off-menu' activities identified in the Combined Authority's Investment Plan. These were identified by providers and stakeholders and aim to build capacity and promote the numeracy offer across the sub-region to reach deeply into communities and employers. These are summarised in Table C below:

	Table C: Off-Menu Interventions*	Outputs by 2024-25	Funding allocated
1	Capacity Building and Teacher training	160 teachers trained and CPD training and resources delivered	£355,995
2	Communications: Awareness and aspiration raising campaigns	11 campaigns delivered reaching 8000 residents and 350 businesses	£245,000
3	Outreach and Engagement - Development of Maths Champions Network	80 maths champions training and supported	£80,000
	TOTAL		£680,995

*Subject to DfE approval

2.6 Strategic Partnerships to support delivery

To support the 'off-menu' delivery, the Combined Authority will partner with:

- **National Numeracy UK** - who are UK's leading charity promoting numeracy. They run several high-profile campaigns to promote maths and help people over-come 'maths phobia'. National Numeracy Day (18 May), Checktember (22 September) and Numeracy Confidence Week (November) are some of their high-profile campaigns that we will participate in. They will be training and supporting Numeracy Champions and rolling-out the Numeracy Challenge tool
- **Growth Works for Skills** - they will lead brokerage of the employer-facing offer, as the 'single-door' for employers to access Multiply and the wider skills offer for employers
- **Teacher Training and CPD** – a collaborative partnership of colleges and providers will deliver this offer. A co-ordinating provider will be appointed
- **Data analysis** – Cambridgeshire Insights will support this as per current AEB arrangements
- **Evaluation** – partner to be commissioned.

2.7 Governance and Programme Management

As the executive committee leading on Skills, the Skills Committee will provide the programme level governance and over-sight of Multiply. A regular performance report will be developed to enable the Committee to complete this function.

The DfE allows ten per cent of the total allocation to be claimed for programme management by the accountable body. This equates to **£399,920** over the three-year period. This will cover all associated costs such as staffing costs (two FTE) to undertake commissioning, contract management, monitoring, and programme management. In addition, to commission external evaluation, audit, and quality assurance.

2.8 Proposed Funding Allocations

Grant funded Colleges and Local Authority Institutes of Adult Learning were allocated funding via a formula, which calculated their allocation, based on their share of past numeracy delivery since devolution. This is to distribute funds and provide certainty of funding. It is envisaged that the formula will be refined for year two, based on actual delivery. Table D shows the allocations to be made:

Table D – Grant funded - on-menu allocations for 2022-23 financial year*	
Cambridge Regional College	£ 145,000
Cambridgeshire County Council (Cambridgeshire Skills)	£ 95,000
College of West Anglia	£ 35,000
Inspire Education Group	£ 170,000
Peterborough City Council (City College Peterborough)	£ 100,000
West Suffolk College	£ 55,000
TOTAL	£600,000

*Subject to DfE approval of our Investment Plan

Additional allocations for 'off menu' – teacher training and CPD will be made.

Table E shows the Independent Training Providers who have been commissioned through the main AEB procurement cycle that concluded in August. There were eight successful ITPs. As this is a new programme and performance and take-up is unknown, the funding allocations are for 2022/23 financial year only and the maximum value that will be awarded for this period. This will allow adjustments to be made, based on the delivery of outputs and outcomes. The figures below are the maximum for the financial year, which will be adjusted in negotiation with providers given that contracts will commence in October 2022 and in effect, half of the potential delivery time has lapsed.

	TABLE E: Independent Training Providers allocations	2022/23 (full financial year allocation)
1	eVolve your future Limited	£ 150,685
2	Ixion Holdings (Contracts) Limited	£ 50,000
3	MPCT	£ 200,000
4	Runway Training Ltd	£ 161,376
5	Steadfast Training Ltd	£ 50,000
6	Seetec	£100,000
7	TCHC	£ 18,000.00
8	The Skills Network	£ 24,480
	TOTAL	£ 754,541

*Subject to DfE approval of our Investment Plan and further contract negotiations

2.9 Numeracy levels across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Cambridgeshire Insights have produced a Numeracy Report (Appendix 1) utilising available data on numeracy levels of citizens in the sub-region. This includes analysis of:

- School performance data for Key Stage 2 and 4
- Basic Skills Survey 2011
- National Numeracy's Numeracy Index, which uses Experion Data
- Combined Authority's AEB numeracy enrolments since devolution.

This provides a baseline so that progress can be measured during and after Multiply. It also helps provide the evidence-base to target Multiply funding to those areas where Numeracy levels are lower than average: Fenland and Peterborough are the areas where over half of residents (54% for Fenland and 51% for Peterborough) were estimated as having numeracy levels at entry level and below (source: Basic Skills Survey 2011). The report also provides a district-level 'deep-dive' into the 'pockets' across wider Cambridgeshire where there are wards classed in a higher decile for lower numeracy skills and maths confidence.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Funding allocation for Multiply has been confirmed by the DfE as set out in Table A above and published online at the link below. At the time of writing this report, the grant funding letter has not been received but is expected week commencing 29 August.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations and activities outlined in this paper 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.

5. Public Health implications

- 5.1 The report recommendations have **positive** implications for public health. Participation in adult learning improves the health and wellbeing of participants and wider society. In addition, Multiply funding will be used to upskill citizens in financial literacy and independent living skills which has positive effects on physical, mental health and wellbeing. For example, Healthy Eating on a Budget is one of the courses that has been proposed. Active Travel will be facilitated by providers when practical.

6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 The report recommendations have **positive** implications for the environment. Carbon literacy is one of the new courses that will be funded by Multiply. Recycling and energy saving measures will be promoted as part of the Independent Living and Financial Literacy

courses. Public transport and Active Travel will be facilitated by providers when practical. Some of the courses are delivered on-line, reducing carbon and lowering emissions.

7. Other Significant Implications

- 7.1 The recommendations 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.
- 7.2 All Adult Education providers are expected to discharge their duties under the Equalities Act 2010. Funding is provided to enable reasonable adjustments and additional support to be provided for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, to access and progress in learning. With Multiply, support for learners with Dyscalculia will be provided and training for teachers as part of the CPD programme.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Numeracy Analysis in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 [Multiply Local Investment Plan - Skills Committee Report on 4 July 2022](#)
- 9.2 [Multiply DfE Guidance and National Allocations](#)