



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

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<p>OFFICER DECISION TITLE:</p> <p>Financing of “A” and Team to assist with AEB Skills Technical Reports until AEB Team are in post</p>
<p>NAME OF OFFICER EXERCISING DELEGATED POWERS:</p> <p>The Chief Executive of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority</p>
<p>DATE OF OFFICER DECISION: 24/04/2018</p>

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” and Team to support the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) in the creation of a AEB Specific Technical reports 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 £100,000.</p> <p>To authorise the recruitment of three posts for the AEB Programme Team including a Partnership Officer, Strategy Officer and Finance and Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>There are no legal implications relating to this contract, or the recruitment of the three AEB posts.</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 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.</p> <p>At the annual conversation on 17th April 2018 the Chief Executive was informed that the DfE would financially support up to £100,000 worth of additional expenditure for the CPCA to gain the appropriate technical expertise to complete specific technical documentation and mechanisms to support the devolution programme. The offer was provided on the basis that the DfE have provided a 50% grant to the CPCA of up to £154k for securing capacity to operate the AEB programme. The programme manager has identified that 3 posts are required to enable delivery of the programme for the first 3 years, this resource will support this capacity. However the post holders will not be in post by the 18th May when the readiness checklist has to be completed.</p> <p>Further to authorise the recruitment of three posts for the AEB Programme Team including a Partnership Officer, Strategy Officer and Finance and Monitoring Officer. These posts will be paid for in the first year from the £154k grant provided to the CPCA in 2018. The future funding of these posts will be identified within the operational costs of the CPCA from 2019. It is envisaged that the AEB programme could provide some funding to support the ongoing costs of these posts.</p>
Alternative options considered.	<p>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 readiness assessment 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.</p>
Consultation	<p>This decision to provide extra resource to AEB preparations was</p>



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	given informal approval 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 24/04/2018
<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>		