

Questions received

Q No.	Question	Response
1	How much unallocated funding will be available at the ITT stage after grant funding has been awarded to FE Colleges and Local Authorities?	The allocations will be determined from a detailed data analysis on provision from AY 2024-25. The final values will be subject to North East CA approvals.
2	What % of grant funding will go to FE Colleges and LAs, and how does this vary from previous years?	The allocations will be determined from a detailed data analysis on provision from AY 2024-25. The final values will be subject to North East CA approvals.
3	Is Adult Skills Funding ringfenced to the sectors mentioned?	All delivery activity must support Local Growth Plan and New Deal for North East Workers.
4	Will Foundation Skills funding be available to procured providers?	Procurement activity is still to be determined - skills funding will be available across the 3 strands outlined in the presentation.
5	Is there a reduction in Skills Bootcamp funding?	Yes - the methodology for allocation of these funds has changed for FY 2026-27.
6	Will ESOL be fully funded, and will ESOL L2 count similarly to English Functional Skills?	Yes – ESOL can be fully funded under North East CA's Adult Skills Funding. English Functional Skills (Entry-L2) are part of the statutory English legal entitlement, meaning eligible adults are fully funded regardless of employment status until they achieve GCSE grade 4+ or FS Level 2. ESOL (Entry-L2) is funded through local flexibility, not legal entitlement, and remains purpose-specific language learning for speakers of other languages. Places and fully funded provision is within approved delivery plans and allocations.

7	What is the definition of “well-paid work” (minimum wage or living wage), and how is this recorded?	We define well-paid work as employment paying at or above the age-appropriate National Minimum.
8	Are additional job outcome payments applicable to all courses?	No this is only applicable to pre-approved Skills for Work courses.
9	If grant funded again in 2026-27, will additional procured funding allow delivery across all ASF, FCFJs and Skills Bootcamps?	The Integrated Settlement will no longer operate distinct funding streams for individual programmes, instead, activity will be planned, commissioned and performance-managed within an integrated framework. We are proposing that any future procurement will therefore fall under the overarching delivery themes of Skills Activation and Skills for Work, enabling providers to deliver flexibly across programmes while reporting outcomes by funding line as required.
10	How will North East CA balance grant funded delivery (colleges/LAs) and competitively procured provision (independent providers)?	In order to support a mixed infrastructure of skills provision that is able to respond to sectoral and business needs in an agile way, the grant funded element will be accompanied by tendered provision. A mixed model of grant funded and procured provision will drive improvement, innovation and responsiveness.
11	How will North East CA determine volumes allocated to each of the three streams (Foundation, Activation, Skills for Work)?	The distribution of funds will be determined from a detailed data analysis on provision from AY 2024-25. The final values will be subject to North East CA approvals.
12	Will North East CA publish indicative funding envelopes per sector/priority area before procurement opens?	The North East CA will hold a market engagement event prior to the procurement exercise.
13	How will the new DPS differ from the current one, and will there be multi lot structures?	The DPS will be designed for AY 2027-28 and is still under consideration. The current priority is for delivery from 1 August 2026.
14	Will full curriculum detail be required at application stage or will mini competitions be used?	Yes full detail will be required - a delivery plan will need to be submitted.
15	Will the DPS include rapid micro procurements (10–14 day competitions)?	The DPS will be designed for AY 2027-28 and is still under consideration. The current priority is for delivery from 1 August 2026.
16	Will providers with existing LA contracts also be able to hold a direct procured contract?	The procurement exercise will be an open call for all providers.

17	Will there be any preference for local North East providers?	The procurement exercise will be an open call for all providers. Providers will be expected to demonstrate knowledge/insight of the regional labour market and skills priorities/demand.
18	Does North East CA expect to lose providers through the contracting process, and how will gaps in provision be managed?	A detailed analysis of provision secured through the dual commissioning approach will be undertaken. Any resulting gaps in provision will be managed through ongoing performance management and monitoring of provision.
19	How will consortium or codelivery models be assessed in terms of value and risk?	This will be detailed in procurement specification documentation.
20	What will happen to Bootcamp provision after March 2026 (the current funding end date)?	All current Skills Bootcamp Contracts secured are due to end on 31/3/26, outcomes can continue to be delivered up to 30th September. The Skills for Work strand of the delivery model will replace this provision from 1/8/26.
21	Will Skills Bootcamps have a hard stop on 31/03/2026 or be continued from 01/04/2026?	All current Skills Bootcamp Contracts secured are due to end on 31/3/26, outcomes can continue to be delivered up to 30th September. The Skills for Work strand of the delivery model will replace this provision from 1/8/26.
22	Will Bootcamp delivery be extended due to underspend?	Current Skills Bootcamp Contracts will not be extended beyond 31/03/26.
23	Will Skills Bootcamps sit within Skills for Work?	A similar delivery model is planned for Skills for Work.
24	What definitions will North East CA use for: Progression, Employment outcomes, widening participation?	The Integrated Settlement for the adult skills funds includes an overarching outcomes and outputs framework with clear definitions. In addition outcomes and outputs associated with the funds will be set out in the North East CA funding and performance management and payment rules .
25	How will progression into sustainable or well-paid work be evidenced and reported?	Evidence and reporting requirements will be detailed in the North East CA funding and performance management rules. This document will form part of providers funding agreements.

26	Will ILR reporting replace external destination/outcome trackers?	There are no plans to reinstate destination/outcomes in the National ILR file, therefore these will be captured through local data collection.
27	Will there be an additional ILR field confirming job outcomes with a Fair Wage/Shine employer?	The ILR is a national data tool therefore specific fields for fair wage/shine will not appear in the ILR.
28	How will employer involvement be evidenced (letters of intent, partnerships, vacancy pipelines)?	Evidence and reporting requirements will be detailed in the North East CA Funding & Performance Management Rules. This document will form part of providers funding agreements.
29	Under Skills Activation, will existing qualification aims remain, or will new codes be created?	Under the Skills Activation stream, regulated qualification aims will continue to be used alongside bespoke provision where approved as part of a providers delivery plan.
30	Is tailored learning being replaced by Skills Foundation codes?	We are currently proposing changes to the delivery structure to include the 3 strands outlined in the presentation.
31	Are creative industries skills still funded under the settlement or now under Create Talent?	Create Talent is funded via North East CA Investment Funds. Integrated Settlement funds may include some provision for creative industries that does not duplicate provision secured through Create Talent.
32	Will ESOL, English, Maths, and Digital be statutory entitlements and fully funded?	Yes ESOL, English, Maths and Digital will be statutory entitlements and where the North East CA funding is being provided each place will be fully funded.
33	If a provider has a contract for one strand, can funding be flexed between strands without additional contracting?	This will be set out in the procurement specification.
34	Is progression funded through the single pot, and is the one fundable qualification rule being scrapped?	The Integrated Settlement does include outcomes for progression. The North East CA recognises that, for some residents, the line of sight into further learning and / or work is clear; the positive outcomes we want for them may be relatively accessible. However, for others, that journey is more complex and may require multiple skills programmes delivered over a longer period of time.

35	When will confirmed allocations for 2026-27 be released, given curriculum planning has begun?	The allocations will be subject to North East CA approvals.
36	What is the timeline between Cabinet approval in March and the first procurement launch?	Following Cabinet and the required governance time scales we aim to launch procurement early April 2026.
37	When/where will the Q&A from the webinar be published?	This will be published on the North East CA website.
38	Are there any indicative programme start dates for 2026-27?	Delivery will commence from 1/8/26.
39	How does North East CA define “Inclusive Commissioning”?	Commissioning that deliberately designs, funds and manages services in a way that reduces inequality, widens access, and delivers meaningful social and economic benefit for people and places that face the greatest barriers.
40	How will North East CA ensure providers can meet employer skill needs across the region?	Commissioning activity will follow an evidence based model, align with the Local Growth Plan and the New Deal for North East Workers.
41	Will local flexibilities remain (e.g., short activation routes, tailored digital provision)?	Yes - subject to approval of providers delivery plans.
42	How will collaboration with Jobcentres, community organisations, and charities be expected or evidenced?	This will be detailed in procurement specification documentation.

Feedback received

Q No.	Feedback	Any Response
1	Thank you for hosting the recent webinar on the Integrated Settlement. The session was informative and provided valuable insights into the upcoming changes and opportunities for the region.	Thank you for the feedback.
2	We see the Integrated Settlement as a positive step in principle and welcome the intent to create a more coherent adult skills system. To support effective provider planning, we would welcome further detail on how the procurement process will enable independent training providers to directly tender for the delivery of high-quality provision, alongside grant-funded routes, and how this will operate in practice.	Thank you for the feedback. Commissioning will commence following approvals at the March 2026 Cabinet meeting and a market engagement session will be held. Please ensure you are registered on the Open platform for notifications on tender opportunities.

3	I think that you have brought in flexibilities to support people with their skills journey however this could be seen to be equally bureaucratic. Also, yes you have moved all funding under one pot however, there is nothing new within the proposal. That said on the most part I agree but think that more flexibility and training opportunities could be created.	Thank you for the feedback.
4	Good news to have an integrated settlement.	Thank you for the feedback
5	The 3 funding streams shown make sense.	Thank you for the feedback
6	Thank you. It was very useful.	Thank you for the feedback
7	Positioned very well in comparison to some others and a lot more detailed and timelier. Thank you	Thank you for the feedback
8	Splitting the skills allocations by 'Foundations', 'Activation' and 'Skills for Work' makes perfect sense and reflects learner cohorts we commonly work with. Overall, a very encouraging step in the right direction both strategically and in terms of getting the right provision to learners who need it most.	Thank you for the feedback
9	A great session, thanks for sharing as much as you can at this stage	Thank you for the feedback