

YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY MEETING

14 MARCH 2024

ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION READINESS CONDITIONS

Report of the Director of Economy

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The report seeks to request delegated authority to the Interim Head of Paid Services, in consultation with the Mayor or Co-Chairs, for the submission of draft documentation required for the Adult Education Budget (AEB)

Implementation Department for Education readiness conditions, to include:

- AEB Strategic Skills Plan
- AEB Commissioning & Delivery Framework
- AEB Funding & Performance Management Rules

2.0 Background

2.1 Devolution of the AEB will see York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority become the commissioner of learning provision to engage adults 19+ and equip them with the skills needed to progress to employment, apprenticeships, or other learning. Department of Education (DfE) have confirmed an AEB funding allocation of £10.8million per annum. York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority responsibility for the AEB will commence August 2025.

2.2 DfE lay down readiness conditions, which are strategies, systems, processes, and structures that are required to be in place in order to receive and manage the AEB. DfE have confirmed that draft documentation will be required for each of the readiness conditions, inclusive of:

- AEB Strategic Skills Plan
- AEB Commissioning & Delivery Framework
- AEB Funding & Performance Management Rules

2.3 A series of stakeholder engagement activities will take place throughout March and April 2024 to support the development of this draft documentation, as per DfE's requirements.

2.4 The deadline for submission of the readiness conditions is 29 May 2024. DfE will assess the submission throughout June and July 2024, with approval due in September 2024. Approval of the readiness conditions will be conditional on DfE recommended changes and final versions of documentation being in place.

- 2.5 The Combined Authority will have the opportunity to review the draft aforementioned documentation in June 2024.
- 2.6 Changes following recommendations by DfE and the Combined Authority will be made between June and August, and final documentation presented to the Combined Authority for sign off in September 2024, for final submission to the DfE.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 Submission of the readiness conditions by 29 May 2024 is required by Government to release devolved funds. Failure to submit the readiness conditions by this date could impact the devolvement of AEB funding.

4.0 Legal Implications

- 4.1 Evidencing readiness to deliver adult education functions is required by Government for them to make the order to devolve statutory functions to the Combined Authority. Failure to submit the readiness conditions by 29 May 2024 could impact Governments decision to make the order.

5.0 Equalities Implications

- 5.1 No direct equalities implications arise from this report.

6.0 Environmental Implications

- 6.1 No direct environmental implications arise from this report.

7.0 Combined Authority Areas Impacted (Council Areas/Wards/Divisions)

- 7.1 All areas within York and North Yorkshire

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 The Combined Authority is recommended to delegate authority to the Interim Head of Paid Services, in consultation with the Mayor or Co-Chairs, for the submission of draft documentation required for the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Implementation DfE readiness conditions, to include:

- AEB Strategic Skills Plan
- AEB Commissioning & Delivery Framework
- AEB Funding & Performance Management Rule

9.0 Reasons For Recommendations

- 9.1 It is a requirement of DfE for us to submit draft documentation as part of our readiness conditions by 29 May 2024. This draft documentation is currently being developed, which will be supported by a series of stakeholder engagement activities taking place throughout March and April, as required by DfE.

10.0 Contact Details

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