

## **North of Tyne Combined Authority Adult Education Budget - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) will be delivering its Adult Education Budget (AEB) through a combination of grant funded and contract for services providers. Our contracts with these providers are for an initial 3-year period from 1st August 2020.

NTCA recently completed a procurement round where a number of providers were successful in securing a place on our Framework to deliver AEB.

We are currently running a mini competition for only those providers who secured a place on the Framework.

If you have any specific questions that are not detailed below, please use NTCA AEB e-mail; [AEB@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk](mailto:AEB@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk).

### **Q1. when will future procurement rounds be open?**

A1. These will be open to those already on the framework within these 3 years. However, if we find there is an unusually high demand or demand in new areas that our current provider base cannot deliver, we will consider the possibility of opening up opportunities to wider delivery partners.

### **Q2. Will I have an opportunity to apply to the Framework?**

A2. We are not anticipating opening up the Framework unless, as stated above, we do not have

### **Q3. Are there any opportunities to co-operate with AEB funding?**

A2. There may be opportunities to work with the existing NTCA providers as a partner/subcontractor for the delivery starting in 2020-2021. We will be publishing a list of our AEB delivery partners in August this year. If you would like to work with any of them, it will be your responsibility to contact them. Opportunities for direct delivery are detailed above and in answer 1.

### **Q4. How can I become a sub-contractor for AEB?**

A4. If you want to deliver through a subcontracting arrangement, you may wish to have a conversation with NTCA direct deliverers to discuss those opportunities. If you would like the opportunity to work with providers from 1<sup>st</sup> August, please pass your details to us through the AEB in-box and we can pass your details to our current providers. Please note: we will not broker relationships between providers or promote any particular offer, therefore we will not follow up any details that are passed on. We will only pass on detail if you give us permission to do so.

### **Q5. How will you advertise opportunities to deliver through AEB?**

A5. These opportunities will be advertised on the NTCA website, Social Media channels and through the North Eastern Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) portal.

NEPO stands for North Eastern Purchasing Organisation they work in partnership with North East local authorities on the strategic procurement of high value goods and services in order to deliver savings, maximise efficiencies and promote best practice the portal is the system NEPO members use to carry out procurement exercises.

Providers can register on the NEPO portal free of charge as a supplier so they are ready to tender when an opportunity is published. Providers can view opportunities on the portal without having to register if they go to [www.nepoportal.org](http://www.nepoportal.org), we also publish contracts on contract finder website.

**Q6. What is the process for applying for AEB funding?**

A6. Future procurement opportunities will be advertised as above. Applicants should follow the process outlined on the specific opportunity as required.

**Q. Will there be an opportunity in future for providers to apply for AEB funding?**

A. Toward the end of the current 3-year delivery period, we plan re-open the procurement for the contract for services providers. However, if we find there is an unusually high demand or demand in new areas that our current provider base cannot deliver, we will consider the possibility of opening up opportunities to wider delivery partners.

**Q. If a provider is not an NTCA provider but has a contract through the ESFA for national AEB, would NTCA residents be fundable through the normal ESFA contract?**

A. The ESFA **will not** fund provision delivered through the Adult Education Budget to North of Tyne residents from 2020/21.