

SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT BOARD

29th June 2020

Adult Education Budget Update and Proposed Timeline

Purpose of Report

The paper provides a detailed update to Board members of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) evidence as to how the budget is currently spent within the region. The report also seeks clarification from Members as to the approach to establishing the priorities for the city region ensuring cross regional and local place-based activity is captured and also how Members wish to engage locally in their places.

Thematic Priority

Develop the SCR skills base, labour mobility and education performance

Freedom of Information

This paper will be made available under the MCA publication scheme. Appendix 1 is exempt from publication under the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A Part 1 Paragraph 3.

Recommendations

That Board Members:

1. Consider and debate the contents of the report and the accompanying presentation with regard to the emerging priorities and additional work they would wish to be undertaken;
2. Consider how they wish engagement to take place regionally with the MCA and locally back in individual authorities and the role they would wish to play in this;
3. Consider and discuss the stakeholder engagement activity required;
4. Agree next steps for their engagement in view of the milestones to take responsibility for delivery of AEB in August 2021.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Adult Education Budget (AEB) is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Education and administered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Devolution of AEB is an integral element of the South Yorkshire devolution deal agreed with Government.
- 1.2 Mayoral Combined Authorities need to demonstrate that they are able to appropriately manage the Adult Education Budget by completing documentation and submitting to the Department for Education (DfE) for review. The MCA Executive Team submitted evidence outlining how the Authority met all of the *Readiness Conditions* in March 2020. Last month the Head of Paid Service received formal confirmation from DfE that they were satisfied with

the planning and preparation that has been undertaken to date and is proposed in the run up to AEB being devolved in 2021.

- 1.3** The AEB function will be devolved to the MCA from the 2021/22 academic year, starting on the 1st August 2021. A final allocation will not be formally confirmed until closer to 21/22. It is anticipated that the budget for Adult Education for South Yorkshire residents will be approximately £36m per annum.

2. Proposal and justification

- 2.1** The table presented below – table 1 provides an indicative timetable for the key activities that are required to be undertaken in the run up to the devolution of AEB. The timetable above should provide contingency time for unanticipated issues arising during the course of the next 14 months.
- 2.2** The presentation, attached as Appendix 1 will form the substantive debate at the Board, this includes detail on the evidence arising from the programme. A supplementary data pack will be made available in the coming weeks. Following agreement at the meeting on engaging with Members and their officers, this pack will include greater place based detail of AEB.

3. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 3.1** n/a

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

There are no direct implications for the MCA as a consequence of this paper.

4.2 Legal

There are no direct implications for the MCA as a consequence of this paper.

4.3 Risk Management

Currently AEB is the responsibility of the ESFA, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education. There are therefore no direct risk management responsibilities for the MCA to consider. Should the MCA assume responsibility for the management of AEB in the future a full risk assessment would be commissioned and undertaken.

4.4 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion

AEB supports those who are either currently unemployed or who have not achieved basic qualification levels to achieve these thus promoting social inclusion, diversity and equality.

5. Communications

- 5.1** The MCA is developing a comprehensive communications strategy. The MCAs communication approach with AEB providers will need to be both timely (noting the significance of planning in advance) and comprehensive.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1** Appendix 1 – Detailed AEB presentation - Exempt from publication under the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12A Part 1 Paragraph 3.

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references: