



Combined Authority Board

6 February 2025

Title:	Recommendations from Skills and Employment Committee
Committee Date:	20 January 2025
Meeting Link:	Skills and Employment Committee 20 January 2025

Agenda Item	Adults Commissioning Strategy
Recommendations:	<p>Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• approve the proposed Adult Skills Commissioning Strategy 2025-2028• approve the implementation of the three-year plan-led grant funding agreements for FE Colleges and Local Authorities and the WEA subject to DfE funding for the period 2025 – 2028.• approve the procurement of Independent Training Providers (ITPs) under contracts for services, subject to DfE funding.• approve contracts for services to be issued over 3 years (2025 – 2028) to bring them in line with grant funding agreements and support sustainability and capacity building within the sector.• delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Skills & Employment, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to enter into multi-year grant funding agreements and contracts for services for the Adult Skills Fund and Free Courses for Jobs Fund on behalf of the Combined Authority.
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting members
Strategic Objectives:	<p>Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities</p> <p>Achieving good growth</p> <p>Enabling resilient communities</p> <p>Achieving best value and high performance</p>
Purpose:	<p>To seek approval for the proposed Adult Skills Commissioning Strategy 2025-2028 and to undertake an open and competitive tendering process to procure Independent Training Providers (ITPs) for delivery of training courses funded by the Adult Skills Fund and Free Courses for Jobs Fund. Initial funding of £1.1m ASF and £237k has been identified for 2025-26 and each subsequent academic year until 2028. This funding is subject to DfE funding being awarded to the Combined Authority and is subject to change following final reconciliation processes.</p> <p>To seek approval to implement a three-year, plan-led funding process for grant-funded providers.</p> <p>To seek approval to implement a three-year contract for services for procured provision with ITPs.</p> <p>To obtain the necessary delegations to the Assistant Director for Skills and Employment to enter into grant funding agreements and contracts for services for a three-year period from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2028.</p>
Report and Appendices:	Skills and Employment Committee 20 January 2025 – Item 10 – Adult Skills Commissioning Strategy

	Appendix A – Draft Adult Skills Commissioning Strategy 2025-28 Appendix B – An Introduction to Learning Levels and their Equivalent Value
Background Papers:	AEB-Commissioning-Strategy-2020-25-v2 (cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk) AEB devolution: 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Devolution: memorandum of understanding and supplementary agreement - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)