

Notice to Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of a general exception to the publication of the intention to make a key decision

DATE: 16/09/2020

TO: Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA)

SUBJECT: Adult Education Budget – Additional Funding

NOTICE BY: John Softly, Monitoring Officer

Executive Summary:

This notice informs Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee under Paragraph 12 of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 that it is impracticable to include the above item on the NTCA Forward Plan for a period of 28 clear days before the decision is made.

In accordance with Paragraph 12 (1(b) of the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 a copy of this notice will be published on the North of Tyne Combined Authority website.

This notice ensures that at least 5 clear days have elapsed between the agenda for the meeting/notice of decision, which includes the matter, being made available and the day of the meeting/decision-making.

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1. Background

- 1.1 Where a decision maker intends to make a key decision, that decision must not be made until at least 28 clear days public notice has been given.
- 1.2 Where the publication of the intention to make a key decision is impracticable, that decision may only be made where:
the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair in the absence of Chair) has been informed of the matter about which the decision is to be made;
notice to the Chair/Vice-Chair has been made available for public inspection at the Combined Authority's Office and published on the Combined Authority's website; and
5 clear days have elapsed from the day on which notice to the Chair/Vice-Chair was made publicly available.
- 1.3 This notice is to inform the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it has been impracticable to give 28 clear days public notice of the item(s) set out below for the reasons set out below and that it is intended that the key decision(s) will be made on the date specified below.
- 1.4 Notice is also given to the public that the reasons why compliance with the requirements for publicity in connection with key decisions are impracticable are set out below.

2. Notice Details

2.1 Date of Decision required

22nd September 2020

2.2 Matter in respect to which decision is to be made

Devolved Adult Education Budget – Allocation of Additional Funding

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2.3 Description

In August 2020 £959,064 of additional Adult Education Budget (AEB) funding for 2020/21 has been devolved to the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) as part of the Department for Education (DfE) COVID-19 Skills recovery package and wider Government plans to protect, support and create jobs and in turn, to boost the economy.

The additional AEB funding can be used to:

- provide high value courses to help 18- and 19-year olds who were planning to leave education and may struggle to get a job or apprenticeship; and
- help increase the number of Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) sector-based work academy placements to provide short bursts of training to get the unemployed back into work.

A decision on how this additional AEB funding will be allocated to providers is needed urgently to ensure that delivery can commence from the end of September 2020. Urgency is required to ensure young people have a positive option as they enter the next phase of their life and do not become NEET (not in education, employment or training).

2.4 Decision Maker

Head of Paid Service

2.5 Consultation Process

The Head of Paid Service, Interim Monitoring Officer and Interim Section 73 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) and the Mayor, as Chair of Cabinet, have been consulted and agree that the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be delayed.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been notified.

Consultation has also taken place with colleagues from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and further education partners with a current AEB Grant Agreement.

2.6 Background Documents

AEB Strategic Skills Plan.
AEB Delegated Decision Report March 2020

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AEB Delegated Decision Report June 2020
AEB Cabinet papers 24th April 2019, 4th June 2019, 30th July 2019, 22nd
October 2019 25th February 2020 and July 2020

2.7 Reasons why impracticable to give 28 days clear notice

The additional AEB funding referred to in the delegated decision report has only recently been devolved to NTCA in direct response to COVID-19 and the Government's Skills Recovery package.

This funding is for one year only and needs to be deployed by the end of September for the reasons set out above.

The Monitoring Officer has examined the background and context of this decision and concurs that it is impracticable for this decision to be placed on the Forward Plan 28 days before it is made.

John Softly
Interim Monitoring Officer

Date of Notice: 16/09/20

The Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been notified of this matter on the following date: 16th September 2020