



HM Government

Levelling Up Fund Application Form

This form is for bidding entities, applying for funding from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) across the UK. Prior to completing the application form, applicants should read the LUF Technical Note.

The Levelling Up Fund Prospectus is available [here](#).

The level of detail you provide in the Application Form should be in proportion to the amount of funding that you are requesting. For example, bids for more than £10m should provide considerably more information than bids for less than £10m.

Specifically, for larger transport projects requesting between £20m and £50m, bidding entities may submit the Application Form or if available an Outline Business Case (OBC) or Full Business Case (FBC). Further detail on requirements for larger transport projects is provided in the Technical Note.

One application form should be completed per bid.

Applicant & Bid Information

**Local authority name /
Applicant name(s)*:**
City of Wolverhampton
Council

Postal address:
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Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Key contacts



Bid Manager

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City Development Team

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★ Officer with day-to-day responsibility
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Senior Responsible Officer

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Country: **England**

2 Consultancy companies involved in
the preparation of the bid:
Turner & Townsend | Amion Consulting

Foreword

The City of Wolverhampton is a bold and ambitious city with a track record of delivery working with public and private sector partners to make a real difference to residents and businesses. However, the impact of Covid-19 has hit Wolverhampton hard and exacerbated existing social and economic challenges.

The bid for £20million to the Levelling Up Fund will help us deliver this shovel ready project, boosting investment in skills and education and providing greater opportunities for local residents and young people.

CLQ is a vital project which will help us deliver our 'Relighting Our City' plan aimed at supporting Wolverhampton to live with - and recover from - the pandemic. It will also expedite the Government's pledge to 'Level Up' places in the UK like ours that need support the most so we can improve opportunities for local people.

COUNCILLOR IAN BROOKFIELD
Leader of City of Wolverhampton Council



Letter of support: MP for Wolverhampton South West

As Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton South West, I am delighted to pledge my support for the Wolverhampton City Learning Quarter (CLQ) Levelling Up bid submission.

The bid for £20 million will help realise the delivery of the shovel-ready CLQ project which will have a visible and tangible impact on the city of Wolverhampton and its residents, making a massive difference to everyday life through direct investment in skills and education.

CLQ will deliver a vibrant, new city centre education hub that aligns and brings together the College, Adult Education and Library facilities in a single campus site facility, located adjacent to the awarding winning and recently developed Wolverhampton Transport Interchange.

If successful, this investment, together with the Further Education Capital Transformation Fund, will be transformational for our young people, residents and business communities in our city by tackling the exacerbating social and economic challenges our city faces - compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic - demonstrating Levelling Up in action.

The Levelling Up Fund provides a real opportunity for both local and Central Government to directly work together to deliver this important educational infrastructure project. Investment in CLQ totals

£51.6 million with an economic growth stimulus amounting to £233m GVA and an excellent benefit cost ratio (BCR) score.

It will bring significant direct and indirect economic benefits by safeguarding thousands of jobs, creating new jobs, providing better skills and better jobs for our local people, retaining and unlocking new private investment and improving the area's health and vitality enabling our city centre to flourish. It will directly improve lives by giving people further pride in their local community and education to enable further opportunities.

CLQ will contribute to our shared local and national aims in the following ways:

City Centre / High Street Regeneration:

CLQ (through combined learning facilities extending operational hours) will increase city centre vibrancy and footfall through visits and additional dwell time. The new College campus alone will generate an additional footfall of 3,922 learners per year and Adult Education Services will bring circa 100 learners into the city centre. CLQ will also support enable the release of multiple brownfield development sites to further enable the city centre regeneration through a repurposing and transition from a retail core to sustainable mixed-use centre in response to changing dynamics.

Education, Skills Improvements and Employment Opportunities:

CLQ will address productivity challenges by providing outstanding new and future proofed learning spaces that will inspire and increase learner participation, enabling the delivery of 10,900 additional qualifications over 10 years thus providing a future supply of skills to support business growth. The co-location of College, Adult Education and Library facilitates joined up and expanded education offer helping close a key element of the productivity gap – skills – whilst making residents more employable.

Housing and further developments:

CLQ will allow release of multiple development sites that will enable future provision of up to 208 dwellings at contributing towards local housing supply, 2,350 sqm of new retail-led and 68,700 sqm commercial development in the vicinity promoting a brownfield first approach to housing delivery.

The exciting proposals for CLQ have been supported by initial £6.2 million investment from the Council and Black Country LEP, which has enabled design work, site surveys and ground investigations, site acquisition and clearance to be completed. Planning consent has been achieved and all related pre-development commencement conditions discharged making CLQ shovel ready for a start on site during financial year 2021 / 2022.

This bid is the City of Wolverhampton's priority project, supported by the WMCA and Metro Mayor Andy Street, The Black Country LEP and our Towns Fund Board, clearly demonstrating a multifaceted partnership approach.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon and pledge my steadfast support and resources to move CLQ forward to benefit and level up opportunities for our young people, residents and businesses in our great city.



STUART ANDERSON
MP for Wolverhampton South West

Letter of support: Chief Executive, City of Wolverhampton College

I am writing to formally register the City of Wolverhampton College's advocacy and irrevocable support for the City of Wolverhampton Council's bid submission to the Levelling Up Fund for the City Learning Quarter (CLQ) amounting to £20 million.

I would also like to provide our confirmation that the Stage 1 funding application was submitted to the Department for Education on 22 March 2021 seeking £25.4 million from the Further Education Capital Transformation Fund (FECTF) to support the delivery of the CLQ.

CLQ forms an integral part of both the City of Wolverhampton College and City Council's aligned ambitious College's Campus Transformation agenda as set out in the College's Property Strategy 2021. This will be a direct investment in skills and education in addition to improving the city centre through the establishment of a fit for purpose and future proofed College campus (including upgraded Library and Adult Education facilities) at the principle site of our city centre Metro One building.

In addition to providing a connected lifelong learning experience for students, apprentices, residents and visitors, the CLQ will help unleash

private sector investment, boost the local economy, enhance the city's health and vitality by directly supporting and improving the city centre and creating jobs, innovation and a direct investment in skills to fully utilise in their local and wider area.

This investment is crucial to our students and apprentices, who know the CLQ can make a difference to them and future students to further achieve their potential, and I have included a selection of the comments we have received from them below.

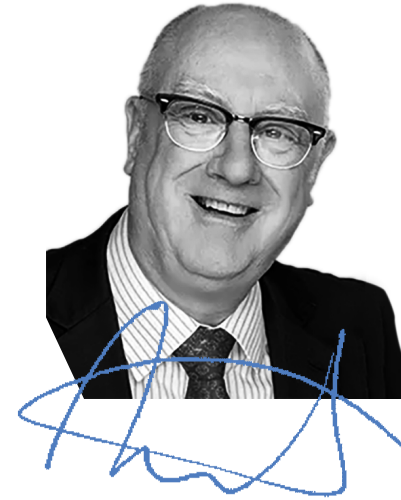
"Our teachers are the best and we get a great experience now, if we have better resources to work within - I feel I could achieve so much more! Learning in state of the art classes and being in a much more accessible building will help me further develop more skills that will help me compete with others for jobs."

"Future City of Wolverhampton College students deserve to work in a state of the art building - other local Colleges have them. More people may find learning more accessible and study at the College - we can then get the local jobs rather than people taking them from out the area."

"We can all make a difference in being environmental friendly. Reducing my carbon footprint is particularly important to me. Having a city based campus for City of Wolverhampton College will reduce travel for not only me, but for many students. This is a great way to make the College more environmental friendly. This can really make a difference to the city - we can be part of saving the planet!"

The Council and Black Country LEP have a determined commitment to delivery evidenced by the £6.2 million that has been committed at risk to fund advanced development works which include design development, site surveys and ground investigations, site acquisition and clearance. Planning consents and permissions have been granted and are in place with all pre-development commencement conditions discharged.

CLQ is a 'shovel ready' deliverable scheme that needs a further £45.4 million funding to be implemented. If the funding applications for the Levelling Up Fund and FECTF are ratified and approved, then the £45.4 million match funded investment will enable the CLQ to be fully funded and immediately commence as soon as the decisions are confirmed.



MALCOLM COWGILL
Principal and Chief Executive,
City of Wolverhampton College

Letter of support: Mayor of the West Midlands

Colleagues, I am writing to you to provide my strong advocacy and support for the City of Wolverhampton Council's £20 million bid to the Levelling Up Fund for the vital City Learning Quarter (CLQ).

This much-needed investment will deliver an outstanding, new city centre learning hub combining the College, Adult Education facilities and Library on a single site adjacent to the city's brand new, award-winning transport Interchange.

The CLQ strategic investment case demonstrates levelling-up in action. It builds upon existing infrastructure investment and will, most importantly, help tackle economic inequality by boosting skills levels, work opportunities, pay, as well as the health and life chances of its citizens. CLQ also enjoys a central location, accessible by multiple public transport modes and served by a network of footways and cycle routes. This will promote more sustainable travel, encouraging more people from our most deprived communities to enrol in education.

WMCA supports the City of Wolverhampton College's Technical Centre (CoWTechC) – a key part of the wider CLQ programme. This will help us grow a vital STEM Centre of Excellence to drive high-level technical skills in advanced engineering and electric vehicle maintenance and repair. This will help to prepare our region for the Government's cessation of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030, as well as helping our own region meet its 2041 net zero target.

CLQ is aligned to WMCA's Strategic and Inclusive Growth Objectives and will help to create a healthier, happier, better-connected and more prosperous West Midlands.

I look forward to a positive outcome that will enable CLQ to proceed.



Part 1

Gateway Criteria

Failure to meet the criteria below will result in an application not being taken forward in this funding round

1a

Gateway Criteria for **all bids**

Please tick the box to confirm that your bid includes plans for some LUF expenditure in 2021-22



YES



NO

Please ensure that you evidenced this in the financial case / profile.

1b

Gateway Criteria for private and third sector organisations in **Northern Ireland bids only**

(i) Please confirm that you have attached last two years of audited accounts.



YES



NO



N/A

(ii) **Northern Ireland bids only** Please provide evidence of the delivery team having experience of delivering two capital projects of similar size and scale in the last five years. (Limit 250 words)



YES



NO



N/A

Part 2

Equality and Diversity Analysis

2a

Please describe how equalities impacts of your proposal have been considered, the relevant affected groups based on protected characteristics, and any measures you propose to implement in response to these impacts.
(500 words)

City Learning Quarter (CLQ) will be fully accessible and inclusive to all individuals meeting requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. Benefits to protected characteristics will be monitored and groups not accessing facilities identified.

Age

CLQ includes an all-age facility intended for the whole community from young families through to elderly at Central Library, education provision for post-16 and adults at the College and adults in Adult Education. CLQ has been designed to support personalisation in education, ensuring individuals receive services that are respectful, effective and accessible. This will include ensuring services are appropriate to all while also ensuring individuals can enjoy social and support provision that respect their needs and preferences, services are appropriate to all whilst ensuring individuals can enjoy social and support provision that respect their needs and preferences. Within the College, all students have equal access to Refectory, Student Support Hub including Safeguarding and Counselling Teams and Student Study Hub (Learning Resource Centre). Social and support hubs have been established for sixth formers, apprenticeships and those enrolled for Higher Education qualifications.

Disability

CLQ includes a Changing Places facility for people with disabilities and their carers. Fully flexible teaching and learning provision includes science labs with adjustable work benches. Wayfinding will ensure easy and safe movement throughout the facilities for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Dropping off facilities in Old Hall Street provide direct access into the College, Adult Education and Central Library, a call facility at the dropping off area will alert security if support is needed. In-class support related to Education, Health and Care Plans and individual access arrangements will be provided as required.

Gender Reassignment, Sex and Sexual Orientation

Hygiene arrangements at the Paget Road campus are not fit for purpose - gender separation of toilet and washing facilities with urinals in open areas of male toilets and sanitary bins only available in female toilets are not suitable for those who do not identify with gender stereotypes. The College campus at CLQ has a wide-ranging provision with most toilets designed to be non-gender specific with washbasins in the cubicle and no communal area. Gender specific toilets with washbasins in a communal area for those who prefer will be provided. The need for

When authorities submit a bid for funding to the UKG, as part of the Government's commitment to greater openness in the public sector under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, they must also publish a version excluding any commercially sensitive information on their own website within five working days of the announcement of successful bids by UKG. UKG reserves the right to deem the bid as non-compliant if this is not adhered to.

Please specify the weblink where this bid will be published:

www.wolverhampton.gov.uk

neutral gender toilets and facilities was identified in the annual survey of students.

Marriage and Civil partnership

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010.

Pregnancy and Maternity,

CLQ includes changing facilities for parents and carers with small children. Staff will continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010.

Race, Religion or Belief

CLQ College campus includes a Reflection Room for prayer or quiet time for individuals or small groups of faith and refectory meals will meet all dietary needs. Though in the city centre, students will be able to find all their daily needs met within the safeguarded area – specifically requested by a group of female Muslim students who prefer not to leave the College environment during their working day.

Part 3

Bid Summary

3a Please specify the type of bid you are submitting



SINGLE BID (ONE PROJECT)



PACKAGE BID (UP TO 3 MULTIPLE COMPLIMENTARY PROJECTS)

3b

Please provide an overview of the bid proposal. Where bids have multiple components (package bids) you should clearly explain how the component elements are aligned with each other and represent a coherent set of interventions (Limit 500 words).

City Learning Quarter (CLQ) will create an outstanding, efficient and sustainable city centre learning environment comprising new and refurbished education / learning space near the city's transport hub. CLQ will enable co-location of:

1. City Centre College Campus
2. Modernised, reconfigured and accessible Central Library
3. Centralised and expanded Adult Education provision

CLQ will become an integral part of future citywide education and skills delivery ensuring lifelong learning is provided via accessible state-of-the-art premises. It will deliver modern and flexible spaces to support learning and civic participation for people of all ages and backgrounds ensuring future vitality of Library and Adult Education provision. CLQ will help unlock plans for a city-wide collaborative commissioning model of Post 16 provision meeting employer and learner demands enabling further opportunities for joined up curriculum planning.

CLQ will boost economic growth through improving visual amenity, increasing city centre footfall, generating local spend as well as increasing skill levels to meet current and future employers' skill requirements, supporting advancement of key growth sectors and helping to close the productivity gap. CLQ will contribute to acceleration of placemaking regeneration underway as part of Wolverhampton's Relight Recovery Commitment.

Major CLQ benefits include:

- City Centre / High Street Regeneration:**
 CLQ will stimulate additional vibrancy and footfall as a result of capital investment in key public buildings, which will serve to provide and showcase enhanced learning opportunities, create (through the combined learning facilities) additional and extended hours footfall supporting local spend, with the College campus generating additional footfall of 3,922 learners per year and Adult Education bringing circa 100 learners into the city centre. A further 68,700 sqm of new commercial development opportunities will be stimulated in CLQ surrounds which will contribute to city centre repurposing and aiding its transition from core retail to more mixed and sustainable uses.
- Education, Skills and Employment:**
 education and learning provision lies at the heart of skills and productivity challenges. CLQ will create 13,550sqm new and refurbished fit-for-purpose education and learning space, enable delivery of 10,900 additional qualifications over 10 years providing a future supply of skills to support business growth. CLQ will support learning opportunities focused on 16 out of 20 highest growth industry sectors in the local economy. Furthermore, College, Adult Education and Library co-location enables joined up and expanded post 16 curriculum provision, improving the learning offer to the community which will help close a key element of the productivity gap – skills – whilst making residents more employable.
- Sustainability and growth of the College:**
 CLQ will replace the out-of-the-way, not fit-for-purpose College facilities at Paget Road with modern, accessible city centre facilities, refreshing and consolidating the learning offer, reversing downward trends in further education engagement, driving attainment rate improvements and increasing labour productivity outcomes.
- Housing and further developments**
 The release of multiple sites will enable future provision of potentially 106 to 214 dwellings at Paget Road and Beckminster contributing towards local housing supply, 2,350 sqm of potential retail-led development at the Maltings and 68,700 sqm commercial development surrounding CLQ.

3c

Please set out the value of capital grant being requested from UK Government (UKG) (£). This should align with the financial case:

£20M

3d

Please specify the proportion of funding requested for each of the Fund's three investment themes

96%	4%	0%
Regeneration and town centre	Cultural	Transport

Part 4 Strategic Fit

4.1

Member of Parliament Endorsement (GB Only)

See technical note section 5 for Role of MP in bidding and Table 1 for further guidance.

4.1a

Have any MPs formally endorsed this bid?

If so confirm name and constituency. Please ensure you have attached the MP's endorsement letter.



STUART ANDERSON
MP for Wolverhampton South West

YES NO

This bid is supported by MP for Wolverhampton South West, **Stuart Anderson.**

Please see letter of support (pg 4).

The CLQ Programme enjoys the support of Black Country LEP, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Council Members, the Leader, Key Cabinet Members and wider stakeholders. The final Business Case and the Funding Strategy for the CLQ Programme was approved by Council's Cabinet on 31st July 2019. At this meeting Cabinet also agreed that the Council will lead and co-ordinate external funding bids on behalf of the College to deliver the CLQ Programme. This bid is also endorsed by City of Wolverhampton College and West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street and their letters of support are attached.

86% Senior managers/directors/sole traders very supportive of a city centre campus

4.2

Stakeholder Engagement and Support
See technical note Table 1 for further guidance.

4.2a

Describe what engagement you have undertaken with local stakeholders and the community (communities, civic society, private sector and local businesses) to inform your bid and what support you have from them. (Limit 500 words)

Extensive engagement with businesses, adjoining landowners, employers, College and Adult Education students / staff and Library users /staff have shaped CLQ. A Stakeholder Management / Communications Plan identified communication approach, form and timing ensuring stakeholders are kept informed / involved. There is ongoing dialogue with Black Country LEP, Black Country Further Education Area Review, West Midlands Further Education Skills and Productivity Group, WMCA, LocatED (Arms-Length Body to the Department for Education) and ESFA Transaction Unit who all support CLQ.



Canvass of Employers

The College commissioned a qualitative survey of employers (including national and local businesses and social enterprises) as part of the Feasibility Study. 86% of Senior managers/directors/sole traders were very supportive of a city centre campus. The remaining had no opinion either way.

Advantages:

- improved accessibility for employees/learners of a city centre location (89%);
- upgrading facilities /equipment (79%);
- delivering more courses out of hours (68%);
- learners having greater access to Wolverhampton's community / commercial centres;
- college co-location with other learning-related facilities;
- regeneration of Wolverhampton;
- improved College profile / status with increased volume/quality for students and apprentices.

Downside:

Loss of college-based parking however local businesses indicated a strong preference to see skills and apprenticeship provision placed more conveniently in the city centre.

Ongoing business engagement will ensure education provision remains relevant to the skills businesses need locally.

Design Team - Employer Engagement

A follow-up event for selected employers included latest design presentation.

- Attendees were “excited and impressed” - CLQ will blend old /new elements with outward facing facilities that “gave people reasons to visit”.
- Extended opening hours, days and weeks.
- Homage to entrepreneurial heritage.
- New build with natural green spaces and mature trees.
- Strong Green and SMART credentials.

Student Feedback

The College conducts two surveys per year. Negative comments on Paget Road include “The College needs to get knocked down and rebuilt”, “The College is great but the building needs improving”, “improve heating systems it’s cold in the classrooms, tutors are trying their best;” “The tutors and the course is really good but the College is very poor.”

2,000 students participated in the Induction Survey in 2018, that captured views on the College’s plans. 82% supported the move to new buildings and 79% to the city centre.

79% Students supported moving to city centre

A Learner Focus Group identified the primary benefits as:

- attractive modern buildings,
- good access to public transport,
- better image for the College and its students,
- address weaknesses in ICT and social learning spaces,
- improved refreshment areas, recreational / relaxation facilities.

There were some concerns about the lack of car parking.

Design Team – Student Engagement

Design Team / Faculty Heads presented the design. Students provided positive feedback on central location, modern building and facilities and improved digital experience. The main concern for some was lack of parking.

Central Library market survey

Over 500 people were engaged through externally facilitated workshops, an online survey, email and social media with overwhelming support for continued role for Central Library.

College Student Engagement During Lockdown

Online teaching / pastoral support | surveys | Virtual presentations on CLQ plans

4.2b

Are any aspects of your proposal controversial or not supported by the whole community? Please provide a brief summary, including any campaigns or particular groups in support or opposition? (Limit 250 words)

The proposal will enable the College to relocate curriculum delivery to the city centre and to vacate the current Paget Road site. This will release a valuable suburban brownfield site that is suited to the development of at least 90 family homes and help to reduce the housing deficit, as well as reduce traffic congestion and pedestrian safety concerns created by the 6 separate educational facilities currently in this location. While important in reducing the housing shortage, such developments can create controversy among the immediate neighbours to the sites who may have concerns regarding the density of development and adequate green open space provision. However, in bringing this site forward for new homes the project will contribute to sustainable development by meeting local housing needs within the city’s built up area and thus reducing the pressure for edge of city development or greenfield sites development in the wider sub region.

The loss of car parking was raised by both businesses and students in the consultation, however the accessibility of CLQ which is situated in close proximity to the city’s transport infrastructure will mitigate this issue, promote greater participation in learning and bring wider community benefits.

4.2c

Where the bidding local authority does not have the statutory responsibility for the delivery of projects, have you appended a letter from the responsible authority or body confirming their support?

YES
 NO
 N/A

For Northern Ireland transport bids, have you appended a letter of support from the relevant district council

YES
 NO
 N/A

4.3

The Case for Investment
See technical note Table 1 for further guidance.

4.3a

Please provide evidence of the local challenges/barriers to growth and context that the bid is seeking to respond to. (Limit 500 words)

Wolverhampton, one of UK's top ten growing economies, is a key economic driver but faces numerous challenges further exacerbated by Covid. CLQ will help alleviate these through regeneration, skills improvement in growth sectors, enhancing people's employment prospects whilst protecting a key heritage asset and contributing towards the city's zero carbon initiative.

City Centre / High Street Regeneration

Even pre COVID, Wolverhampton was experiencing steady decline with falling footfall levels (2% between 2017 and 2018), increasing vacancies (14% city centre increasing to 30% in fringe areas) and a poor retail offer with areas feeling disconnected from each other (Regeneris June 2018). CLQ will enhance the townscape creating a 'magnet' drawing people back into the city daytime and evening generating footfall and spend as Covid restrictions ease.

Low Skills, Achievement, Income High Unemployment and productivity gap:

Wolverhampton's productivity gap is below national average (GVA per filled job of £41,220 compared to £57,266 in England), partially due to widening skills and employment gap.

Skills levels are low - 12.3% of residents have no qualifications (8.2% WMCA and 6.4% England), lower higher-level qualifications - only 48% have NVQ3 (56.8% WMCA and 61.4% England) and only 31.5% have NVQ4 vs 43.1% England (APS 2020). A higher proportion of Wolverhampton's workforce are in elementary occupations with wages 17.8% lower than the national average.

Wolverhampton's **unemployment** claimant count is 10.3%, (England's 7th highest claimant rate). Youth unemployment is also high at 15.1% (UK's 5th highest for 18-24-year olds).

A highly skilled labour force is essential for economic growth with people and skills a key driver of productivity and increasing earning power. Wolverhampton's 2016 Skills and Employment Commission local employer survey highlighted the 'skills deficit' and Wolverhampton's residents were

not competing for employment opportunities. Growth in higher level jobs (level 4 NVQ+) is expected, action is needed so residents are not left further behind and unemployment does not rise further.

CLQ will benefit over 15,000 learners and apprentices aligned to employment growth sectors over the next decade improving skills, helping to tackle unemployment increasing productivity, safeguarding 750 jobs and generating 1,500 additional indirect jobs in the wider economy.

College/Adult Education/Library Sustainability

Paget Road facilities are outdated / not-fit-for-purpose, making them unattractive to potential students. The existing location experiences high peak time congestion levels and multiple public transport changes exacerbating its unpopularity. This hampers the College's ability to respond to business needs and attract students undermining its finances and long-term sustainability.

CLQ will create an accessible, appealing, modern learning environment, which will safeguard the College's future viability. 'Evaluation of the Impact of Capital Expenditure in FE Colleges' (2012) demonstrates that for every £1 million of capital expenditure invested in new facilities will drive between 62 and 86 additional learners per year.

The Grade II listed Library building requires investment and digital capabilities to meet current / future user needs. Adult Education is spread across several buildings in variable states of repair. Building improvements and integration within CLQ will promote collaboration and safeguard future sustainability of these key facilities.

4.3b

Explain why Government investment is needed (what is the market failure)? (Limit 250 words)

The Council and LEP have committed over £6m enabling design delivery and advanced development works leaving a £45.4m funding gap which cannot be met by the College / other parties. Funding is sought from LUF (£20m) and Further Education Capital Transformation Fund (FECTF) (£25.4m) to deliver this ambitious shovel ready scheme. FECTF assist FE institutions to refurbish existing buildings on wholly owned campus sites so College refurbishment / new build works only are eligible. LUF is required to implement Adult Education and Library improvements, integral to CLQ that cannot be funded by FECTF.

Total investment of £51.5m will deliver £233m GVA, significant skills improvement, jobs and economic benefits providing a catalyst for regeneration. Including monetised impacts, Benefit Cost Ratio is 4:1 (for every £1 invested, additional £4 is delivered in economic benefits) demonstrating excellent potential investment returns.

CLQ will help **address the declining high street** by readjusting the balance from retail to mixed use, increasing vibrancy and footfall, stimulating investment, reducing reliance on retail. Investment in this underdeveloped location, close to public transport and retail, increase economic activity, acting as a focal point for learning, changing perceptions of Wolverhampton.

CLQ will help **address market failure in the labour market** due to skills gaps by offering accessible and relevant learning opportunities. By addressing the location, ease of access with a high quality learning environment, it will reverse the decline in FE take-up and become a consolidated, accessible learning Hub supporting economic growth so badly needed in the area.

4.3c

Please set out a clear explanation on what you are proposing to invest in and why the proposed interventions in the bid will address those challenges and barriers with evidence to support that explanation. As part of this, we would expect to understand the rationale for the location. (Limit 500 words)

LUF will invest in CLQ, a city centre campus for the City of Wolverhampton College, a modernised and accessible Central Library and consolidated Adult Education Centre, providing lifelong learning in accessible state of the art premises. It will address challenges/barriers outlined in section 4.3a:

City Centre / High Street Regeneration: CLQ will bring together the currently dispersed College and Adult Education offer generating additional annual footfall of 3,922 learners and enticing more users with enhanced Library and Adult Education offer.

Additional footfall and local spend will create an immediate economic boost to local businesses accelerating development in neighbouring sites, encouraging re-occupation of empty shops and buildings increasing rental and property values. CLQ will release multiple sites for future development including up to 214 dwellings at Paget Road and Beckminster, potentially 2,350sqm retail led development at the Maltings and accelerating 68,700sqm commercial development surrounding CLQ.

Education, Skills and Employment: CLQ will create 13,550 sqm new and refurbished education and learning fit-for-purpose space, enabling delivery of 10,900 additional qualifications over 10 years playing a key role in increasing skill levels and employability. The College curriculum provision is heavily influenced by local employers and therefore offers a pathway into local employment opportunities including learning opportunities for 16 of the 20 highest growth sectors supporting business growth.

The CLQ comprises of new build, refurbished and restored listed buildings that will house the College, Adult Education Centre and Central Library, offering social, technical and academic education in one city centre campus. New accessible educational pathways will take people from low skills / low aspirations to higher value jobs and higher educational attainment. CLQ will create 3,624 apprenticeships over 5 years, increasing skills and providing employers with an attractive venue for apprentices to receive off-the-job training and essential skills support.

Sustainability and growth of the College:

Paget Road is inaccessible, unsuitable and time expired. Its replacement with a new accessible central facility supports delivery of a refreshed, consolidated learning offer to reverse current downward trends in FE engagement, driving improvements in attainment rates increasing labour productivity outcomes, and ensuring a sustainable future for the College. The central location with excellent transport links will make it easier for more individuals to enrol and upskill.

The location **rationale** is driven by local businesses preference for city centre skills and apprenticeship provision. Several strategic studies concluded that the proposed location is optimal due to the proximity to Wolverhampton Interchange, so students and apprentices benefit from improved tram, train and bus connectivity with local businesses benefiting from reduced down time for apprentices attending the College. CLQ enables building efficiencies / spatial requirements to be rationalised whilst improving delivery and quality of academic and technical education, skills and experience.

It enables Adult Education consolidation to a user-friendly campus site, with modern facilities and improved access removing barriers of enrolment, improving the 'learner experience' leading to increased attainment.

It safeguards and integrates a sustainable Grade 2* listed central library within CLQ supporting learners to improve their life skills and employment prospects.

4.3d

For Transport Bids: Have you provided an Option Assessment Report (OAR)

YES
 NO
 N/A

4.3e

Please explain how you will deliver the outputs and confirm how results are likely to flow from the interventions. This should be demonstrated through a well-evidenced Theory of Change. Further guidance on producing a Theory of Change can be found within HM Treasury's Magenta Book (page 24, section 2.2.1) and MHCLG's appraisal guidance. (Limit 500 words)


Set out planned outputs and outcomes, how you will deliver the outputs and confirms these results are likely to flow from the interventions. Bidders may wish to refer to annex B, which provides an illustrative summary of the outputs and outcome indicators based on likely interventions that fall within the scope of this fund

Theory of Change illustrates how CLQ outputs / outcomes will flow from interventions:

Problem Statement













To develop a new City Learning Quarter supporting city centre / High Street Regeneration, addressing low skills, high unemployment and productivity gap ensuring sustainable learning and skills provision.

Inputs		Activities	Outputs	
<p>£51.5m funding (including £20m LUF) Assembled site - 1 hectare Building contract</p>		<p>Project Management (physical / financial progress monitoring) Construction new / refurbished College, Adult Education and Library.</p>	<p>13,550 sqm new / improved learning space in new / renovated buildings 366 College Jobs Safeguarded 51 College jobs created</p>	
Short-Term Outcomes		Mid-Term Outcomes	Long-Term Outcomes Over 10 years:	
<p>Annually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,922 additional learners in city centre 970 events in library and college 20 Library volunteering opportunities <p>745 net additional jobs created and safeguarded in the local economy</p> <p>Digital enablement</p> <p>Reduced congestion and CO₂ emissions and NOX</p>		<p>Reverse decline and increase FE enrolments</p> <p>Increased Apprentice participation</p> <p>Increase footfall and local spend</p> <p>Reduced vacancy levels</p> <p>Release 13,450sqm land for housing and 2,350sqm retail development</p> <p>Modal shift to public transport results in local highway efficiency improvements</p>	<p>10,900 qualifications</p> <p>7,539 Apprenticeships</p> <p>115 Business assists</p> <p>44,961 Learner Assists</p> <p>Vibrant city centre increased unit occupancy stimulating wider regeneration 68,700 sqm commercial development – increased business rates</p> <p>106-214 houses</p> <p>Economic Benefit GVA £233m by 2040</p>	

Impact  City Centre / High Street Regeneration, higher skills levels, lower unemployment and reduced productivity gaps

Outputs

Assumptions (Genecon EIA 2019)

 <p>Jobs directly created</p> <h1>51</h1> <p>More teaching / non-teaching staff delivering increased courses. Construction Jobs created.</p>	 <p>Jobs directly safeguarded</p> <h1>366</h1> <p>Existing Paget Road College viability threatened by falling student numbers which may result in closure and significant job losses.</p>	 <p>Jobs created, safeguarded and accelerated in the local economy</p> <h1>745</h1> <p>Additional local labour market employment and productivity gains, arising from benefits to businesses and wage premiums through enhanced skill levels.</p>	 <p>Learners assisted (Year 10)</p> <h1>44,961</h1> <p>The College / Adult Education will deliver more courses, increase class sizes meeting demand.</p>	 <p>Benefit Cost Ratio</p> <h1>4:1</h1> <p>Updated in accordance with HMT current Green Book guidance by Consultants Amion (2021) with reference to above benefits and project cost of £51.5m. This will be monitored throughout the project.</p>
 <p>Area of sites regenerated</p> <h1>1ha</h1> <p>Area constructed, refurbished and landscaped.</p>	<p>Apprenticeship starts (Year 10)</p>  <h1>7,539</h1> <p>CLQ will address existing poor location / outdated facilities which act as a deterrent to apprentice enrolment.</p>	<p>Business assists (Year 10)</p>  <h1>115</h1> <p>Support to small enterprises for work-based placements amounting to non-financial support of minimum 12 hours.</p>	<p>CO2 not released</p>  <h1>630t</h1> <p>Current emissions from heating and lighting in current buildings compared to new and refurbished buildings at CLQ.</p>	
 <p>Economic benefit (GVA)</p> <h1>£233m</h1> <p>Workplace-based GVA per job metrics to assess potential GVA effects. Net Present Value (NPV) of GVA applied the Treasury's annual discount rate of 3.5% to account for social time preference.</p>	<p>Training / learning floorspace</p>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h1>3,339sqm</h1> <p>Refurbished</p> <p>Area of refurbishment for College and Adult Education.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h1>7,503sqm</h1> <p>New build</p> <p>Area of new build for the College.</p> </div> </div>		 <p>Homes created</p> <h1>106-214</h1> <p>Dwellings</p> <p>Paget Road and Maltings disposal will enable residential development.</p>	

4.4

Alignment with the local and national context

See technical note Table 1 for further guidance.

4.4a

Explain how your bid aligns to and supports relevant local strategies (such as Local Plans, local economic strategies or Local Transport Plans) and local objectives for investment, improving infrastructure and levelling up. (Limit 500 words)

CLQ is wholly aligned with all local and regional plans and strategies therefore it is the council's priority project. CLQ will significantly contribute to the Council's Relight Recovery Plan by stimulating learning and economic activity, aiding the city centre's transition away from retail, increasing footfall and vibrancy.

CLQ provides increased accessibility to learning, apprenticeships, employment opportunities for students, employers and residents contributing to Wolverhampton's New Horizon 2030 Vision that sets out the ambition to ensure that the city centre has 'a skills system which responds to the needs of employers' and is integral to the vision to create 'a vibrant, walkable, attractive, family-friendly city centre full of opportunity and potential'.

CLQ will refresh, re-provide and modernise the city's learning offer, consolidating post-16, adult education and library services. This will improve learning opportunities in line with objectives of the city's Skills and Employment action plan. CLQ will have an integral strategic role across Wolverhampton's regeneration plans and is at the heart of a city-wide

education strategy consolidating post-16, adult education and library services within the Royal and St Georges Growth Zone. "Learning City" is one of three programmes within the Skills and Employment Action Plan which includes a proposal to develop the CLQ for enhanced educational purposes.

CLQ is a Priority action to deliver a vibrant city centre within Wolverhampton's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) (2019-2024) aimed at creating the conditions to deliver inclusive growth. CLQ is highlighted within the City Centre Investment Prospectus (2019) which further confirms the 10-year vision and plan for growth in the city centre.

CLQ contributes to all four growth objectives of Black Country SEP: increase number of new jobs (51 direct jobs created at the College and 366 safeguarded), new homes (release 13,450 sqm redundant space land for housing), 115 business assists and learner assists to increase skills levels (3,922 learners per year). It also contributes to themes and strategic programmes including improved sites and premises (13,550 sqm of new and refurbished college/adult ed/library education and learning offer), upskilling, development of a skilled workforce and supply chain (16 out of 20 growth areas), housing deficit (releasing land for housing) and environmental objectives.

CLQ supports WMCA SEP objectives and priority actions including economic growth, employment and

skills and skills for growth by addressing the productivity gap in relation to increasing skills levels and employability and providing training in growth areas.

CLQ also responds to Transformational and Enabling sectors identified in both WMCA and BCLEP SEP delivering major investment in Skills Capital.

CLQ supports National Growth Ambitions in the UK Industrial Strategy by investing in skills, recognising the role of skills and improved attainment in driving economic growth and productivity, including the ability to offer skills needed for future jobs. It also supports the UK Post 16 Skills Plan through a shift towards technical education offered through the new College offer including providing higher level qualifications in priority sectors responding to market demand resulting from stronger collaboration with employers addressing specific regional skills needs.

4.4b

Explain how the bid aligns to and supports the UK Government policy objectives, legal and statutory commitments, such as delivering Net Zero carbon emissions and improving air quality. Bids for transport projects in particular should clearly explain their carbon benefits. (Limit 250 words)

CLQ will support the Government's Net Zero ambitions and clean growth principle by achieving:

- Carbon emissions savings resulting from heating and lighting by replacing the Paget Road campus (16,553m²) with smaller / efficient new buildings (combined floor area 12,595m²).
- Potential carbon emissions reduction through area rationalisation, new energy efficient buildings / LED lighting.

- Emission Savings through traffic, mileage and private car use reduction due to CLQ's proximity to Interchange, with students /staff switching to public transport, cycling and walking. Travel Surveys (2018) predicted savings of approximately 207 daily car trips / 4246 km.

The Council and the city has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2028 and 2041 respectively. The College is reviewing its Sustainable Development Policy with the aspiration to commit to carbon neutrality by 2041.

Like many cities, Wolverhampton faces a clean air challenge with emissions from vehicular traffic arguably exacerbated by older and more polluting vehicles increasing pollutant levels. The Council Leader declared a climate emergency on July 2019 to address carbon reduction and climate challenges.

CLQ contributes to the Skills for Jobs White Paper (reshaping the technical skills system to support local labour market / wider economy needs).

CLQ aligns with FE Campus Development replacing a poor, unattractive, inaccessible campus with a new campus.

In enhancing the Central Library, CWC is fulfilling its statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. The Secretary of State for DCMS will fulfil their duty to 'promote the improvement of the public library service in England'.

4.4c

Where applicable explain how the bid complements / or aligns to and supports other investments from different funding streams. (Limit 250 words)

CLQ is part of the College's Campus Transformation agenda (Property Strategy 2021), replacing Paget Road by creating a main campus (including upgraded Library and Adult Education) and secondary campus (CoWTechC) for advanced engineering /motor/electric vehicle training. CoWTechC is a stand-alone project, outside scope of LUF and

subject to separate WMCA funding application (currently awaiting a decision).

The Council and LEP have already committed £6.1m for advanced development works (feasibility / option appraisal, design development, site surveys, ground investigations, archaeology and cost estimation work). CLQ is development ready subject to funding confirmation with planning permission achieved, pre-development commencement conditions discharged, site assembled, cleared and procurement tender pack prepared.

On 22 March 2021 a Stage 1 Application for funding of £25.41m from FEETF was submitted and a decision (that was expected in late May 2021) is still awaited.

CLQ requires further investment of £45.4m and will be fully funded, moving to the delivery phase during 2021 / 2022 if the funding applications to LUF application (£20m) and FEETF (£25.41m) are both successful.

CLQ funding

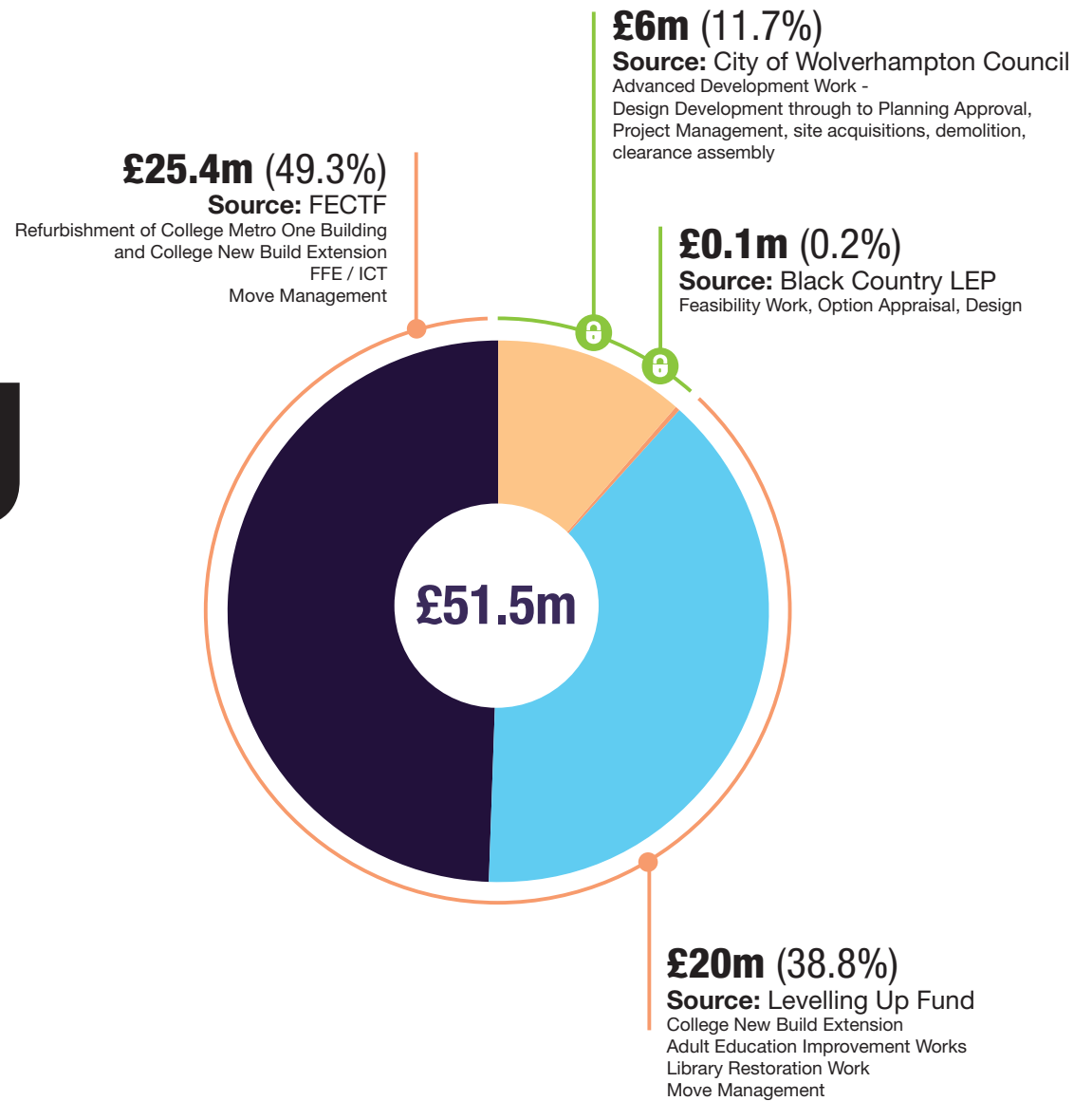
Status



Funding secured



Unsecured



4.4d

Please explain how the bid aligns to and supports the Government's expectation that all local road projects will deliver or improve cycling and walking infrastructure and include bus priority measures (unless it can be shown that there is little or no need to do so). Cycling elements of proposals should follow the Government's cycling design guidance which sets out the standards required. (Limit 250 words)

CLQ is at the heart of the public transport network and accessible by multiple public transport modes. It is immediately adjacent to the metro stop with bus stops opposite. The Interchange (Railway and Bus Stations) is a 5 minute walk away and with dedicated walkways and signage.

The College provides secure bicycle storage facilities at Paget Road. At CLQ these will be enhanced in the expectation of increased demand. A recent survey (June 2021) identified 33% of students said they would change their mode of transport if the campus moved to the city centre, favouring public transport and cycling.

Several new cycle stores will be located across the CLQ site. These will enable up to 94 bicycles to be stored at any one time.

CLQ is in a more accessible location than Paget Road with direct access to the walking trails and a network of existing cycle paths / routes in its surroundings.

The project promotes opportunities for cycling and walking between its main CLQ and secondary Wellington Road campus. This includes improved access and connectivity by tram for College students and staff travelling between CLQ city centre and its secondary Bilston Campus and the provision of cycle and walking routes with off-road cycling along the A41 towards the Wellington Road campus and Bilston, with a "quiet roads" route also connecting to East Park and Horseley Fields.

Part 5

Value for Money

5.1 Appropriateness of data sources and evidence

See technical note Annex B and Table 1 for further guidance.

All costs and benefits must be compliant or in line with HMT's Green Book, DfT Transport Analysis Guidance and MHCLG Appraisal Guidance.

5.1a

Please use up to date evidence to demonstrate the scale and significance of local problems and issues. (Limit 250 words)

Struggling high street: Even prior to COVID, Wolverhampton city centre was struggling with falling footfall levels (2% between 2017 and 2018), increasing levels of vacancies (14% across the city centre increasing to 30% in fringe areas) and poor retail offer (Regeneris June 2018). In September 2019 average unit vacancy rates were 18.6% compared to a PROMIS average of 14%. Between October 2019 and July 2020, average vacancy rates remained high for retail (9.6%), offices (25.2%) and leisure (6.7%).

Wolverhampton **productivity gap** as evidenced by GVA per capital of £18,837 compared to £28,096 England, due to 46% economy residual, 34% skills, 20% jobs. Current productivity rates (GVA per filled job) is £41,220 and declining compared with national average of £57,266.

GVA per filled job in the Black Country and England				
	2017	2018	Change	% Change
Dudley	£43,444	£45,241	£1,797	4.1%
Sandwell	£44,048	£48,724	£4,676	10.6%
Walsall	£40,846	£39,292	-£1,554	-3.8%
Wolverhampton	£43,544	£41,220	-£2,325	-5.3%
Black Country	£43,005	£43,808	£803	1.9%
England	£56,239	£57,266	£1,027	1.8%

Source: ONS, Subregional productivity in the UK: February 2020 - released 28 February 2020

Qualifications (Jan 2020 - Dec 2020)

	Wolverhampton Level	%	West Midlands %	Great Britain %
NVQ4 and above	51,000	31.5	37.1	43.1
NVQ3 and above	77,500	48.0	56.8	61.4
NVQ2 and above	108,500	67.1	75.1	78.2
NVQ1 and above	124,000	76.7	85.4	87.9
Other qualifications	17,800	11.0	6.5	5.7
No qualifications	19,900	12.3	8.2	6.4

Source: ONS annual population survey. Numbers are % of those aged 16-64. % is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64

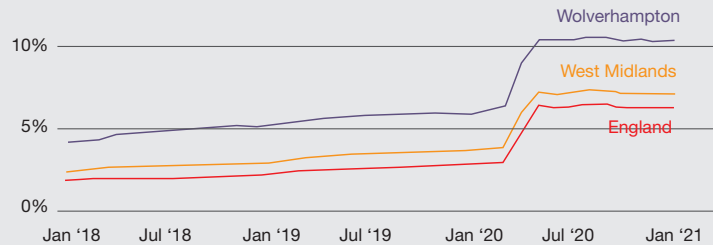
Skill levels

Skills levels are low with 12.3% of Wolverhampton residents (just under double national averages) having no qualifications (8.2% WM, 6.4% in England) and lower higher-level qualifications - 48% having NVQ3 (61.4% England, 56.8% WM) and only 31.5% having NVQ4 (43.1% England) (ONS APS). A higher proportion of Wolverhampton's workforce are in elementary occupations with wages 17.8% lower than national average.

General unemployment

The region is expecting growth in higher level jobs at level 4, so without action, residents will be left further behind and unemployment could rise further. Unemployment (16-64) is 10.6% (April 2021), the 7th highest in England. Over the past 12 months, Wolverhampton has seen an increase of 2,530 claimants, a percentage increase of 17%.

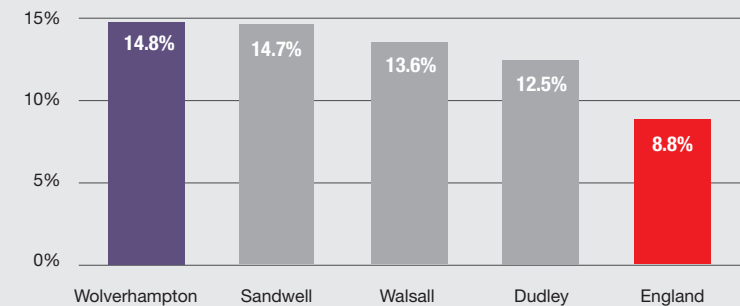
Recent Trends in unemployment amongst 16-64 year olds



Youth Unemployment

Youth unemployment (18-24) is 15.1% (9% England), the fifth highest in England (NOMIS April 2021)

Aged 18 to 24 unemployment in the Black Country



5.1b

Bids should demonstrate the quality assurance of data analysis and evidence for explaining the scale and significance of local problems and issues. Please demonstrate how any data, surveys and evidence is robust, up to date and unbiased. (Limit 500 words)

Data has predominantly been sourced from national data including ONS and NOMIS via the Council's Insight and Performance team and WV Insight, the Council's one stop shop for all the City of Wolverhampton's vital data, statistics and reports providing a comprehensive picture of the city and creating a platform for useful facts and figures

Data	Source
Footfall and vacancy data	Wolverhampton Westside Link Economic Appraisal Regeneris June 2018
Average vacancy rate	Sqwyre.com commercial location data aggregations for England and Wales as of July 2020 (whythawk.com)
Productivity Gap – GVA per filled jobs	ONS sub-regional productivity in the UK published February 2020 for 2018 sourced from Black Country Consortium release BCC Intelligence in February 2020 on GVA per hour worked and per filled job using 'unsmoothed' figures.
Low skills levels	Qualifications published on NOMIS (up to Dec 2020)
Unemployment claimant count for Wolverhampton (working age 16-64 and youth 18-24 group)	April 2021 from May 2021 release on NOMIS (updated monthly)

5.1c

Please demonstrate that data and evidence chosen is appropriate to the area of influence of the interventions. (Limit 250 words)

CLQ has a citywide area of influence but the advantage of its central location makes it more accessible to learners from deprived areas, public transport users and city centre stakeholders. There will be benefits to the urban form on site and immediate vicinity and learner, employment and economic benefits will apply to the city and wider region.

The data and evidence was chosen to reflect key challenges outlined in 4.3a and impact outlined in 4.3c above.

City Wide

CLQ will impact on both Wolverhampton and Black Country in terms of economic impact therefore evidence relating to GVA, skills levels and unemployment are considered at Wolverhampton level. Local unemployment and other economic data are drawn from WV Insights reports using NOMIS and APS as sources.

City Centre

Data relating to footfall and vacancies is captured at city centre level in recognition that CLQ's impact on footfall from the additional learners attracted in the city will impact within the city centre.

5.2

Effectiveness of proposal in addressing problems

5.2a

Please provide analysis and evidence to demonstrate how the proposal will address existing or anticipated future problems. Quantifiable impacts should usually be forecasted using a suitable model. (Limit 500 words)

An Economic Impact Assessment was originally undertaken in 2019 by consultant (Genecon) to quantify the anticipated impact of CLQ, which was conditioned where appropriate in line with the 'Green book'. This report was subsequently reviewed by Amion Consultants in June 2021 to provide an updated BCR score in line with HMT Green Book. The BCR will continue to be regularly reviewed throughout the project's lifetime.

CLQ will generate impacts on labour market and economic performance in Wolverhampton and the Black Country. Alongside the economic effects of direct capital and operational investment in CLQ itself, there will be additional employment and productivity gains within the local labour market, generated through associated indirect and induced economic effects arising from benefits to local businesses and wage premiums achieved through enhanced skill levels. Wider scheme benefits include the potential for accelerated regeneration opportunities, stimulating further jobs capacity, uplifts in residential land values and improved amenity impacts to new sports provision and ongoing local volunteering opportunities.

Education delivery assets lie at the heart of addressing skills and productivity challenges nationally and locally and there are clear advantages

from ensuring that provision is (a) easily accessed, (b) located in modern facilities and (c) focused on key growth sectors.

CLQ will enable the delivery of around 10,900 additional new qualifications over the first 10 years of operation, ensuring a ready supply of future workforce skills locally. Alongside ensuring a wider learning and participation offer for local communities, CLQ will ensure the continuation and qualitative shift in skills delivery, thereby generating and safeguarding significant economic benefits locally and across the Black Country.

It is estimated that the refreshed and consolidated College, Adult Education and Library provision could safeguard and generate a total of 745 net additional FTE jobs in the Black Country and accelerate and catalyse the delivery of around 1,530 further net additional jobs within the city.

The projected direct, indirect and induced employment gains arising from CLQ will generate and safeguard significant levels of GVA to the Black Country economy. Through CLQ construction and the first 10 years of its occupation, it is estimated that a total of around £223m in GVA (£207m at present value) could be safeguarded and generated by 2040. When including other monetised impacts, including

Land Value Uplifts, Amenity and Participation impacts, the CLQ delivers £233m (£214m NPV) of combined impacts.

In June 2021, consultants Amion, following a review of the project costs and impacts, provided an updated Benefit Cost Ratio of 4:1 which accords with HMT Green Book. This means that every £1 of public investment will generate or safeguard £4.00 of GVA in the Black Country economy which represents excellent potential investment returns.

CLQ will not only support the city and Black Country ambitions to secure a higher skilled and productive workforce, thereby improving the overall competitiveness of the economy, but the delivery of a major new city centre asset will also support the regeneration ambitions for Wolverhampton city centre, contributing to established local, sub-regional and national economic growth objectives.

Impacts Framework						
Gross and Net - Direct, Indirect, Induced Impacts						
	College	Library	Adult Learning	Paget Rd	Maltings	Beckminster
Generated Construction Job years and GVA	●	●	●	●	●	●
Generated Operational FTE Jobs and GVA	●			●	●	●
Safeguarded Operational FTE Jobs and GVA	●	●	●			
Upskilling - Generated and Safeguarded Jobs and GVA	●		●			
Volunteering Impacts - Safeguarded and Generated		●	●			
Amenity Impacts - Benefits and Disbenefits				●		
Business Support Impacts - FTE Jobs and GVA	●					
Generated Housing - Land Value Uplifts				●		●
Catalytic Impacts on Canalside Development - FTE Jobs and GVA	●	●	●	●	●	●

● Direct only ● Direct, Indirect and Induced ● Induced only

5.2b

Please describe the robustness of the forecast assumptions, methodology and model outputs. Key factors to be covered include the quality of the analysis or model (in terms of its accuracy and functionality) (Limit 500 words)

The benefits of the programme have been independently assessed by developing a bespoke Economic Benefits Model that quantifies gross and net additional (direct, indirect and induced) safeguarded, and generated employment effects of CLQ on Wolverhampton and Black Country economy and labour market. The model comparing the outcomes of the CLQ to a 'Reference Case' scenario of No CLQ or 'do nothing.' It identified economic benefits as:

- Construction effects (Generated): temporary boost to construction sector arising from capital investment in delivering CLQ and unlocked or accelerated delivery of wider developments;
- Operational effects (Generated and Safeguarded): ongoing operational employment effects of the College, Adult Education and Library;
- Learner outcomes (Generated and Safeguarded): wage premium effects for individuals achieving qualifications;
- Business Support outcomes (Generated): wider effects of business support activities delivered at CLQ;
- New Development Capacity (Generated): effects of 'freeing up' capacity for new development at the Paget Road, Beckminster and Maltings sites;
- Catalysed City Development (Accelerated): potential of the CLQ to improve viability and efficiently

delivery of wider planned regeneration activities;

- Amenity Impacts (Generated): non-market social benefits and disbenefits for delivering new sports pitch provision at Paget Road;
- Participation Impacts (Generated and Safeguarded): social value of future volunteering opportunities at the Library.

Deductions of 'No CLQ' impacts from Preferred Option has enabled an assessment of overall CLQ Scheme additionality. Alongside monetised impacts, wider economic and socio-economic benefits arising through the CLQ proposals were also considered within the impact assessment.

The following factors have been taken into account in adjusting from gross to net additional employment effects:

- **Leakage effects** - Wolverhampton has relatively high levels of inward commuting daily, with most in-commuters from the Black Country (Census 2011). Therefore we would anticipate leakage at LEP area level will be relatively low at 10%. Assessment of leakage effects has drawn on recognised benchmark guidance in Government publications.
- **Displacement** - A prudent 50% reduction has been adopted for anticipated levels of displacement among generated FTE jobs, reflecting medium levels of displacement. No displacement effects are assumed among safeguarded FTEs, as these jobs are already present and will therefore will not 'displace' jobs from elsewhere.

- **Multiplier effects** – Using Input-Output Multipliers (ONS, 2014), a range of multipliers between 1.15 and 1.35 have been used in the modelling, considering whether the downstream effects are indirect and induced (Type II Multiplier) or induced (Type II minus Type I). At the lower end, this infers that every 10 jobs generated directly would support a further 1.5 FTE jobs in the labour market. No multipliers have been included in the assessment of qualifier impacts (including additional local expenditure effects) as these wage-related impacts are already 'induced'.

The Economic Impact Assessment is currently being updated in light of the new Green Book guidance that changes the way that benefits are calculated.

The College forecast for growth is as follows:

Growth Driver	Resulting Increase in Learners
Demographic growth 16-19	303
New build attraction 16-19 and 19+	421
Improved accessibility 16-19 and 19+	140
Apprenticeships	245
Total	1109

5.3

Economic costs of proposal

5.3a

Please explain the economic costs of the bid. Costs should be consistent with the costs in the financial case, but adjusted for the economic case. This should include but not be limited to providing evidence of costs having been adjusted to an appropriate base year and that inflation has been included or taken into account. In addition, please provide detail that cost risks and uncertainty have been considered and adequately quantified. Optimism bias must also be included in the cost estimates in the economic case. (Limit 500 words)

The programme wide estimated costs were developed and frozen to create a baseline in December 2020. The base date of the estimated costs is 4th quarter 2020. Inflationary adjustment has been made within these costs to the anticipated mid-point of construction using the RICS Building Cost Information Service Indices.

The programme has been subject to regular risk reviews. Where appropriate, contingency budgets have been derived.

- Cost plans have been produced by Turner & Townsend Cost Management using benchmark construction cost data. Turner & Townsend is a leading global Project Management and Cost Management consultancy and have a proven track record in the market.
- A programme wide risk management process has been implemented. The process aims to capture potential uncertainties, understand risk according to severity, and develop mitigation plans.
- Mitigation strategies are selected on an avoid, transfer, mitigate, accept basis
- The project team have de-risked the project as much as practically possible and have included allowances within the contingencies for residual should these materialise.
- Where appropriate, risk transfer to the main contractor has been considered within the draft procurement documents
- The West Midlands Combined Authority have reviewed the processes and regarded these as exemplar/best practice.
- The programme wide risk register has been used to inform the overall programme contingency allowance included in the estimated costs.

5.4

Analysis of monetised costs and benefits

5.4a

Please describe how the economic benefits have been estimated. These must be categorised according to different impact. Depending on the nature of intervention, there could be land value uplift, air quality benefits, reduce journey times, support economic growth, support employment, or reduce carbon emissions. (Limit 750 words)

Economic benefits have been estimated through a bespoke Economic Benefits Model quantifying gross and net additional (direct, indirect and induced), safeguarded and generated employment effects, comparing outcomes under a 'Preferred Option' CLQ and 'Reference Case' No CLQ.

Construction effects:

Average turnover per job metrics for the construction sector to estimate gross direct and indirect job years supported.

Operational Impacts:

Gross operational employment effects safeguarded across existing college estate and projected uplifts in operational CLQ employment for safeguarded and generated FTE jobs.

Upskilling Impacts:

The number of qualifications awarded annually have been estimated based on small (20%) failure rate amongst enrollees.

Paget Road Campus is seeing an annual intake loss of around 5%.

Achieving higher qualifications will bring marginal uplifts in wages for qualifiers with 'wage premiums' assumed for 10 years following completion. Achievement rates have been profiled by NVQ level. Modelling of additional annual spending arising from wage uplifts are based on estimates of average marginal wage return rates by qualification from national research sources to calculate economic value of learner effects.

Adjustments have been made for expenditure leakage outside the Black Country. Applying turnover per job to enhanced expenditure projections provided an estimate of gross induced jobs as CLQ delivers new qualifiers into the labour market.

Gross and net employment impacts:

Investment in construction activities to deliver CLQ will support construction-sector employment.

CLQ would support new College FTE jobs and further gross FTEs supported in the labour market through increased spending by new qualifiers and wage premiums.

Adjustments have been made for leakage, displacement, indirect and induced multiplier effects.

Employment-related GVA Impacts:

assessment of cumulative GVA to determine effects of net employment impacts arising from CLQ. Employment impacts profiling through persistence factors and ONS GVA per job benchmarks enabled the assessment of GVA cumulatively and NPV.

Gross and Net Land Value Uplifts: Relocation will free up capacity for new housing bringing a gross and net Land Value Uplift (LVUs) in line with MHCLG Appraisal Guidance (December 2016).

VOA evidence for residential land values in Wolverhampton has been applied to estimate future land values.

To determine net additionality of gross LVUs, a displacement adjustment (-25%) has been made, reflecting 'low' displacement threshold set out in the MHCLG Appraisal Guide reflecting unmet demand for housing locally.

Profiling of current and future land values discounting in line with HMT Green Book enabled the estimates of LVUs in present value terms.

Gross Amenity Impacts:

Relocation of the College enables a portion of the site to be developed as four new sports pitches. Monetising benefits and disbenefits of land use change has drawn methodology and value estimates in MHCLG Appraisal Guide (2016) providing monetised estimate for amenity costs associated with the loss of urban fringe land and value for creation of new sports pitches.

Gross Volunteering Impacts:

The HACT database provides an annual 'non-market' value of regular participation in volunteering.

5.4b

Please complete Tab A and B on the [appended excel spreadsheet](#) to demonstrate your:

Tab A - Discounted total costs by funding source (£m)

Tab B – Discounted benefits by category (£m)

5.5

Value for money of proposal

5.5a

Please provide a summary of the overall Value for Money of the proposal. This should include reporting of Benefit Cost Ratios. If a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) has been estimated there should be a clear explanation of how this is estimated ie a methodology note. Benefit Cost Ratios should be calculated in a way that is consistent with HMT's Green Book. For non-transport bids it should be consistent with MHCLG's appraisal guidance. For bids requesting funding for transport projects this should be consistent with DfT Transport Analysis Guidance. (Limit 500 words)

CLQ will enable the delivery of around 10,900 additional new qualifications over the first 10 years of operation, ensuring a ready supply of future workforce skills locally. Alongside ensuring a wider learning and participation offer for local communities, the CLQ will ensure the continuation and qualitative shift in skills delivery, thereby generating and safeguarding significant economic benefits locally and across the Black Country.

Once fully developed and at capacity, it is estimated that the refreshed and consolidated College, Adult Education and Library provision could safeguard and generate a total of 745 net additional FTE jobs in the Black Country, as well helping to accelerate and catalyse the delivery of around 1,530 further net additional jobs within the city.

The projected direct, indirect and induced employment gains arising from the CLQ Scheme will generate and safeguard significant levels of Gross Value Added (GVA) to the Black Country economy. Through CLQ construction and the first 10 years of its occupation, it is estimated that the Scheme could safeguard and generate a total of around £223m in GVA (£207m at present value) by 2040. When including other monetised impacts, including Land Value Uplifts, Amenity and Participation impacts, the CLQ delivers £233m (£214m NPV) of combined impacts.

Against a gross public cost requirement of £51.5m the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) is 4:1, (every £1 of public investment will generate or safeguard £4 of GVA in the Black Country economy. The BCR position is compliant with HMT Green Book and verified by consultants Amion - please refer to supporting appendices.

The CLQ Scheme will not only support the city and Black Country ambitions to secure a higher skilled and more productive workforce, thereby improving the overall competitiveness of the economy, but the delivery of a major new city centre asset will also support the regeneration ambitions for Wolverhampton city centre, contributing to established local, sub-regional and national economic growth objectives.

5.5b

Please describe what other non-monetised impacts the bid will have, and provide a summary of how these have been assessed. (Limit 250 words)

Alongside monetised impacts, CLQ has potential to deliver a range of **wider economic and socio-economic impacts** identified in Genecon's CLQ Economic Impact Assessment 2019), including:

- Provision of 13,550m² new and refurbished education and learning space.
- Rationalisation of 13,450m² redundant space, driving efficiencies in College, Library and Adult Education delivery.
- Freeing capacity for future housing development of potentially up to 214 new dwellings.
- Enabling capacity for 2,350m² potential retail-led development at the Maltings, and accelerating delivery of 68,700m² of new commercial development opportunities in CLQ surrounds.
- Delivery of 10,900 additional qualifications over 10 years
- Enhancing library volunteering opportunities to 20 per year to deliver its range of services to local residents and extending events to 970 per year.
- Delivering transport efficiency improvements by encouraging a model shift towards more sustainable public forms of travel.
- Increasing student expenditure helping to ensure future retail sector vitality and vibrancy.
- Ensuring and accelerating future Business Rate returns from new, enabled or catalysed commercial developments. Indicative modelling suggests around £2.8m in future business rate returns annually from unlocked or catalysed development at capacity, on top of safeguarding future College business rate returns.
- Increasing the future use of the Library (currently 355,000 visits per year) through improved access and integration with College and Adult Education.
- Retaining city infrastructure supporting 16 libraries, key council departments and community associations.
- Improved access to lifelong learning ensuring social and digital inclusion.

5.5c Please provide a summary assessment of risks and uncertainties that could affect the overall Value for Money of the bid. (Limit 250 words)

The following risks and uncertainties may potentially affect Value for Money.

Risks and uncertainties						
	Cause	Risk	Probability (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Total	Mitigation
1	Unable to identify site issues until areas fully excavated	Unknown underground issues may arise and need addressed, delaying programme and increasing costs.	2	1	2	Low risk as ground investigations and utility surveys undertaken to identify and address potential issues. The site where building work will occur has been excavated / cleared. This risk will be passed onto contractor therefore there is little recourse for additional costs.
2	Funding not secured in 2021.	Affects progress and project delivery. College subsequently suffers financial problems leading to job losses, potential closure, affects student education. Project costs increase significantly every month, project becomes non-viable.	3	5	15	Funding programme developed and supported by Council leaders. Current cost estimates updated to reflect latest RICS inflation indices.
3	Covid-19 / other external factors change type of courses demanded therefore pupil enrolment lower than expected.	College benefits not delivered	2	5	10	College remain intune with current market requirements, continually reviewing curriculum, remaining flexible to change. Building designed with flexibility to deliver various curriculum.
4	Implications of Brexit increasing material costs	Costs increase due to Brexit	3	4	12	Contingency included. Tender documents requests potential savings from contractors which can be factored into the project.
5	Building Contractors capacity / appetite for development – regional building activity HS2 / CWG	Delays to the programme and increased costs	3	4	12	Early contractor engagement

5.5d For transport bids, we would expect the Appraisal Summary Table, to be completed to enable a full range of transport impacts to be considered. Other material supporting the assessment of the scheme described in this section should be appended to your bid.

Part 6 Deliverability

6.1

Financial

See technical note Table 1 for further guidance.

6.1a

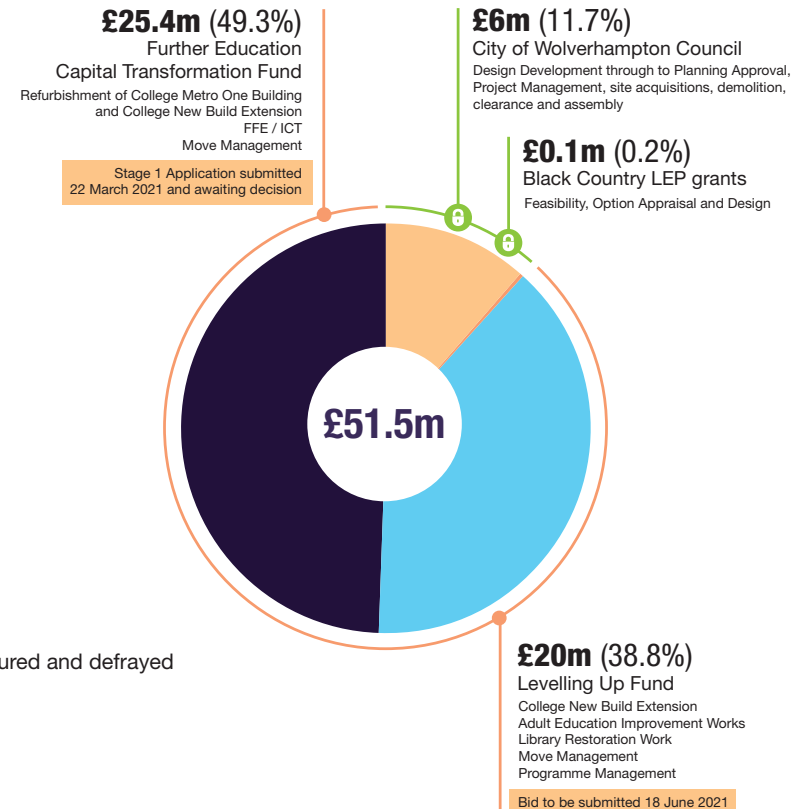
Please summarise below your financial ask of the LUF, and what if any local and third party contributions have been secured (please note that a minimum local (public or private sector) contribution of 10% of the bid costs is encouraged). Please also note that a contribution will be expected from private sector stakeholders, such as developers, if they stand to benefit from a specific bid (Limit 250 words)

A total **£51.5m** will deliver a vibrant, new city centre CLQ education hub that brings together College, Adult Education and Library services within a single campus site facility and £20 million sought from LUF to enable this aspirational project to proceed during 2021 / 2022.

The Council and LEP have initially invested **£6.1m** enabling design, site surveys and ground investigations, site acquisition and clearance works to be completed and planning consent to be achieved.

Further funds of £45.4m are now required. FECTF (Stage 1) application with a financial ask of £25.4m has been submitted and a decision is awaited. If successful, this award together with LUF will fully fund CLQ.

The multiple funding streams required to move CLQ into the delivery phase is outlined below. The Council / LEP contribution totalling £6.1m represents the local contribution exceeding 10% that LUF encourages.



6.1b

Please also complete Tabs C and D in the **appended excel spreadsheet**, setting out details of the costs and spend profile at the project and bid level in the format requested within the excel sheet. The funding detail should be as accurate as possible as it will form the basis for funding agreements. Please note that we would expect all funding provided from the Fund to be spent by 31 March 2024, and, exceptionally, into 2024-25 for larger schemes.

Tables C and D completed showing a breakdown of the total project costs of £51.5m by financial years and works / activities. If the decisions on external funding applications that are pending are confirmed during Autumn 2021 resulting award of the requested financial ask all LUF expenditure is expected to be defrayed by 2024-25.

6.1c

Please confirm if the bid will be part funded through other third-party funding (public or private sector). If so, please include evidence (i.e. letters, contractual commitments) to show how any third-party contributions are being secured, the level of commitment and when they will become available. The UKG may accept the provision of land from third parties as part of the local contribution towards scheme costs. Where relevant, bidders should provide evidence in the form of an attached letter from an independent valuer to verify the true market value of the land.



YES



NO

6.1d

Please explain what if any funding gaps there are, or what further work needs to be done to secure third party funding contributions. (Limit 250 words)

There is currently a funding gap of £45.4 million pounds to deliver the city centre aspects of the CLQ Programme which is explained in 4.4c. This represents unsecured funds to undertake the construction work in the city centre which will deliver a new College building and improvements to integrate the Adult Education and Library facilities.

Grant funding applications are being progressed to secure the above funds. An FECTF application (Stage 1) for £25.4 million was submitted on 22 March 2021, the decision expected in late May 2021 and is awaited. The remaining £20m is being sought through this Levelling up application to bridge the funding gap.

6.1e

Please list any other funding applications you have made for this scheme or variants thereof and the outcome of these applications, including any reasons for rejection. (Limit 250 words)

The following funding application has been made to support the delivery of the city centre components of the CLQ programme.

Funding Application	Amount (£m)	Status
FECTF Stage 1 Application	24.41	Decision expected late May 2021- still awaited
Black Country LEP LGF	0.1	Secured

Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Library and Adult Education improvement works did not proceed through EOI since it was considered to focus on Education as opposed to Historic restoration.

CLQ is a local and regional priority project that has formed part of the Black Country LEP pipeline for some time. However, whilst the LEP continue to strongly support CLQ, there were insufficient funds remaining from their Local Growth Fund for allocation to CLQ. Similarly, discussions around Brownfield Fund, however, did not progress to formal application as insufficient funding available.

6.1f

Please provide information on margins and contingencies that have been allowed for and the rationale behind them. (Limit 250 words)

CLQ Margins and Contingencies			
Asset Proposed	Approximate Contingency Value	Impact Contingency % Value	Rationale
Programme Management - Sponsors Contingency	£2,000,000	lump sum	Programme wide contingency to provide financial comfort to deal with unforeseen issues drawn upon subject to CLQ Board agreement.
Site, surveys & acquisitions	£30,000	lump sum	All surveys undertaken however contingency retained for additional /specialist surveys if required.
College Project	£2,000,000	6%	College contingency with purpose of providing financial comfort to deal with additional / unforeseen issues related to College works only. May be drawn down to cover design changes, construction matters, and response to risk register items through formal contract variations subject to different levels of internal scrutiny and approvals. Contingency level of 6% industry norm for project of this size and nature.
Library, AE Internals Project	£200,000	10%	As above, at a slightly enhanced level taking account the age and listed status of existing building.
Library External Façade	£325,000	20%	As above, at a further enhanced level taking account of age and listed status of existing building and specialist nature of required façade remedial works.
Moves Management	£50,000	lump sum	In the event that additional moves are required or more legacy equipment transferred between sites.
Total Budget Contingency	£4,605,000		

Works programme designed to RIBA Stage 3 with expectation that Contractors procured for works delivery under design & build procurement route, with exception of specialist library restoration works. Nature of design & build sees transfer of risk from Client to Contractor and will be reflected in tender returns.

6.1g

Please set out below, what the main financial risks are and how they will be mitigated, including how cost overruns will be dealt with and shared between non-UKG funding partners. (you should cross refer to the Risk Register). (Limit 500 words)

There is a risk that:

The Levelling Up Fund and FEETF applications may not be successful. Without external funding the project cannot proceed, resulting in abortive project costs and undermined college viability

Delay in securing funding increases project costs overtime so project is no longer financially viable and cannot be procured.

COVID and Brexit implications on supplies and labour for the construction element may delay the project or increase costs

Risk mitigated by:

Funding applications are being progressed to secure the required funds to deliver the entire CLQ programme. The risk is mitigated by unilateral and unqualified political and organisational support from all stakeholders

CLQ designs have been developed to RIBA stage 3 and have been rigorously reviewed by stakeholder groups. All designs are approved and as such it is considered change in scope is unlikely. Estimated project costs are based on market rates which are benchmarked includes contingencies and inflation. A full set of tender documents have been produced and are ready to be issued to the market. To safeguard against project cost increases, the building contractor procurement process will seek a lump sum tender price in competition. As the contingency sums are informed by risk registers, it is not envisaged that there will be cost overruns.

Cost estimates are preconditioned according to the latest up to date market knowledge and activity. Current indications from the market indicate capacity and appetite. Contracts have also been drafted to allow flexibility in design to select alternative systems and components should time or cost savings be realised or those that allow risks to be managed. Contingency sums are also included to allow for draw down to cover any unforeseen increases in costs that cannot be mitigated in any other way.

6.2 Commercial

See technical note Section 4 and Table 1 for further guidance.

6.2a

Please summarise your commercial structure, risk allocation and procurement strategy which sets out the rationale for the strategy selected and other options considered and discounted. The procurement route should also be set out with an explanation as to why it is appropriate for a bid of the scale and nature submitted.

Please note - all procurements must be made in accordance with all relevant legal requirements. Applicants must describe their approach to ensuring full compliance in order to discharge their legal duties. (Limit 500 words)

Commercial Structure:

The Council will procure all CLQ building contracts. The following principles were considered for the Procurement Strategy.

Time – solutions meeting key timescales

Cost – strategy meeting available budget

Deliverability - competent suppliers delivering requirements

Construction contracts Procurement options considered where timescales key influence:					
Route	Open Tender	Framework Further Competition	Framework Competition two phases	Single Supplier Framework	
PROS	Competitive process	●	●	●	
	Highest level of competition	●	●		
	Council to select contract terms	●			
	Price certainty	●	●		
	Client risk minimised	●	●		
	Limited no of contractors		●		
	Shorter tender period			●	●
	Contractor part of design development			●	
	Contractor knows budget			●	●
	Price risk minimised			●	●
CONS	Time to procure	●	●		
	Price may increase	●	●	●	
	Difficult to control cost			●	●
	Contractors may not tender if risk too high	●	●		
	Competition limited if tenders drop out		●	●	
	Only one framework identified			●	●

Frameworks considered:

- **SCAPE Major construction framework** - immediate access to contractor, early contractor engagement during design stage; fixed overheads and profits; package of work tendered) suited where time prime factor;
- **West Midlands Construction Framework** - access to contractors on NEC contract terms following competition, agreed contract base, reduced legal cost and time advantage.

Contracts considered:

- **Fixed price** - contractor takes normally all construction risk with certain risks paid on open book basis, used when risk is quantifiable and design detailed so contractor can price without excessive uncertainty;
- **Target cost** - where over or under spend shared following a formula, normally used when risk is seen as too high for contractors.

Form of contract considered:

- **NEC** - typically used on public works schemes giving early warning of events which affect cost or programme allowing early intervention and decisions to avoid delay and increased cost.
- **JCT** - more suited where a traditional full design is undertaken or where client is more prescriptive on finished design
- **Main college building and external works proposal:** To procure a contractor through open competition using Competitive with Negotiation procedure providing maximum price certainty using NEC option A (fixed cost) design and build contract, subject to review when funding agreed. Contract documents formulated to establish a quick start to the tender process.
- **Library and Adult Education works proposal:** To procure a heritage specialist contractor (high specification to comply with listed building status) through open competition using a JCT contract / separate fit-out contract for minor works using a JCT D&B contract

Compliance Statement: Documentation / procurement process comply with Public Contract Regulations 2015, Councils Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Policy Notes published by the Crown Commercial Service at time of tender.

Key Risks

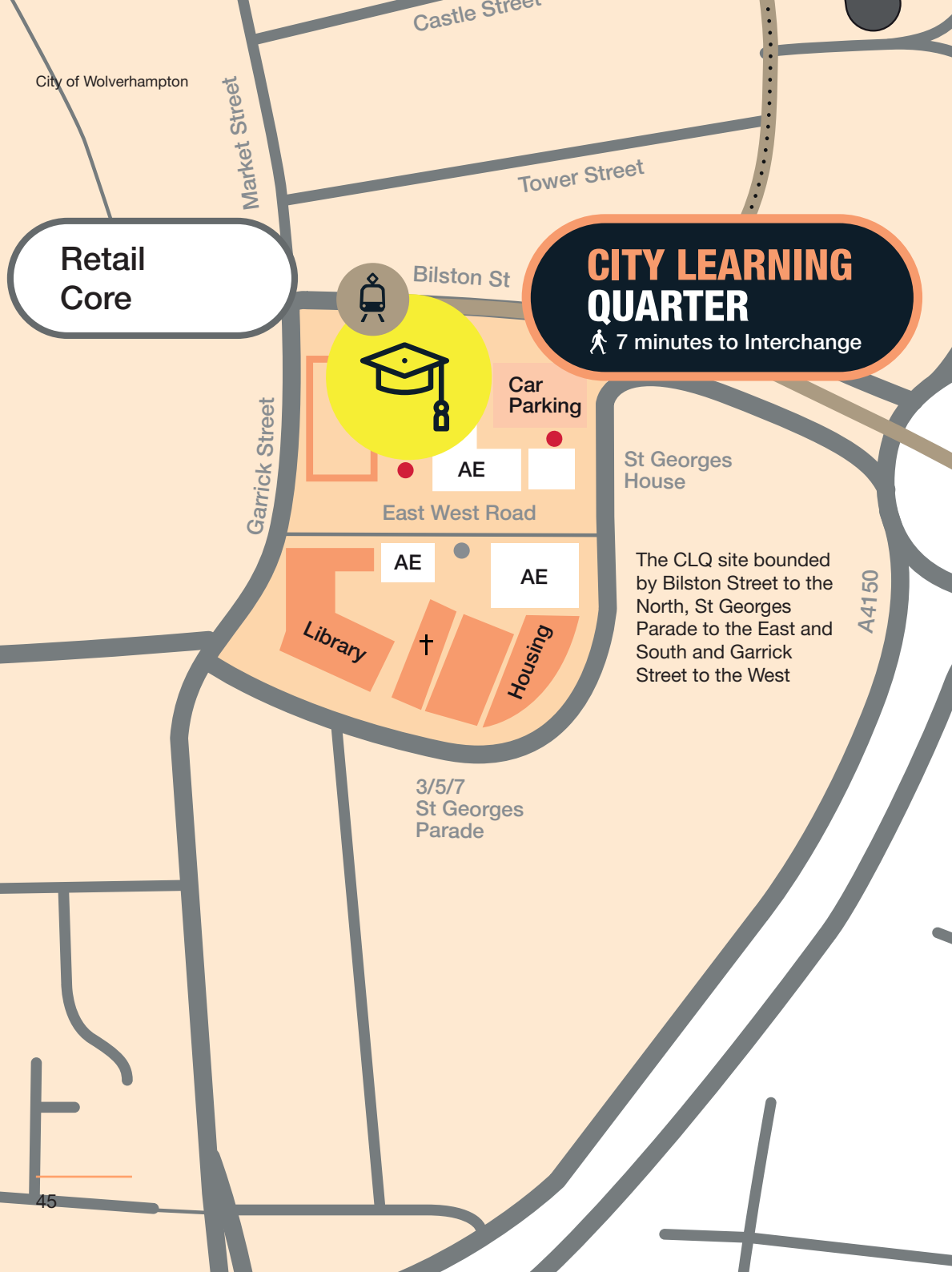
- Sub Ground risk largely mitigated (ground investigations and archaeological works undertaken). Remaining risk held by contractor.
- Labour costs increasing due to Brexit and increased West Midlands activities fuelled by CWG and HS2. Risk held by contractor from contract signature.
- Material costs increasing particularly steel due to uncertainty of British Steel and unknown post Brexit import tariffs. Risk held by contractor from contract signature.
- The Council has experienced a major contractor going into administration despite undertaking detailed financial checks on company. Risk remains with Client supported by a performance bond.

6.3**Management**

See technical note Section 4 and Table 1 for further guidance

Delivery Plan: Places are asked to submit a delivery plan which demonstrates:


- Clear milestones, key dependencies and interfaces, resource requirements, task durations and contingency.
- An understanding of the roles and responsibilities, skills, capability, or capacity needed.
- Arrangements for managing any delivery partners and the plan for benefits realisation.
- Engagement of developers/ occupiers (where needed)
- The strategy for managing stakeholders and considering their interests and influences.
- Confirmation of any powers or consents needed, and statutory approvals e.g. Planning permission and details of information of ownership or agreements of land/ assets needed to deliver the bid with evidence
- Please also list any powers / consents etc needed/ obtained, details of date acquired, challenge period (if applicable) and date of expiry of powers and conditions attached to them.



6.3a

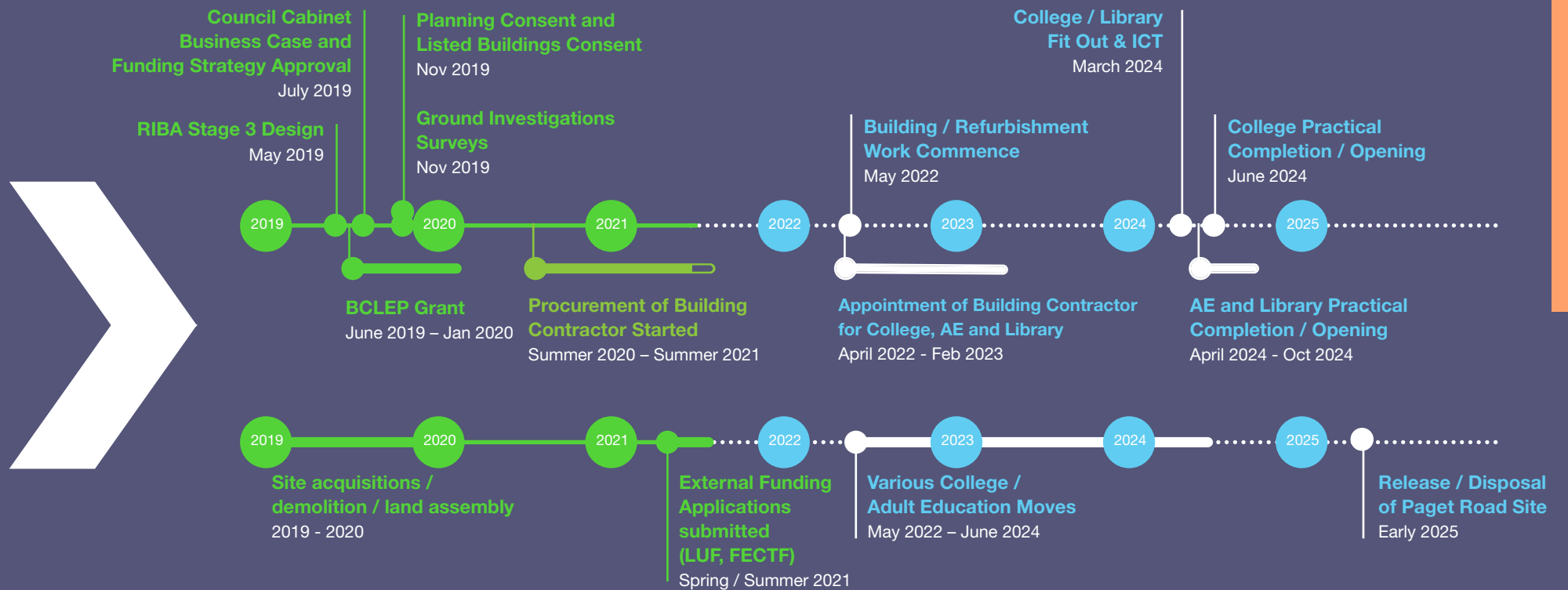
Please summarise the delivery plan, with reference to the above (Limit 500 words)

The Delivery Plan outlines the scope and management arrangements for implementing, controlling, monitoring and completing the CLQ programme. It defines component projects and activities making up the programme to create a central learning hub, with refurbishment and either side extensions to the existing Metro One College building, refurbishment works to the Library and Adult Education Centre.

CLQ Site	Work Scope
College 	Demolition of Faces building New build to either side of existing Metro 1 Site Refurbish Metro 1
Library	Repair roof and façade (Grade II* listed building) currently in poor condition and a risk to others New WC's New rear entrance New reception desk and shelving on 1st floor for space efficiency
Adult Education	Vacating the Malting's building Create a new learning resource centre Link Adult Education and part of the existing 1930's Library building Refurbish part of the Central Library to accommodate four new classrooms and associated office spaces

Due to the requirement to keep the College, Adult Education and Library operational throughout d, phased building works will enable multiple moves to occur

Milestones / Activities



CLQ Project Management and Governance Structure has been established between the Council and College supported by Turner & Townsend as Programme, Project and cost consultants. The structure includes the Council Client Team (Project SRO), Project and Cost Management, Design and Construction and College User Teams. The Delivery Plan defines roles, responsibilities and relationships of various project stakeholders and the core professional Project Team and communications tools and methods to be employed throughout the lifecycle of the project to various stakeholders including a stakeholder plan for management of arising conflicting interests. The Governance Structure is robust with delegations and responsibility clearly defined. The Delivery Plan outlines Procurement, Cost Management, Risk Management, Change Control Procedure approach and includes a Master Programme. It is regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes as the project moves forward. The benefits of the project will be collected and evaluated in accordance with the plan.

6.3b

Has a delivery plan been appended to your bid?

YES NO

6.3c

Can you demonstrate ability to begin delivery on the ground in 2021-22?

YES NO

6.3e

Risk Management: Places are asked to set out a detailed risk assessment which sets out (word limit 500 words not including the risk register):

- the barriers and level of risk to the delivery of your bid
- appropriate and effective arrangements for managing and mitigating these risk
- a clear understanding on roles / responsibilities for risk

Barriers to CLQ delivery include securing funding and programme delivery by 2024. CLQ is vital to enable the College to achieve significant efficiencies in running costs, retain current students and increase student numbers. CLQ also brings a significant footfall to the city centre which is critical at present. Given its status investment is considered low risk as benefits will start flowing immediately.

The team have deployed a best practise approach to Risk Management based on M_o_R and industry best practise. Risks have been identified, analysed and recorded in three risk registers; programme, college works and library and adult education works risk registers.

Regular Risk workshops, facilitated by Turner & Townsend and attended by all relevant parties continue to identify, assess and quantify new risks update previously identified risks, and close out those that have been successfully managed out. Each risk identified is recorded on the Risk Register which acts as a tool to record and control the risk management process.

Further to identification, the probability and impact on the project objectives of each threat and opportunity is assessed. The scoring assessment is based on the following:

Probability categories	Probability Score	Probability
Unlikely	1	0% – 10%
Possible	2	10% – 30%
Average	3	30% - 50%
Probably	4	50% - 70%
Certain	5	70% - 99%

Time categories	Impact Score	Cost
0 - 1 Week	1	£0 - £10,000
1 Week - 2 Weeks	2	£10,000 - £50,000
2 Weeks - 1 Month	3	£50,000 - £100,000
1 Month - 3 Months	4	£100,000 - £250,000
3+ Months	5	£250,000+

Each risk is positioned in a Probability Impact Grid (PIG) and a rag status assigned based on overall severity. The team have then discussed and agreed ownership and a risk mitigation plan. Where appropriate, key risks have been escalated at board level. Once mitigation actions are complete, each risk may be reviewed and closed/downgraded as appropriate. Examples include:

- Surveys and ground investigations have been undertaken and outcome factored into the design and cost estimate;
- Demolitions and Archaeology works have been undertaken in advance to de-risk the main construction project(s)
- Asbestos has been removed in advance to de-risk the construction project(s)
- Management plans have been agreed at board level to control change;
- Further reviews and sign offs by users have been undertaken to reduce the risk of change requests.

Risk management plans have been prioritised as follows:

Avoid – design out, eliminate and consider alternative solutions

Transfer – insure, or transfer risk to a third party

Mitigate – reduce probability or impact of risk

Accept – once risk has been mitigated to acceptable level and consider contingency sum required in the event it is needed

The Risk Registers remain 'live' and are updated monthly.

6.3f

Has a risk register been appended to your bid?



YES



NO

6.3g

Please evidence your track record and past experience of delivering schemes of a similar scale and type (Limit 250 words)

City of Wolverhampton Council has extensive experience delivering externally funded schemes of similar scale / type in partnership with stakeholders with the aim of diversifying the city centre offer, improving urban form / coherence and strengthening the local economy.

The Council have co funded regeneration projects and levered investment to deliver ambitious regeneration plans. E.g. The £15.7m Future High Streets Fund award has secured delivery of transformational Victoria Street and Civic Halls public realm schemes and Box Park style leisure venue to improve city centre connectivity and create event spaces to drive footfall.

The Council established the Wolverhampton Towns Deal Board represented by private / public sector partners in the city (University, Canal & Rivers Trust, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton and Bilston BIDs), facilitating local decision making which has been instrumental in bringing forward multiple regeneration projects on over 15 hectares of brownfield land, accelerating delivery of 1,200 new homes, supporting delivery of circa 10,000 jobs and over 20,000 sqm of new floorspace.

Through flexible use of its own access to funding and its significant city centre land holdings, the Council has facilitated investment in office, retail and leisure space, new homes and new jobs. Recent successes include the award winning new A Grade office buildings i10 and i9 near the brand new Transport Interchange, Civic Halls restoration to create a world-class venue, opening Spring 2022 and progress on the Canalside / Brewers Yard schemes that will deliver over 2,000 new homes at the heart of the city.

6.3h

Assurance: We will require Chief Financial Officer confirmation that adequate assurance systems are in place.

For larger transport projects (between £20m - £50m) please provide evidence of an integrated assurance and approval plan. This should include details around planned health checks or gateway reviews. (Limit 250 words)

Embedded in the democratic accountability processes of City of Wolverhampton Council as lead body, we have strict management controls on approvals for expenditure with a committee reporting structure, elected representation signature and budgetary identification and coding pre- approval. This follows through with strict controls on any change requests within agreed budgets, whether externally funded or otherwise.

A dedicated team is in place with responsibility for financial management and control working closely with finance. The teams' responsibility includes checking invoices to ensure eligible spend, timesheets where applicable are produced and checked for accuracy and gathering defrayal information to form the basis of the claims evidence requirements.

All claims are checked by our financial team before submission and signed off by the S151 officer. In addition, our auditing team regularly review accuracy of evidence to ensure compliance. Our financial system ("Agresso") is enabled to capture and retain compliant detailed defrayal evidence.

6.4

Monitoring and Evaluation

See technical note Section 4 and Table 1 for further guidance.

6.4a

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: Please set out proportionate plans for M&E which should include (1000 word limit):

- Bid level M&E objectives and research questions
- Outline of bid level M&E approach
- Overview of key metrics for M&E (covering inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts), informed by bid objectives and Theory of Change. Please complete Tabs E and F on the **appended excel spreadsheet**
- Resourcing and governance arrangements for bid level M&E

The timely input of a total investment funding package of £51.5m, cleared brownfield land and project management activities (including physical and financial project progress monitoring, signed building contract) will ensure CLQ is delivered to plan and on budget. Expenditure of LUF of £20m and FEETF of £25.4m on project delivery will be reported and monitored in accordance with respective funding agreements.

This will result in the realisation of the following outputs, outcomes and impacts and those detailed in section 4.3e post CLQ completion. The actual benefits indicators will be monitored against those forecasted for a time period in line with LUF requirements.

Output / Benefit	By 2025	By 2029	By 2034	Total	Baseline Measure	Reporting Frequency
City Learning Quarter encompassing new College Campus, improved Library and Adult Education	1			1	Existing site with Metro One, Library and Adult Education CLQ combining these does not exist.	2025
Learner Assists started		21,612	23,349	44,961	Current Numbers	Annually
Apprenticeships started		3,624	3,915	7,539	Current Numbers	Annually
College Jobs created (FTE)	51			51	366	2025
College Jobs safeguarded (FTE)	366			366	366	2025
Business Assists (SMEs)			115	115	0	Annually
New Build training/learning floor space (sqm)	7,503			7,503	0	2025
Refurbished training/learning floor space (sqm)	3,339			3,329	0	2025
Floor space rationalised (sqm)	5,633			5,633	0	2025
Brownfield Land regenerated (ha)	1			1	0	2025
Jobs created and safeguarded in the local economy			745	745	0	2034
Jobs accelerated			1,530	1,530	0	2034
Economic benefit (GVA)			£233m	£233m	0	2034
Homes Created following CLQ completion			106-214	Up to 214	0	2034
Benefit Cost Ratio				5:1	0	2034
Tonnes of CO2 not released		3065	3065	6130	0	2034
kg of NOX particles not released in Wolverhampton		1550	1550	3100	0	2034

Genecon (independent consultants) calculations (2019) outcomes that are currently excluded from Benefits Delivery programme because they are difficult to monitor at project level:

- 1 Jobs created and safeguarded in the local economy.
- 2 Jobs accelerated.
- 3 GVA
- 4 Benefit cost ratios - updated by consultants Amion (2021) in line with HMT Green Book

The Project Delivery Programme includes a Post-Implementation Review in April 2023 for the SRO (CWC) and Benefit Leader for the College (Vice Principal – Business Success) to confirm and initiate the Benefit Delivery Programme. The Programme identifies the Benefit Owner and agreed reporting dates and will be expanded at the Review to include detailed monitoring arrangements to ensure Benefit Delivery is reported regularly to the Programme Board and termly (or annually) to funders. The benefits realisation plan initiated post completion of CLQ construction works will include:

- Benefits realisation implementation plan initiation in December 2022 for CLQ 2024 completion.
- Review benefits realisation at the end of each academic year starting in June 2023, and every year thereafter for 10 years, or as agreed with funders.
- The process will include engaging with the benefit owners, receiving updates to the measurements and collating the updates.
- Report College / Council approved prior to submitting to funders.
- The Council and College will work with funders to agree a proforma for reporting and populate others proformas and report templates as required.

- The Benefit Cost Ratio will be continually monitored to reflect current project status and updated on a bi-annual basis to monitor and ensure benefits are realised.
- During project delivery, any changes to the scope including design will be assessed against benefits as part of the change control process to manage and avoid adverse changes in the design impacting the wider benefits.

As well as direct outputs, our Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will monitor indirect outcomes and impacts focusing on the challenges outlined above capturing wider benefits in response to the following objectives and research questions:

1. Has CLQ contributed to the vitality of the city centre?
2. Has CLQ helped to close the skills gap?
3. Has CLQ helped to close the productivity gap through positive impact on skills and employment?
4. Has CLQ reversed decline in enrolments to FE?

Monitoring Broader Economic Impacts:

Impacts	How Measured?	Baseline	How
City Centre vitality	Increase in footfall	2% reduction in footfall between 2017-18	Footfall counters in city centre
	Reduction in vacancies	14% vacancies	Annual review of vacancies
	Stimulate development of surrounding sites		68,700sqm commercial site developed
Reduce skills gap	Reduce numbers with no qualifications	12.3% no qualifications (6.4% England)	Annual APS
	Increase numbers with higher level qualifications	48% NVQ 3+ (61.4% England)	
Reduce productivity gap	Reduce unemployment rate	10.3%	NOMIS monthly
	Reduce Youth unemployment rate	15.1%	NOMIS monthly ONS sub-regional productivity in the UK
	Increase GVA per filled job	£41,220 (£57,266 England)	
College sustainability	Reverse decline and increase in enrolments		College enrolment data

The Council has its own Insight and Performance team which will capture key data relating to monitoring impacts against the research questions capturing on WV Insight.

Part 7

Declarations

7.3 Data Protection

Please note that the The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is a data controller for all Levelling Up Fund related personal data collected with the relevant forms submitted to MHCLG, and the control and processing of Personal Data.

The Department, and its contractors where relevant, may process the Personal Data that it collects from you, and use the information provided as part of the application to the Department for funding from the Levelling Up Fund, as well as in accordance with its privacy policies. For the purposes of assessing your bid the Department may need to share your Personal Data with other Government departments and departments in the Devolved Administrations and by submitting this form you are agreeing to your Personal Data being used in this way.

Any information you provide will be kept securely and destroyed within 7 years of the application process completing.

7.1

Senior Responsible Owner Declaration

As Senior Responsible Owner for City of Wolverhampton Council I hereby submit this request for approval to UKG on behalf of City of Wolverhampton Council and confirm that I have the necessary authority to do so.

I confirm that City of Wolverhampton Council will have all the necessary statutory powers and other relevant consents in place to ensure the planned timescales in the application can be realised.



Richard Lawrence,
Director of Regeneration

7.2

Chief Finance Officer Declaration

As Chief Finance Officer for City of Wolverhampton Council I declare that the scheme cost estimates quoted in this bid are accurate to the best of my knowledge and that City of Wolverhampton Council

- has allocated sufficient budget to deliver this scheme on the basis of its proposed funding contribution
- accepts responsibility for meeting any costs over and above the UKG contribution requested, including potential cost overruns and the underwriting of any funding contributions expected from third parties
- accepts responsibility for meeting any ongoing revenue requirements in relation to the scheme
- accepts that no further increase in UKG funding will be considered beyond the maximum contribution requested and that no UKG funding will be provided after 2024-25
- confirm that the authority commits to ensure successful bids will deliver value for money or best value
- confirms that the authority has the necessary governance / assurance arrangements in place and that all legal and other statutory obligations and consents will be adhered to.



Claire Nye
Chief Finance Officer