



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Report Author: Will Temple, Executive Officer
Tel: 07847560427

OFFICER DECISION TITLE: Financing of “A” to assist with AEB Preparations
NAME OF OFFICER EXERCISING DELEGATED POWERS: The Chief Executive of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
DATE OF OFFICER DECISION: 27/10/2017

Responsible Director:	<i>Martin Whiteley, Chief Executive</i>
Is this a public report? If a key decision, it will be a public report and will be published on the CA website.	No
Does the report have any annex that contains exempt information?	No

Decision taken	<p>The Chief Executive has agreed to appoint “A” to support the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) in the creation of an action plan to support the readiness of the authority as it prepares for the devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB), amounting to a maximum cost of £3,000.</p> <p>There are no legal implications relating to this contract.</p>
Authorisation (<i>delete as appropriate</i>)	<p>This decision has been taken under delegated authority of the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is delegated authority to take decisions up to £500K subject to any such decisions being reported to the next Board meeting of the Combined Authority.</p>
Background Information	<p>In August 2017, the Director General for Higher and Further Education at the Department for Education (DfE) wrote to the Combined Authority inviting officers to take part in meetings over a period of two months to establish what steps needed to be undertaken to deliver devolution of the AEB.</p> <p>As a result of these meetings, it has become apparent that for the CPCA to be prepared to deliver AEB devolution in the timescales set out by the DfE, it would have to move quickly to enlist the</p>



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

	support of appropriate expertise. This need is particularly acute for the CPCA as the newest of all Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs), with other MCAs having far longer to prepare for AEB devolution. Therefore, without this action being taken, the Authority would be even further behind in its preparations.
Alternative options considered.	Should the Combined Authority not enlist the support of “A”, it will not have the required accumulated knowledge to be able to adequately prepare for the devolution of the Adult Education Budget and the proposed transition year starting in the 2018/19 academic year. This could lead to the authority failing the ‘readiness criteria’ set out by government to transfer powers to the authority creating uncertainty for providers and learners.
Consultation	This decision to provide extra resource to AEB preparations was given informal approval (up to £40k) at the Cabinet meeting of the Combined Authority on the 11 th October.
Declarations / Conflicts of Interests (only if the decision falls under the ‘Express Authorisation’ category)	None
Supporting documentation	None

Officer signature	MARTIN WHITELEY	Date 01/11/2017
<i>Once signed please file in the electronic file Documents/Governance/ office decision notice and enter details in the register. If a public report, pass to Democratic Services and we will arrange publication.</i>		