**Greater Lincolnshire Skills Capital Programme, September 2020 – March 2022**

**Applicants MUST read the instructions and criteria below.**

**Specification and Guidance**

The Greater Lincolnshire LEP is seeking proposals from local Colleges and Training Providers for capital projects that will result in improved training or learning facilities for young people and adults.

To be eligible to apply applicants must be post-16 colleges or training organisations located in the Greater Lincolnshire LEP area and who are on the register of learning providers in the current academic year [https://www.ukrlp.co.uk/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ukrlp.co.uk%2F&data=02%7C01%7CHalina.Davies%40lincolnshire.gov.uk%7C4feae20313f449c1ed1b08d83d242885%7Cb4e05b92f8ce46b59b2499ba5c11e5e9%7C0%7C0%7C637326572787572580&sdata=XZFJW%2FBMs%2F2odRIKi4k%2B8ln6PRucGcCimL7bUN4rLi8%3D&reserved=0).

**Criteria**

Applicants can request grant funding for the following:

* The construction of new buildings (maximum grant contribution £2m, can include land acquisition costs)
* The refurbishment of existing buildings
* The purchase of new training equipment
* Works that will improve delivery such as through digital technologies
* Steps to improve technological infrastructure and service resilience
* Investment to reduce CO2 footprints and improve the energy efficiency in existing educational facilities resulting in new training provision

The total available fund within this Programme is £7.6million. **All funds** must be spent by March 2022, and outcomes delivered by 2025.

The LEP is seeking to fund a range of projects through this programme and expects to receive both large and smaller applications. The minimum project value should be £200k. If the proposal falls below this threshold and the applicant feels that it meets all of the criteria, they are encouraged to speak to the LEP before submitting their detailed business case.

*Organisations with more than one proposal for equipment should bring them together in one application.*

**Proposals and Scoring**

Applicants should provide a full business case using the template provided, [https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/documents/skills-capital-programme-2020-business-case-template/](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk%2Fdocuments%2Fskills-capital-programme-2020-business-case-template%2F&data=02%7C01%7CClare.Hughes%40lincolnshire.gov.uk%7C1a89f42d6c4c4588acd608d83ebe4a56%7Cb4e05b92f8ce46b59b2499ba5c11e5e9%7C0%7C0%7C637328334293695365&sdata=jWzG7PQasdbJIJyIabtvDSGDyIhBE%2BkrJyFncm1xB8A%3D&reserved=0) with supporting documentation demonstrating deliverability, value for money, strategic fit, impact on training/learning and economic outputs/outcomes that will be achieved by 2025.

Business cases will be scored using criteria that has been set in advance. The skills capital scoring template is available here: <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/documents/gllep-scoring-template/>

Applicants must show how, following completion of the capital project, they will be better able to train people for occupations in the area's six most important sectors, (agri-food, health and care, manufacturing & engineering, visitor economy, ports and logistics, and low carbon), as well as occupations in the construction sector, defence and digital sector. Projects without an impact on these sectors will not be funded.

Schemes should demonstrate strategic fit with Greater Lincolnshire's emerging Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/documents/greater-lincolnshire-lep-local-industrial-strategy-draft-22nd-november-2019/> , and also the Skills Advisory Panel Analysis <https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/documents/sap-analysis-2020/>

Applicants must outline the occupations and the relevant qualifications or learning that will be delivered once the capital intervention is complete. Applicants will be working with local employers and will have already identified gaps or shortages.

*Where a project is proposing to fill a gap in training provision that is not obviously linked to one of the priority sectors the proposal must clearly describe the need/occupation and impact within the business case.*

The programme is likely to receive more applications than there are funds and so schemes that cannot outline the occupations and qualifications that will result from the finished capital project will not score well.

The LEP will only fund projects that lead to an increased number of people who are ready for work in the local area. Projects that duplicate or displace existing good quality provision within an area will not be funded.

Revenue funding **is not** available through this programme, therefore applicants must briefly explain how, at the completion of the capital project, they access funds to support the training or progression of learners.

The funding will not support revenue costs and procuring consultants and contractors.

Applicants are expected to exclude contingency costs; general maintenance works; depreciation, amortisation and impairment of assets purchased with the help of the Grant; and any payments for activity of a political nature.

**Match Funding**

Capital match funding contributions will need to be demonstrated in all cases (2:1 and 1:1 depending on priority and need, with some flexibility for high scoring proposals).

If applicants wish to also include revenue funding as match funding they cannot use Adult Education Budget as this has already been matched at source by the ESFA, but it can be revenue relating to training provision that will be spent in future years once the capital element is complete.

**Monitoring**

Following completion of the capital project the LEP will start to monitor the progression of learners benefiting from the scheme, and applicants must provide the LEP with reports about the destination of learners after training takes place.

Applicants will clearly identify within their business case:

* Strategic fit as outlined in the specification above,
* How they will be better able to train people, and increase the number of people who are ready for work in the local area
* The occupations and the relevant qualifications or learning that will be delivered once the capital intervention is complete,
* The local employers who have identified these gaps or shortages,
* The impact on sectors, people, and place (geography)
* That this proposal adds value and will not displace other learning already available
* SMART scheme objectives
* Outputs and outcomes by 2025 (highlighting how they have been calculated), being clear that these are additional or different to what is currently being delivered by your organisation
* Realistic timescales for delivery including a programme of activity
* Overall cost breakdown
* Why the project can be regarded as value for money
* Funding gap for taking forward the scheme
* Capital match funding secured, including levels of borrowing required
* Planning decisions in place/outstanding (if applicable)
* Masterplan information available/ related site delivery (if applicable)
* State aid implications (if applicable)
* Land ownership confirmation (if applicable)

Where applicants borrow to enable a scheme they will need to indicate that any future cost increases to the project can be fully underwritten without bringing the lead organisation into insolvency, so as not to compromise the project delivery, its projected outcomes or existing learners.

A detailed, realistic and deliverable project programme is therefore required to support each application alongside supporting cash flow information.

We will expect each project to demonstrate need for the funding gap identified and there are no guarantees that schemes will be successful in securing the full amount of allocation requested.

A full due diligence appraisal will be carried out on the highest scoring projects post analysis of submissions and this stage of the process will require provision of detailed designs, tender estimates/actual tender information, and details of any highway implications.

**Submission and Assessment**

Business cases and any supporting information must be submitted by 8 September 2020 to in order to be considered for the funding allocation. Please submit your application and any supporting documents to Halina.Davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Assessment of applications will take place during September 2020. During this stage there may be further discussion with applicants.

Further information: if you require clarification about the fund or process please contact Halina Davies halina.davies@lincolnshire.gov.uk or Clare Hughes clare.hughes@lincolnshire.gov.uk