



## Combined Authority Board

### 5 June 2024 - Ordinary Meeting

Title:	Adult Education Budget delegated authority (amendment)
Report of:	Jaki Bradley, Head of Adult Education Budget
Lead Member:	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, Lead Member for Skills
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	KD2024/036
Voting Arrangements:	Vote required

#### Recommendations:

A	<p>To delegate authority to Assistant Director of Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>enter into, sign and award grant agreements or awards to training providers to deliver Adult Skills Funds to include but not limited to Adult Education Budget, Free Courses for Jobs and Innovation Fund with providers chosen via the relevant procurement exercise.</li><li>And where appropriate, extend contracts with existing providers.</li></ul>
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#### Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

✓	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
✓	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
✓	Enabling resilient communities

The Combined Authority's devolution agreement and commissioning of skills programmes contributes to the above strategic objectives, aligned to the pillars within the Employment and Skills Strategy (2022):

- **Pre-work learning and formal education:** improving learning and experiences of work, including quality careers information, advice, and guidance, during formal education; providing a strong foundation for labour market entry and future working lives.
- **Employer access to talent:** developing priority skills that support sustainable growth, improving employers' engagement with education and improving job quality
- **Life-wide and lifelong learning:** improving access to life wide careers guidance and a rich learning and skills offer to upskill and reskill residents through their life-course
- **Support into and between work:** Supporting the unemployed residents to transition into training and then employment and support to disadvantaged groups to access the labour market.

## 1. Purpose

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| 1.1 | To request a change of wording to the recommendation made in the Improving Efficiency and Effectiveness (Adult Education Budget) paper taken to the Skills Committee on 4 March 2024. |
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## 2. Revised recommendation

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| 2.1 | The Recommendations taken to the previous board did not account for the procurement exercise to include the AEB and FCFJ budget. section; this should have included 'Adult Education Budget and FCFJ' . The procurement process required to engage new Independent Training Providers would not be approved under the original wording. The procurement is time-sensitive due to the Academic Year nature of skills delivery . A delay in starting the procurement will mean that there will not be enough time for training providers to mobilise and will risk an underspend of the Adult Education Budget via contracts that will be secured through this process. |
| 2.2 | On 20 May 2024 an e-mail was sent to Skills Committee advising them of this with the agreement of the Chair.  |

## 3. Appendices

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| 6.1 | Appendix A. E-mail to Skills Committee members |
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## 4. Implications

### Financial Implications

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| 7.1 | Finance will ensure that the funds procured do not exceed the funds available. |
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### Legal Implications

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| 7.2 | 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. |
| 7.3 | Legal and finance will undertake due diligence on providers of services before issuing contracts. The Dynamic Purchasing System will be used to publish mini competitions as required before contracts for services are awarded to the successful organisations following completion of due diligence and subsidy control.                   |

### Public Health Implications

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| 7.4 | The report recommendations have positive implications for public health. Participation in adult learning improves the health and wellbeing of participants and wider society. Being able to measure the wider outcomes of learning will provide evidence of the most effective approaches which will inform future planning and joint work with public health colleagues. |
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### Environmental & Climate Change Implications

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| 7.5 | The report recommendations have positive implications for the environment. Environmental Conservation courses and Carbon literacy are funded by AEB. In addition, training for retrofit occupations (in construction trades) and electric vehicle maintenance and charging and digital skills are also funded by AEB, FCFJ and Skills Bootcamps. |
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### Other Significant Implications

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| 7.6 | 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. |
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7.7	Within their funding allocation, all Learning Organisations have Learner Support Funds to enable them 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.
Background Papers	
7.8	<a href="#">Employment and Skills Strategy 2022</a>
7.9	<a href="#">Report to Skills and Employment Committee 4 March 2023</a>