

SKILLS COMMITTEE – 9 March 2020**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	Skills Committee	<p>Agenda Item 2.2. ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET COMMISSIONING STRATEGY 2020-25 AND REDISTRIBUTION SYSTEM</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the desire of the budgeting strategy to focus adult education budget on geographic areas of deprivation with the greater number of learners likely to benefit from funded courses which will improve their skills and job opportunities.</p> <p>This will concentrate resources on Fenland and Peterborough as areas of particular need and includes East Cambridgeshire as an area potentially requiring some additional support for learners.</p> <p>There has at the same time been a significant reduction in funded providers from 196 to 17 and a focus on skills for employment and particularly concentrating on employed learners on low incomes, learners with no or few qualifications, older unemployed people and others with particular problems in obtaining a job due to disability, joblessness or other life challenges.</p> <p>How can the skills committee ensure deprived learners in other areas of Cambridgeshire are not discriminated against because of these structural decisions - where fewer providers are concentrating on a subset of potential learners just in priority areas within the Combined Authority?</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Cllr John Holdich – Chairman of Skills the Committee	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	The devolution of the Adult Education Budget provides an opportunity to reflect local circumstances and in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough with the three sub economies in one and the known differences in educational attainment and median pay scales as evidenced in the CPIER. To ensure the Adult Education Budget

			assists in reducing this polarisation the changes are seeking to incentivise more impactful participation in Peterborough and Fenland. There remains a substantial funding allocation in Cambridgeshire, with Cambridgeshire Regional College, Cambridgeshire County Council and other local providers receiving more than half of the CPCA £11.53m AEB allocation; we don't envisage that significantly changing. To alleviate any discriminatory concerns, we will include super output areas in Cambridgeshire that are on par with Peterborough and Fenlands in any funding changes.
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2.	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	Skills Committee	<p>Page 8 item 17.1. of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Adult Education Budget Commissioning Strategy 2020-2025: A Framework for Partnership: Working together to ensure a world class offer for adult education.</p> <p>The framework document recognises that the demand for skills provision outstrips the resources available in order to focus on skills for work and improved employment prospects. Other more social learning opportunities that provide companionship, mutual support and entertainment would seem to be excluded from the funding programme. How can this gap be addressed so that valuable courses that don't meet a geographic priority or a skills and employment focus can continue to be provided and these learners can continue to participate in lifelong learning?</p>
	Response From:	Response to:	Response
	Cllr John Holdich – Chairman of Skills the Committee	Cllr Coles – Overview and Scrutiny Lead for Skills	We have given a commitment to at least maintain the community learning funding allocation and expenditure in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough from previous years. We are conscious that AEB is often the only source of funding for most, if not all, social learning activity within local communities. We want to target this activity with a greater expectation of progression for more learners be that into education or employment and to focus on increased social confidence and wellbeing for the low skilled and low paid.