

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Decision Title: Adult Education Budget (AEB) Open Application Funding 2023/24		
Decision reference number: ESK_2023_0001		
Decision date: 10 November 2023		
<p>Background / reason for decision:</p> <p>The Open Application process aligns to the Adult Education Budget (AEB) Commissioning Plan focusing on learners that are low skilled, low paid or unemployed, and supporting them to fill gaps in their skills to allow them to progress. It also focusses on delivering the National Skills Fund Level 3 (NSF L3) offer to those that are slightly higher skilled to progress in work or potentially retrain.</p> <p>The approach and priorities for the 2023/24 Open Application were agreed by CLT on 6th June 2023. £1.5m had been allocated to award for the Open Application.</p>		
Options considered: N/A		
<p>Decision:</p> <p>The West of England Combined Authority Strategic Director of Economy and Skills, in consultation with his counterparts across the Unitary Authorities, approved the recommendation that a total of £1,435,870 of funding is awarded to 8 providers to support 1,400 learners.</p> <p>This includes 2 new providers to AEB and 6 existing providers. All recommended grant awards are subject to specific conditions to address issues identified within the applications which will need to be satisfied before they can progress.</p>		
Provider	Agreed AEB Grant Value	Priority Funding
Bristol City Council	£180,000.00	Priority 1: Provision to support Priority Residents who are unemployed or economically inactive
Ashley Community Housing	£150,000.00	Priority 1: Provision to support Priority Residents who are unemployed or economically inactive
Bath Spa / Little Lost Robot	£100,000.00	Priority 1: Provision to support Priority Residents who are unemployed or economically inactive
Bath College	£275,000.00	Priority 1: Provision to support Priority Residents who are unemployed or economically inactive

Weston College	£150,000.00	Priority 1: Provision to support Priority Residents who are unemployed or economically inactive
City of Bristol College	£400,000.00	Priority 1: Provision to support Priority Residents who are unemployed or economically inactive (£300k ESOL) Priority 4: Green Skills (£100k)
Gloucestershire College	£100,870.00	Priority 3: National Skills Fund Level 3 Entitlement / Free Courses for Jobs Provision.
The Restore Trust	£80,000.00	Priority 4: Green Skills

Consultation:

The Skills Officer Group has been consulted in the decisions taken following the assessment process before this recommendation has proceeded to CLT.

Summary of the funding recommendations was shared with the Skills Officers from each of the Unitary Authorities; Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and North Somerset Council, on 4th October 2023;

Officer making decision: Stephen Bashford

Position: Strategic Director of Economy and Skills