



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Part 7: Recommendations from Skills Committee – 6 March 2023

Agenda Item 7.1:	Skills Grant Funding allocations and policy changes for 2023-24 (KD2022/076)
Recommendation(s):	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) approve the Adult Education Budget and Free Courses for Jobs funding allocations to Learning Organisations for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 academic years as set out in Appendix A to this report.b) approve the Multiply funding allocations to Learning Organisations for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years as set out in Appendix A to this report.c) delegate authority to the Interim Associate Director for Skills in consultation with Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to sign Grant Funding Agreements with the Learning Organisations set out in Appendix A to this report for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 academic years in respect of the Adult Education Budget and Free Courses for Jobs and the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 for Multiplyd) delegate authority to the Interim Associate Director for Skills to vary grant funding agreements based on performance by up to 25 per cent of the value in 2023/24 and 2024/24 for AEB, Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) and Multiplye) approve the proposed devolved funding policy changes set out in Appendix C this report, for the 2023/24 academic year to increase funding for learning organisations and implements the national changes for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix B. In addition, to approve the 'Earnings Boost' policy that ESFA announced on 1 March 2023, in-year for the current academic year 2022/23 and for 2023/24, to match funding policy in non-devolved areas.*f) approve the increase to the AEB top slice from 3.4% to 5%.

	<p>*Bold text denotes an additional officer recommendation made since the Skills Committee meeting on 6th March 2023 to include the Department for Education's (DfE) 'Earnings Boost' policy. This is due to a national funding change made by the DfE after the Skills Committee Papers had been published. Officers do not wish to disadvantage colleges and providers operating in devolved areas.</p>
Voting arrangements:	<p>A simple majority of Members present and voting.</p> <p>To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.</p>
Purpose:	<p>To seek the approval of the Combined Authority Board to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve funding allocations from the devolved Adult Education Budget totalling £10,300,000 and Free Courses for Jobs totalling £725,000 for each of the academic years 2023/24 and 2024/25. • Approve funding allocations from Multiply totalling £1,100,000 for each of the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. • Delegate authority to the Interim Associate Director for Skills to sign grant funding agreements with Learning Organisations set out in Appendix A and authority to vary, based on performance for up to 25 per cent of the value as required. • Approve the adoption of the banded skills funding policy change being implemented by the Department for Education in 2024/25 and the local flexibilities in Appendix C. In addition, to approve the 'Earnings Boost' policy that ESFA announced on 1 March 2023, in-year for the current academic year 2022/23 and for 2023/24, to match funding policy in non-devolved areas. • Approve the increase to the AEB top slice to 5%.
Strategic Objectives:	<p>This work is primarily aligned to achieving Ambitious Skills and Employment Opportunities and will help achieve a number of outcomes measures within the Corporate Strategy. In addition our targeted AEB devolved budget will support achieving the other three strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving Good Growth • Increased connectivity • Enabling Resilient Communities

Skills Committee report and appendices:	Skills Committee 6 March 2023 - Item 2.1 - Adult Education Budget grant funding allocations and policy changes for the 2023/24 academic year Item 2.1 - Appendix A - Proposed allocations for 2023-24 Item 2.1 - Appendix B - National AEB funding policy changes Item 2.1 - Appendix C - Local funding changes for 2023-24
Background papers and supporting documents:	DfE Policy Changes to Adult Skills Funding Rates

Agenda Item 7.2:	Expansion of the Careers Hub
Recommendation(s):	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) accept the grant funding offer on the notification of funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) for the continuation of the Careers Hub. Grant funding is expected to be in the sum of approximately £292,000 for the financial year 2023/2024. b) accept future grant funding that is awarded by the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) in addition to core funding, up to the value of £95,000 for projects aligned to strategic priorities. c) allocate 5 months of CEC funding to part-fund the 4 full-time equivalent (FTE) roles within the Growth Works service for the period of August to December 2023. d) allocate £112,000 of Corporate Rapid Response Funding as match funding for the period of January to August 2024 as Growth Works funding ceases and the start of UK Shared Prosperity Funding. e) delegate authority to the Interim Associate Director of Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to enter into contracts and grant funding agreements.
Voting arrangements:	<p>A simple majority of Members present and voting.</p> <p>To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.</p>

Purpose:	<p>Funding from the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) for the Careers Hub is allocated on an annual basis. The Combined Authority anticipates notification of this funding in Q2 of 2023 for the 2023/24 academic year and is seeking permission to accept and allocate this funding. Whilst a funding value has not yet been confirmed, it is expected to be approximately £292,000.</p> <p>The report to the Skills Committee highlights the funding implications of the delivery of the Careers Hub and succession plans following the anticipated ending of the Growth Works contract from December 2023 and the requirement to access the Skills Rapid Response Fund. It also anticipates the opportunity for additional funding from CEC outside of core funding.</p>
Strategic Objectives:	This work is primarily aligned to achieving Ambitious Skills and Employment Opportunities and will help achieve a number of outcomes measures within the Corporate Strategy.
Skills Committee report	Skills Committee 6 March 2023 - Item 2.2 - Expansion of the Careers Hub
Background papers and supporting documents:	Combined Authority Board 8 June 2022 - Item 3.5 - Expansion of the Careers Hub

Agenda Item 7.3:	Growth Works Performance Review
Recommendation(s):	The Combined Authority Board is recommended to note the Growth Works Programme Year Two Review and Performance Data to Q8 (16 December 2022).
Voting arrangements:	For noting only. No vote required.
Purpose:	To provide an update on Growth Works Year 2 Annual Programme Review and Programme performance data to Quarter 8 (Yr2) covering the period to December 2023.
Strategic Objectives:	This work is primarily aligned to Achieving Good Growth and Ambitious Skills and Employment Opportunities and will help achieve a number of outcomes measures within the Corporate Strategy.
Skills Committee report and appendices:	Skills Committee 6 March 2023 - Item 3.1 - Growth Works Performance Review

	<p>Appendix 1 – Growth Works Programme Year 2 Annual Performance Review</p> <p>EXEMPT Appendix 2 - Growth Works Net Promoter Score Quarter 8 (Oct-Dec 2022).</p> <p>This report contains an appendix which is exempt from publication under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, in that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).</p> <p>The public interest in maintaining the exemption is deemed to outweigh the public interest in publishing the appendix.</p>
Background papers and supporting documents:	<p>Quarter 7 Performance Update Report (Skills Committee - Item 2.5).</p>

Agenda Item 7.4:	Shared Prosperity Fund Implementation Plan
Recommendation(s):	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approve the UK-SPF Implementation Plan. b) delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy & Growth to approve in consultation with local authority partners, the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer the changes set out at 3.3 of the Skills Committee report. c) delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy & Growth to approve in consultation with local authority partners, the Chief Finance Officer & Monitoring Officer for Minor Changes as set out in Appendix 1a and supported by the DLUHC Guidance included in the Appendix 1b. d) delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy & Growth to approve in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer & Monitoring Officer to enter into Grant Funding Agreements associated with the projects set out in the Implementation Plan.
Voting arrangements:	<p>A simple majority of Members present and voting.</p> <p>To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.</p>

Purpose:	<p>The report to the Skills Committee provides an update on the UK-Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). This includes progress to January 2023 on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of detailed project applications and subsequent due diligence. • Development of contract documentation. • Development of the Implementation Plan. • Governance of the Implementation plan and performance reporting.
Strategic Objectives:	<p>This work is primarily aligned to Achieving Good Growth and Ambitious Skills and Employment Opportunities and will help achieve a number of outcomes measures within the Corporate Strategy.</p>
Skills Committee report and appendices:	<p>Skills Committee 6 March 2023 - Item 2.3 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Strategic projects</p> <p>Item 2.3 - Appendix 1a - UKSPF Implementation Plan</p> <p>Item 2.3 - Appendix 1b - UKSPF reporting and performance management</p> <p>Item 2.3 - Appendix 2 - UKSPF Implementation Plan</p>
Background papers and supporting documents:	<p>UKSPF Investment Plan - CA Board 27 July 2022</p>