

CABINET DECISIONS ON REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC

The following reports were presented to the OSC on 10 June 2019 for comment prior to determination by the Cabinet.

The following is an extract from the Cabinet minutes of 11 June 2019:

Devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the North of Tyne Combined Authority

The report outlined the legal process to secure the devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) for the academic year 2020/21 onwards (copy attached to the signed minutes as Appendix D).

The Executive Director informed members that a key element of the Combined Authority vision was the devolution of this budget, and would allow the NoT CA to have a greater focus on its priorities. This was a technical report which members were asked support to allow matters to progress.

The Leader commented that businesses in Northumberland felt there were not sufficiently skilled employees in the area to match the jobs they had available. People needed to be able to access training for more than one career in a lifetime, which was now more common place in the current economic climate. The devolution of this budget would enable the Authority to set its own agenda to ensure that the required training opportunities were available.

Councillor Oliver queried whether this would enable the quality of adult education service to be raised and the Leader confirmed that the NoT CA would be able to hold colleges and providers to account. Councillor Oliver also queried whether there would be a focus on digital skills and the Leader confirmed that there would be a focus on practical skills for all ages.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the Council consent to the making of the order which will transfer the functions relating to AEB from the Secretary of State (SoS) to the NTCA;
- (b) the Chief Executive be authorised to provide written confirmation of the Council's consent when requested by the SoS; and
- (c) the report of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC be noted.

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