

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

To: The Metro Mayor and Members of the Combined Authority

Meeting: 6 December 2019

Authority/Authorities Affected: All

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: No

Key Decision

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER: EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND: SKILLS CAPITAL INVESTMENT – THIRD CALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present for approval an aggregate investment package for applications received under third prospectus of the Liverpool City Region Skills Capital Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is recommended to:-
- a) Note the submissions received as set out in Appendix 1 and Table B;
 - b) Note that Strand 4 (FE College maintenance) allocations which were agreed by the Combined Authority on 12 April 2019, now have Grant Funding Agreements in place, with work progressing (paragraph 3.3);
 - c) Approve all Strand 2, Strand 3 and Strand 5 submissions to progress to Grant Funding Agreement following robust appraisal and review by the SIF Investment Panel (paragraph 4.4, summarised in Appendix 2);
 - d) Approve Strand 1 submissions for SIF2072 - Southport College; SIF2086 - City of Liverpool College; SIF2087 - Sefton Council Community Learning Cambridge Rd and SIF2085 - Riverside College (paragraph 4.6);
 - e) Note the programme risks and proposed mitigating actions in Section 7;
 - f) Grant authority to the Director of Commercial Development and Investment to approve up to £400,000 of Low Carbon Investment Fund SIF resources to Low Carbon focused Skills Capital Investment Fund submissions (paragraph 5.2); and,
 - g) Grant authority to the Director of Commercial Development and Investment to approve further investment, in consultation with Monitoring Officer and Treasurer, of the remaining uncommitted SIF Capital funds, including reshaping

of existing Strand 1 submissions, to ensure deliverability, subject to appropriate reporting to the SIF Internal Investment Panel up to £1,932,796 (paragraph 5.5).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Skills Capital Investment Fund is an element of the Local Growth Fund which is deployed through the Growth Deal process. Liverpool City Region secured £41.1m of Local Growth Fund (LGF) monies in 2014 to support skills capital investments as part of our Growth Deal with Government as well as a further £8m from LGF Round 3 in 2017. Circa £18m of this ring-fenced funding remains uncommitted within the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF).

3.2 A third Liverpool City Region specific Skills Capital call for submissions was agreed by the Combined Authority on 12 April 2019 and was subsequently agreed by the LEP chair. Table A details the five investment strands with indicative allocations previously agreed by the CA.

Table A:- Skills Capital Investment Fund Summary

Investment Strand	Indicative Allocation	Description
Strand 1 - Sites and Premises	£8.0m	For large construction and refurbishment projects, with a focus on innovation to support economic growth sectors and high volume employment including apprenticeships. Min £0.500m grant and Max £2.0m grant
Strand 2 - Improved Facilities	£3.5m	For improvements in conditions of facilities/learning environment where skills training is delivered. Min £0.100m grant and Max £0.500m grant
Strand 3 - Equipment	£2.0m	Investment in equipment to ensure training environments are up to modern industry standards, with a particular focus on advanced manufacturing, digital, logistics, health and construction sector skills needs. Min £0.025m grant and Max £0.500m grant
Strand 4 - Maintenance of Further Education Facilities	£3.5m	Maintenance of existing FE Colleges delivery facilities, with a particular emphasis on those with an inadequately maintained estate.
Strand 5 - Low Carbon Reinvestment Fund	£1.0m	A fund for FE Colleges to invest in their plant and facilities to reduce their carbon impact. Max £1.00m grant

3.3 Strand 4 is dedicated to Liverpool City Region FE Colleges maintenance through allocations previously agreed by the CA on 12 April 2019. Strand 5 is also dedicated local FE Colleges low carbon capital investments. Other Strands were open to training providers, VCS organisations and universities with either LCRCA, Education and Skills Funding Agency (including Apprenticeships) or ESF skills revenue contracts to ensure deliverable outcomes over a sustained period.

4. SKILLS CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND – OVERVIEW AND APPRAISAL OUTCOMES

- 4.1 The third Skills Capital Prospectus was launched on 31 May 2019 with accompanying strand guidance, with the call closing on 31 August 2019.
- 4.2 Thirty six submissions were received and appraised against a proportionate Treasury Green Book, five case appraisal process and considered by the SIF Investment Panel.

Table B – Submissions by Skills Capital Investment Strands

Strand	Indicative allocation (£)	Number of submissions	Submissions total (£)	Variance (£)
Strand 1	£8,000,000	6	£11,205,404	£3,205,404
Strand 2	£3,500,000	9	£3,450,733	−£49,267
Strand 3	£2,000,000	9	£1,945,935	−£54,065
Strand 4	£3,500,000	6	£3,500,000	£0
Strand 5	£1,000,000	6	£1,000,000	£0
TOTAL	£18,000,000	36	£21,092,072	£3,092,072

- 4.3 All Strand 2, Strand 3 and Strand 5 submissions received either a good or satisfactory score. A summary of all submissions appraisal scores is detailed in Appendix 1 with project descriptions and outcomes summarised in Appendix 2.
- 4.4 The Combined Authority is recommended to approve all Strand 2, Strand 3 and Strand 5 submissions to progress to Grant Funding Agreement.
- 4.5 Strand 1 received six project submissions requesting SIF investment of £11,205,404.
- 4.6 The Combined Authority is recommended to approve Strand 1 submissions for SIF2072 - Southport College; SIF2086 - City of Liverpool College; SIF2087 - Sefton Council Community Learning Cambridge Road and SIF2085 - Riverside College with a collective investment of £6,570,536 from the £8m Strand 1 indicative allocation at this time.
- 4.7 Two Strand 1 submissions will not progress at this time.

Table C – Strand 1 submissions recommended to proceed to Grant at this time

SIF No - Title	SIF Grant £	Leverage £	Total Cost
SIF2072 - Southport College	£1,980,000	£220,000	£2,200,000
SIF2086 - City of Liverpool College	£1,445,869	£361,467	£1,807,336
SIF2087 - Sefton MBC Cambridge Rd	£1,144,667	£130,547	£1,275,214
SIF2085 - Riverside College	£2,000,000	£4,000,168	£6,000,168
TOTAL	£6,570,536	£4,712,182	£11,282,718

5. EXTERNAL INVESTMENT PANEL

- 5.1 The proposed investment was presented to the External Investment Panel on 14 November 2019. The panel endorsed the approach to the deployment of the Skills Capital funding.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 6.1 If the above recommendations are accepted by the Combined Authority and the Local Enterprise Partnership the SIF financial investment for all Skills Capital strands would total £16,317,204 from the £18m call, with an uncommitted remainder of £1,532,796.
- 6.2 In order to maximise SIF budgets, the Investment Team is minded to utilise £400,000 of low carbon Local Growth Funds to support low carbon related Skills Capital submissions. The Combined Authority are therefore recommends approval of this.
- 6.4 Assuming the above recommendations are approved the total uncommitted Skills Capital funds remains £1,932,796, to be spent by 31 March 2021.
- 6.5 The Combined Authority are recommended to grant authority to the Director of Commercial Development and Investment to approve further investment uncommitted SIF Capital funds, subject to appropriate reporting to the SIF Internal Investment Panel up to a total value of £1,932,796. The Investment Team has already indentified several schemes, each of which has potential to deliver high value for money.

Human Resources

- 6.7 There are no direct issues as a result of recommendations set out within this report. However this type of activity is resource intensive so communication on likely staff resource requirements from across the Combined Authority from Legal, the Programme Management Office and Finance colleagues are already underway.

Physical Assets

The recommendation regarding Strand 1 SIF2087 impacts on Cambridge Road Adult Learning Centre, an asset of Sefton Council. The recommendation regarding Strand 2 SIF2070 impacts on Kingsway Adult Learning Centre, an asset of Halton Borough Council. The recommendation regarding Strand 2 SIF2065 and Strand 3 SIF2053 impacts on The Engineering College at Monks Ferry, the building is provided on a peppercorn rent and is ultimately an asset of Wirral Council. The other recommendations within this report have no direct bearing upon any land/buildings/other physical assets owned by the Combined Authority or its constituent Councils.

6.9 Information Technology

The recommendations in this report will not have any direct impact upon the use of IT, or need for IT support by the Combined Authority. Although the digital skills of residents will be supported by a number of submissions recommended for approval.

7. RISKS AND MITIGATION

7.1 There are key risks and issues with implementing an investment fund of this nature as follows:-

Risk Issue	Mitigation
Ensuring the award of Skills Capital Investments is open and transparent and that conflicts of interest are effectively managed ensuring the approval and decision making process is agile and fit for purpose.	The operation of the fund has been managed through a clear and transparent process, under the SIF Assurance Framework, the scheme prospectus, eligibility, strand guidance and application paperwork have all been made publicly available.
Progress to Grant Funding Agreements is labour intensive. Further work will involve the Project Management Office, legal colleagues, finance colleagues and colleagues within the Adult Education Budget Commissioning Team and Investment Team.	All colleagues are aware of their roles and the time sensitive nature of this work. Template Grant Funding Agreements have been developed by Legal colleagues and Finance colleagues to expedite grant agreements.
All investment must be completed by 31 March 2021.	The request for projects under the call remained open until 31 st August 2019. Applicable projects are those that are (ideally) capable of launching in December 2019 with, where applicable, building works scheduled to complete by Summer 2020.
State Aid and planning permission will be required for a number of projects.	State Aid legal opinions for all FE College submissions will be sourced through a single legal opinion commissioned by the CA, reducing overall cost of the public purse. State Aid is not thought to be a barrier to any projects proceeding. Planning permission is being addressed where applicable by individual projects.
Project Delay leading to loss of funds (funds need to be disbursed by March 2021 as a requirement of Skills Capital LGF3 Growth Deals)	This risk is higher in respect of the more complex (Strand 1) projects. All projects have been assessed to ensure deliverability by 31 March 2021. There may be some ability to bring forward expenditure/funding amounts.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications arising as a result of the recommendations in this report. Specific projects will benefit learners with learning difficulties and disabilities in terms of accessibility and sector specific curriculum developments.

10. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

- 10.1 The information contained within this report will be communicated as appropriate to Combined Authority teams and applicants through existing contacts and networks.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 This paper has set out the outcome of the appraisal process for the latest round of Skills Capital submissions. The Combined Authority is asked to note and approve the recommendations for investment. They are also asked to note and approve the proposal to expedite Skills Capital investments from pipeline projects by granting authority to the Director of Commercial Development and Investment to approve investment of remaining uncommitted SIF Capital funds.

MARK BOUSFIELD
Director of Commercial Development and Investment

MAYOR JOE ANDERSON OBE
Portfolio Holder: Education, Employment and Skills

Contact Officer(s):
Mark Bousfield 0151 330 1101

Appendices:

Appendix One – A summary of Skills Capital submission appraisal scores
Appendix Two – A summary of Skills Capital project descriptions and outcomes.

Background Documents: Liverpool City Region Skill Capital Prospectus 2019 (Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Meeting 12 April 2019, Agenda Item 6.)

Appendix 1 - A summary of Skills Capital submission appraisal scores recommended to proceed to grant

An Appraisal Scoring Framework has considered whether the evidence presented within submissions is either:

- poor or unsatisfactory response giving rise to serious concerns about meeting the criteria (0 score);
- a weak response suggesting there are shortcomings of a less serious nature in meeting the criteria (1 mark scored);
- a satisfactory response suggesting that the criteria is likely to be met (2 marks scored);
- a good response giving confidence that the criteria will be met in all relevant respects with cases of added value to be noted (3 marks scored)

All submissions have been compared to criteria and descriptors sourced from the Treasury Green Book checklist and scored out of a total available score of 15 marks against the five-case model of:

- Strategic case (SC - the case for change);
- Economic case (EC);
- Commercial case (CC);
- Financial case (FC); and
- Management case (MC).

Strand 1 summary of submissions – Highest to Lowest score				
SIF No	Applicant and Title	SIF Ask	Business case score summary	
SIF2072	Southport College - Southport College Skills Centre	£1,980,000	TOTAL: 12	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 2; MC 2
SIF2086	The City of Liverpool College - Digitalisation	£1,445,869	TOTAL: 12	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 2; MC 2
SIF2087	Sefton Council - Cambridge Road Hub	£1,144,666.9	TOTAL: 11	SC 2; EC 2; CC 3; FC 2; MC 2
SIF2085	Riverside College - Site and Premises	£2,000,000	TOTAL: 13	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 2
TOTALS		£6,570,536	MEAN: 12	

Strand 2 summary of submissions – Highest to Lowest score				
SIF No	Applicant and Title	SIF Ask	Business case score summary	
SIF2078	Greenbank College - Visitor Economy	£483,775	TOTAL: 15	SC 3; EC 3; CC 3; FC 3; MC 3
SIF2082	Merseyside Youth Association	£460,484	TOTAL: 14	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 3
SIF2066	Myerscough College - Improved Facilities	£389,440	TOTAL: 14	SC 2; EC 3; CC 3; FC 3; MC 3
SIF2065	The Engineering College	£315,000	TOTAL: 14	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 3
SIF2064	Wirral Met College - Micro-turbine	£358,344	TOTAL: 13	SC 3; EC 3; CC 2; FC 3; MC 2
SIF2070	Halton Borough Council	£443,495	TOTAL: 13	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 2
SIF2073	Liverpool John Moores University	£294,500	TOTAL: 12	SC 3; EC 3; CC 2; FC 2; MC 2
SIF2062	Northwest Community Services	£260,100	TOTAL: 12	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 2; MC 2
SIF2088	Alt Valley Community Trust	£445,595	TOTAL: 10	SC 2; EC 2; CC 2; FC 2; MC 2
TOTALS		£3,540,733	MEAN: 13	

Strand 3 summary of submissions – Highest to Lowest score				
SIF No	Applicant and Title	SIF Ask	Business case score summary	
SIF2083	Merseyside Youth Association	£165,701	TOTAL: 15	SC 3; EC 3; CC 3; FC 3; MC 3
SIF2069	Myerscough College	£61,425	TOTAL: 14	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 3
SIF2071	Halton Borough Council	£256,210	TOTAL: 14	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 3
SIF2074	Northwest Training Council	£499,841	TOTAL: 14	SC 3; EC 3; CC 3; FC 2; MC 3
SIF2067	Wirral Met College	£278,800	TOTAL: 13	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 2
SIF2052	The Engineering College	£180,000	TOTAL: 13	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 2
SIF2060	St Helens Chamber	£93,118	TOTAL: 13	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 2
SIF2084	Riverside College	£358,724	TOTAL: 13	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 3; MC 2
SIF2063	Northwest Community Services	£52,116	TOTAL: 11	SC 3; EC 2; CC 2; FC 2; MC 2
TOTALS		£1,945,935	MEAN: 13	

Strand 5 summary of submissions – Highest to Lowest score				
SIF No	Applicant and Title	SIF Ask	Business case score summary	
SIF2079	The City of Liverpool College Low Carbon	£166,667	TOTAL: 14	SC 2; EC 3; CC 3; FC 3; MC 3
SIF2059	Riverside College	£166,667	TOTAL: 13	SC 3; EC 3; CC 2; FC 3; MC 2
SIF2055	Southport College Low Carbon Reinvestment	£166,667	TOTAL: 12	SC 3; EC 2; CC 3; FC 2; MC 2
SIF2054	Wirral Met College	£166,667	TOTAL: 12	SC 2; EC 3; CC 3; FC 2; MC 2
SIF2040	Hugh Baird College Solar Panels	£166,667	TOTAL: 11	SC 3; EC 2; CC 2; FC 2; MC 2
SIF2077	SK College Low Carbon	£166,667	TOTAL: 10	SC 2; EC 2; CC 2; FC 2; MC 2
TOTALS		£1,000,000	MEAN: 12	

Appendix Two – A summary of Skills Capital project descriptions and outcomes.

Strand 1 - Sites and Premises - For large construction and refurbishment projects, with a focus on innovation to support economic growth sectors and high volume employment including apprenticeships. Min £0.500m grant and Max £2.0m grant				
SIF Ref Number	Organisation Lead / Project Title	Project Description	SIF Funding	Appraiser's overall comments, key outcomes and outputs
SIF2072	Southport College Construction Skills Centre	<p>The intended outcomes/objectives of the scheme are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grow provision in construction industry specific skills. - Better meet the needs of employers and enhance the employability of trainees. - Improve curriculum links between vocational areas and English and Math which will improve the outcomes for vocational students taking English and Math. - Develop construction programmes for adults aged 50 and over. - Deliver the key LEP construction growth principles in the north of the City region. - Refurbish 2004m² of floor area for £765/m², which is in line with industry expectations. 	£1,980,000	<p>Additional enrolments include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 116 places in bricklaying, painting and decorating and allied skills in year 1 - 78 places in pre-apprentice training - 28 places for on the job training for apprentices - 24 NEET enrolments - 20 adult funded provision for over 50-year olds - 24 HNC/HND surveying and project management - 100 places on specialist technical training
SIF2086	The City of Liverpool College - Digitalisation	<p>Establishment of a Digital Employability Skills Zone (DESZ); co-located with on-site nursery, Student Progress Hub, and dedicated Digital Academy (offering specialist digital skills up to Level 7), supporting working age residents with digital literacy and employability skills, supporting games development, film-making and sports performance – animation, special effects, sports performance monitoring and virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR), industrial control and automation, sensor tech, pneumatics and hydraulics, robotics and mechatronics.</p>	£1,445,869	<p>The increase in total learner numbers from the result of this intervention after 3 years is 396. Total refurbished floor space totals 1,464m².</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of a motion capture studio and editing suite measuring 665m² to support further development of the Digital Academy - Creation of a dedicated digital engineering suite measuring 188m², - 15 employers/partners involved across the four

				aspects of the project.
SIF2087	Sefton Council - Cambridge Road Hub	The project involves a transformational development project to re-develop a well-utilised Council owned asset (Cambridge Road Centre) in Sefton, with the objective of providing a fit-for-purpose learning environment, targeting returning learners and facilitating their progression into the labour market in key sectors.	£1,144,667	In total, 2,537m ² of new build training/learning floor space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estimated 4,650 residents will take up initial learning (after three years), - 45% of these progressing to further skills development opportunities. - 35 newly created/safeguarded permanent FTE jobs - 6 apprenticeship posts created.
SIF2085	Riverside College - Site and Premises	The objectives of this project are to provide a highly skilled future workforce for Health and Social Care Sector and improve resilience of students in mental health and wellbeing in readiness for employment, alongside mathematical skills to progress required for growth sectors. A two-phased project with immediate capacity to respond to health and social care and wellbeing in collaboration with Halton Borough Council, followed by demolition of 1000sqm of the most outdated accommodation on the site and building a new 3 storey structure to house maths and health and social care provision currently delivered in Portacabins.	£2,000,000	Phase One will add 865sqm to the footprint. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 185 new learners assisted in courses leading to a full qualification - 1000m² will be demolished and rebuilt to a 3-storey building. - New build training/learning floorspace constructed totals 2,260m².
			£6,570,5364	

Strand 2 - Improved Facilities - For improvements in conditions of facilities/learning environment where skills training is delivered.*Min £0.100m grant and Max £0.500 grant*

SIF Ref Number	Organisation Lead / Project Title	Project Description	SIF Funding	Appraiser's overall comments, key outcomes and outputs
SIF2088	Alt Valley Community Trust - Alt Valley Community Trust Improved Facilities	Refurbishment of construction training centre, creating workshop areas for key craft trades and classroom space, including a mezzanine floor	£445,595	<p>This project is aimed at increasing the capacity of a provider to deliver in two priority sectors. The additional capacity will be recruited from areas of deprivation within Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton. The project will deliver:</p> <p>Creation of a digital training centre, creating screens and connectivity on an existing mezzanine space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 185 learners in total from areas of deprivation- 50 additional Apprentices.- 712m2 of construction workshop refurbished floor space.
SIF2062	Northwest Community Services - Northwest Community Services Improved Facilities	Improvement of classroom facilities at NWTC Fazakerley site with benefits for Traineeships, Apprenticeships and AEB funded learners, supporting apprenticeship growth in line with priorities set out in the LCR Apprenticeship Growth Plan.	£260,100	<p>The project has clearly demonstrated the expected benefits and outcomes relating to narrowing the gaps for under-represented learners from disadvantaged areas. Low carbon benefits have been detailed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Key outputs include:- 336 additional learners over three years,- 154 additional Apprentices over a three-year period and 140 additional AEB funded learners.

				- 861m2 of refurbished floor space total
SIF2064	Wirral Met College - Wirral Met College Microturbine	Purchase and installation of a microturbine, electric battery storage and heat capture technology to significantly reduce the college's energy costs at its Conway Park campus. The project has a strong strategic fit with the low carbon aspects of the Skills Capital Prospectus and the Mayoral commitment to be carbon neutral by 2040.	£358,344	The college is experienced in the delivery of SIF skills capital projects with the necessary systems in place to deliver the intervention successfully. The project will deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 additional Apprentices - Estates energy cost by at least £43,000 per annum invested in 1 additional job. - 4 Delivery jobs created / safeguarded.
SIF2065	The Engineering College - The Engineering College Improved Facilities	This project will produce digital skills within the engineering and digital technology current centre at Monks Ferry in Birkenhead. Responding to emerging Industry skills needs that combine digital technology and engineering skills. The Engineering College will develop a SMART factory capability and invest in simulation facilities and software. Floor space will also be increased to accommodate further learners through a new mezzanine floor.	£315,000	There is strategic alignment to the Digital and Advanced Manufacturing Skills for Growth Agreements. The LEP Advanced Manufacturing Sector Manager is also supportive of the submission alongside several letters of support from employers. The project will deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 108 additional learners total including 78 apprentices and 30 traineeships. - Total additional floor space of 160m2 - 2 Apprenticeship posts created, and 3 Delivery jobs created / safeguarded.
SIF2066	Myerscough College - Myerscough Improved Facilities	The project seeks to provide accessible classroom facilities to meet the needs of learners with Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) The installation of new, modular classrooms on the existing College site will meet the needs of SEND learners; providing fully accessible facilities. The area surrounding the new classrooms will be re-surfaced to support learners with	£389,440	The applicant has a good track record of SIF Skills Capital delivery. The project will support existing high volumes of SEND learners in line with the LCR Skills Strategy of attracting under-represented learners. The project will deliver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 114 addition learners in total.

		mobility issues.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total additional floor space of 120m2 - 19 Delivery jobs created / safeguarded.
SIF2070	Halton Borough Council - Halton Borough Improved Facilities	The project will look to improve facilities at the Kingsway Learning and Centre to benefit learners and allow other core services, such as Halton into Jobs and the Councils employment team to relocate into the same building, allowing the Council to offer a more seamless service to residents e.g. those further away from the labour market.	£443,495	<p>This project will benefit learners who are funded via the devolved Adult Education Budget.</p> <p>The project will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 945 additional learners total. - Total floor space of 644m2 will be refurbished. - 118 jobs created / safeguarded. - 30 Apprentice posts will also be entered into over three years.
SIF2073	Liverpool John Moores University - LJMU Skills Escalator	Creation of a shared space for Construction Apprentice learners at (LJMU) Byrom Street campus. The aim is to create a shift change in perception that entry-level jobs are the final destination in the construction sector opening up opportunities for apprenticeship advancement and progression within the workplace (Apprenticeship growth plan 2018 - Priority 3). The project refurbishment would be to an existing building on the Byrom Street site.	£294,500	<p>The strategic case is strongly linked to the aims of the Construction Skills for Growth Action Plan and the Apprenticeship Growth Strategy and achieves a satisfactory or good appraisal against all business cases and is recommended for investment.</p> <p>The project will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 120 additional learners over three years including 60 under-graduates and 60 Apprenticeship learners. - 155m2 of floor space refurbished. - 19 Delivery jobs created / safeguarded.
SIF2082	Merseyside Youth Association - Merseyside Youth Association Refurbishment	Merseyside Youth Association aim to improve their learning environment and energy efficiency through SIF investment in new windows and heating systems.	£460,484	<p>The project offers considerable low carbon and wider learning benefits from a VCS organisation with considerable delivery experience. Works have been fully costed and wider options considered. The project will deliver:</p>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plans also relate to supporting learners with autism and sensory processing difficulties, narrowing gaps in participation within the Skills Strategy. - 444 additional new learners. - 1982.6m2 of learning space refurbished. - Engage an additional 1404 NEET young people.
SIF2078	Greenbank College - Greenbank College Visitor Economy	Exists to support disabled people and underrepresented groups. SIF Investment will refurbish an existing accommodation block to the standard of a hotel and front of house visitor economy facility. The new facilities will support an employment and training progression ladder for disabled people that provides skills and employment experience.	£483,775	<p>The submission addresses many of the narrowing gaps issues highlighted in the Skills Strategy addressing under-represented disabled and BAME learners' skills needs in the sector. This project will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 55 additional learners in total. - 37 paid hospitality jobs created. - 301m2 of floor space will be refurbished.
			£3,540,733	

Strand 3 – Equipment - Investment in equipment to ensure training environments are up to modern industry standards, with a particular focus on advanced manufacturing, digital, logistics, health and construction sector skills needs.

Min £0.025m grant and Max £0.500 grant

SIF Ref Number	Organisation Lead / Project Title	Project Description	SIF Funding	Appraiser's overall comments, key outcomes and outputs
SIF2052	The Engineering College - The Engineering College Industry 4.0	Equip a new mezzanine floor with engineering and digital equipment at the current centre at Monks Ferry in Birkenhead. Support new Apprenticeship Standards and support the delivery of a broader range of Higher and Digital Apprenticeships and an End Point Assessment Centre.	£180,000	There are clear benefits to learners with a greater volume of Apprenticeships offered and a broader curriculum. There is strategic alignment to the Digital and Advanced Manufacturing Skills for Growth Agreements. Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 195 learners p.a. after 3 years including 150 Apprentices, 20 Traineeships & 25 other learners - 2 Apprenticeships posts created - 24 Delivery jobs & 5 other jobs
SIF2060	St Helens Chamber - St Helens Chamber Digital Equipment	Provide a dedicated space in the main building on the 1st floor learning centre needs to be focussed on a more 'digital' offer. Current equipment is very basic and does not keep pace with learner's needs, or the expectations of business.	£93,118	A deliverable project from an organisation with a clear track record of delivering SIF Skills Capital successfully. Offers increased learner outcomes including Apprentices and traineeships and supports the Digital Skills for Growth Action Plan. Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 44 learners p.a. after 3 years. including 70 Apprentices, 35 Traineeships, 320 Adult Education Budget and 19 ESF funded learners - 1 Apprenticeship post - 2 Delivery jobs after 3 years
SIF2063	NWCS - NWCS	The project aims to make learning more accessible – 24 hours per day with	£52,116	Clearly supports additional volumes of learners in the health

	Equipment	equipment that will enable this to take place. Supporting learners across several programmes (Traineeships, Apprentices and AEB), alleviating any barriers specific for the sector to operate.		and social care sector and supports the delivery of the future digital entitlement. Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 336 learners p.a. after 3 years including 154 Apprentices, 42 Traineeships and 140 AEB funded learners - 6 Apprenticeship posts - 9 Delivery jobs
SIF2067	Wirral Met College - Wirral Metropolitan College - Motor Vehicle and Construction	Improve the department's equipment to industry standard. Incorporate new vehicle technologies and teaching techniques. Develop an apprenticeship end point assessment centre. Incorporate "Working at Height" within the College's large Construction department in Wirral Waters	£278,800	The project has a short period of installation (across 4 months) and is therefore deliverable within the time and funding available. There is a good proportional of match funding 20% offered by the college to the overall costs. Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 67 learners p.a. after 3 years. including 7 Apprentices and 15 16-18 study programme learners - 10 Delivery jobs
SIF2069	Myerscough College - Myerscough College Equipment	Invest in specialist equipment to support the delivery of land based programmes to LCR residents that meet the needs of learners whilst achieving modern industry standards. Equipment includes: a bank of electric chainsaws; a specialist ride-on rotary mower and cylinder mower; a rotavator and a mechanical horse.	£61,425	A strong proposal to purchase specialist equipment which will directly enhance learners' experience and support Adult and SEND learners in land based courses. Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 83 learners p.a. after 3 years. including 30 Adult Education Budget funded learners; 30 Level 3 learners and 23 16-18 ESFA study programme learners - 74 Delivery jobs

SIF2071	Halton Borough Council - Halton Borough Equipment	Upgrading and utilisation of new digital technology in the Kingsway Learning Centre in Widnes. Provide much enhanced classroom equipment including learner hardware and software, new technology to prepare the Kingsway Learning Centre for the Digital Skills programme in 2020. Learners will benefit from up-to-date interfaces and software programme to help them be exposed to digital technology.	£256,210	<p>All scores and either satisfactory or good against the business cases. Clear planning has already taken place that mitigates risks in terms of overspend and time constraints. Outputs: The project will deliver 945 learners including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 750 Adult Education Budget funded learners p.a. after 3 yrs - 195 other technical skills for learners p.a. after three years - 254 jobs safeguarded or created - 30 Apprenticeship jobs through Apprenticeship Hub referrals/ delivery of support
SIF2074	NWTC - NWTC Equipment	Facilitate the extension of the apprenticeship programme into Advanced Manufacturing in the Food and Drink industry. SCF will contribute towards the cost of Industry 4 standard technology meeting the demands of employers in the Engineering and Food and Drink Manufacturing sectors in LCR.	£499,841	<p>Clear consideration for the deliverability of the 5 month timescale for installation within the deadline for Skills Capital. Application is supported with letters of support including Kraft Heinz, Trigon Snacks & Peel Ports. Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 learners p.a to the existing baseline after 3 years including 50 Apprentices to the existing baseline per annum after 3 yrs - 50 Apprenticeship posts through delivery of training - 6 Delivery jobs safeguarded and 3 jobs created after 3 years

SIF2083	Merseyside Youth Association - MYA Learning Space	Improve the quality and accessibility of skills and employment provision at Merseyside Youth Association. Support the engagement of learners, enhance the learning experience of underrepresented learners who are furthest away from the labour market to develop their employability skills. E.g. Autism friendly learning spaces	£165,701	A good strategic fit with the Post 16 Area Based Review which called for greater volumes of SEND learner places and the SIF Skills Capital Prospectus. Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 444 new learners accessing learning - 28 (15-29yrs) job search support - Refurbish 1982.6 m2 of learning space - Engage 1404 NEET individuals
SIF2084	Riverside College - Riverside College Equipment	Purchase of specialist industry standard training rigs to enable delivery of mechatronics, process and renewable maintenance training to meet employer demand in priority growth sectors of advanced manufacturing and low carbon aligned to the related Skills Strategy outcomes and Skills for Growth Action Plans. There will be a reduction in operating costs as wind and solar equipment will support lowering of the college carbon footprint.	£358,724	The submission has clear links and employer support for low carbon technologies and advanced manufacturing Skills for Growth Action Plans. Output: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 246 learners p.a. after 3 years including 52 Adult Education Budget funded learners - 1 Apprenticeship - 6 Delivery jobs safeguarded
			£1,945,935	

Strand 5 - Low Carbon Reinvestment Fund - A fund for FE Colleges to invest in their plant and facilities to reduce their carbon impact. Max £1.00 grant

SIF Ref Number	Organisation Lead / Project Title	Project Description	SIF Funding	Appraiser's overall comments, key outcomes and outputs
SIF2040	Hugh Baird College - HBC Solar Panels	Installation of solar roof panels will be fitted on a two-story building with an approximate surface area of 885m ² which is not overlooked or shaded. The roof will also be inspected, resurfaced and strengthened with improved insulation, lowering energy costs.	£166,666	Project identifies low carbon estate needs and demonstrates strategic fit supporting local general FE College carbon reductions and energy efficiencies. Efficiencies including energy efficiency benefits to meet industry standards will be made with reduced operating costs and a more efficient estate to support learners.
SIF2054	Wirral Met College - Wirral Met College low carbon improvements	Address the Liverpool City Region Skills Capital Prospectus by reducing estates energy costs of at least £20,000 p.a. (to be invested in improving quality of apprenticeships) and to reduce the College's carbon footprint by 50 tonnes p.a.	£166,667	Value for money is considered in terms of reliable costed plans and quotes with plans in place to ensure deliverability and what would be sacrificed should costs escalate. Output: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carbon emission savings with 50 tonnes of Carbon reduced (by LED lighting, solar panels on roof, air handling system installation, window repairs and replacements etc)
SIF2055	Southport College - Southport College Low Carbon Reinvestment	The college works to reduce its energy usage and the project will help escalate the pace of the upgrading to further reduce energy and maintenance costs. The college has previously benefited from a number of specific energy saving initiatives over recent years as well continually embedding energy efficiency initiatives in its day to day planned and routine maintenance works.	£166,666	A college project team will be assembled for the project, ensuring that advice is on hand throughout the course of the project. The College has a successful track record of similar scheme management assuring deliverability. Output: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LED lighting, replacement of

				windows - Installation of Zen boiling and chilled taps
SIF2059	Riverside College - Riverside College Low Carbon	The project focusses on two areas to reduce the carbon impact of the College's Kingsway Campus by increasing energy efficiency. This will be done by upgrading to LED lighting in all rooms that are being refurbished and upgrading of mechanical heating and ventilation plant to improve efficiency	£166,667	The submission offers considerable 50/50 match funding and additional low carbon measures above and beyond the level of SIF investment. The project is deliverable with the College having a clear track record, experienced staff and considerable match reserves to enable the project to be completed quicker than would have otherwise been the case as a result of SIF investment.
SIF2077	SK College - SK Low Carbon	Update the College's lighting to energy efficient LED lighting, creating an improved learning environment and generating energy, carbon and financial savings. The College will utilise the LEP grant of £166,667 as the first phase of a wider project to complete a full £500,000 upgrade of all lighting over the next couple of years.	£166,667	The applicant has considered efficiency savings and is working to improve its carbon footprint and reduce energy usage. The investment is recommended to be supported. Planned works are scheduled to be completed within 12 months and within the proposed timescales to be completed by 31 March 2021.
SIF2079	City of Liverpool College - CoLC Low Carbon	Replace the lighting system with efficient LED lighting system, significantly improve the energy performance of 'The Learning Exchange' in the colleges' flagship building. The college will provide innovative solutions to energy savings by solutions such as removing inefficient high frequency lighting.	£166,667	The collage aims to achieve savings of £21,466 plus VAT p.a. and Reduce the colleges CO2 emissions by an estimated 59,484kg per year.
			£1,000,000	