



Department
for Education

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Combined Authority
East Midlands Combined County Authority
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
North East Combined Authority
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined
Authority
Tees Valley Combined Authority
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
West of England Mayoral Combined
Authority
York and North Yorkshire Mayoral
Combined Authority

Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.gov.uk/dfe

Date: August 2025

Dear Colleague,

**Re: S31 Revenue Grant Determination Letter for expansion of Free Courses for
Jobs for Financial Year 2025-26: (DfE Grant Reference: Level 3 FCfJ
Devolved_100982)**

This Determination is made between:

- (1) **The Secretary of State for Education and**
- (2) **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
East Midlands Combined County Authority
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
North East Combined Authority
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
Tees Valley Combined Authority
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
West of England Mayoral Combined Authority
York and North Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority**

This letter confirms the amount of additional devolved Free Courses for Jobs you will receive in the financial year (FY) 2025-26 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026). This is additional funding following the construction skills package.

Payment arrangements

Your additional devolved FCFJ for FY 2025-26 is set out in the table in Annex A and will be paid by mid-September 2025.

We are providing this grant as a Section 31 (S31) non-ring-fenced transfer under the Local Government Act 2003 and have copied this grant letter to the Chief Finance Officer of your Combined Authority for information.

Assurance arrangements

Your Combined Authority must have regard to the English Devolution Accountability Framework¹ and the National Local Growth Assurance Framework², including Free Courses for Jobs guidelines. The current version of the framework was published in September 2021 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and clarifies what assurances should be in place when administering adult education functions.

In addition, the Department for Education also has an associated Memorandum of Understanding in place with your Combined Authority in relation to the devolution of adult education functions.

Enquiries

Please contact adult.skillsdevolution@education.gov.uk for further information.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education,



Bo Emecheta
Deputy Director
Further Education Funding
Labour Market Skills and Funding Directorate

¹ [English Devolution Accountability Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-accountability-framework)

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-local-growth-assurance-framework>

Re: S31 Grant Determination Letter for Devolution of Free Courses for Jobs for Financial Year 20254-26: No 31/7940 (DfE Grant Reference: Level 3 FCfJ Devolved_100982)

The Secretary of State for Education (“the Secretary of State”), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, makes the following determination:

Citation

- 1) This determination may be cited as Devolution of Free Courses for Jobs Determination for financial year 2025-26[31/7940].

Purpose of the grant

- 2) The purpose of the grant is for provision of relevant Free Courses for Jobs courses and towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred through the associated Free Courses for Jobs offer.

Determination

- 3) The Secretary of State determines as the authorities to which grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid, the authorities and the amounts set out in Annex A.

Treasury consent

- 4) Before making this determination in relation to the Mayoral Combined Authorities specified in Annex A, the Secretary of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Education,



Bo Emecheta
Deputy Director
Further Education Funding
Labour Market Skills and Funding Directorate

ANNEX A

FY2025-26: Additional Free Courses for Jobs Funding Transferred for Construction Skills Package

Table covering Financial Year 2025-26

Combined Authority	Apr 25 - Jul 25	Aug 25 - Mar 26	Total
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	£0	£134,455	£134,455
Greater London Authority	£0	£3,572,686	£3,572,686
Liverpool City Region	£0	£598,959	£598,959
North East	£0	£721,574	£721,574
South Yorkshire	£0	£450,183	£450,183
Tees Valley	£0	£343,219	£343,219
West Yorkshire	£0	£745,608	£745,608
West of England	£0	£171,984	£171,984
East Midlands	£0	£597,103	£597,103
York and North Yorkshire	£0	£120,063	£120,063
Cornwall	£0	£113,357	£113,357

Table covering Academic Year 2025/26

Combined Authority	Aug 25 - Mar 26	Apr 26 - Jul 26	Total
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	£134,455	£44,818	£179,274
Greater London Authority	£3,572,686	£1,190,895	£4,763,582
Liverpool City Region	£598,959	£199,653	£798,612
North East	£721,574	£240,525	£962,099
South Yorkshire	£450,183	£150,061	£600,244
Tees Valley	£343,219	£114,406	£457,625
West Yorkshire	£745,608	£248,536	£994,144
West of England	£171,984	£57,328	£229,312
East Midlands	£597,103	£199,034	£796,137
York and North Yorkshire	£120,063	£40,021	£160,084
Cornwall	£113,357	£37,786	£151,143

1. This is not the overall total for FY 2026-27, which will include an amount from the academic year (AY) 2026/27. We will confirm this amount in January 2026 and it will be issued under a separate S31 Grant Determination (Unringfenced) Letter.
2. The Mayor of London's grant allocation will be transferred to the Greater London Authority (on behalf of the Mayor of London) under separate arrangements in accordance with Section 39A of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. It is being referenced here for completeness.
3. Foundation Strategic Authorities allocations are receiving ringfenced funding, as set out in the English Devolution White Paper. They will be paid under a separate grant determination letter, but are being included here for completeness.
4. For clarity and accessibility two tables are included here. Some of the same data is included in both tables (e.g. Aug to Mar funding figures)