



CITY LEARNING QUARTER LEVELLING UP BID

City of Wolverhampton Council and City of Wolverhampton College



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.



ANDY STREET
Mayor of the West Midlands



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.



Generating more opportunities for local people

New CLQ brings together new college building at Metro One site with city's Adult Education Service and Central Library

Supported by major public realm investment and improvements

Opportunity for 100's of new homes when Paget Road campus released for housing bringing local jobs and investment





Retail Core

CITY LEARNING QUARTER

Adjacent to Interchange

Hotel Novotel

Bilston Island

A41 Bilston Rd

A4150

3/5/7 St Georges Parade

Library + Housing

The CLQ site bounded by Bilston Street to the North, St Georges Parade to the East and South and Garrick Street to the West

The benefits

A new 'digital age'
City Centre College Campus: High quality, flexible teaching and learning spaces, replacing the old and inaccessible facilities at Paget Rd

Co-location and collaboration:
By bringing together the college, Central Library and Adult Education Service to create CLQ site. Ultimately this will deliver better learning and employment outcomes for local people

City Centre regeneration / repurposing of retail core:
Major capital investment in public buildings / public realm will stimulate economic activity, footfall and vibrancy having a catalytic affect on nearby sites, supporting the transition from retail use to more diverse and sustainable mixed uses

New housing
Paget Road College Campus land will bring 214 new homes

Greener travel



Paget Road Campus

Park

CITY CENTRE

Heath Town

INTERCHANGE

CITY LEARNING QUARTER

Adjacent to Interchange



Fantastic connectivity and accessibility:

Multi-public transport modes (bus, train, tram) and cycle and footways to encourage greener travel. Tram links provide better access for students and staff travelling between campuses.



Wellington Road Campus

Bilston North

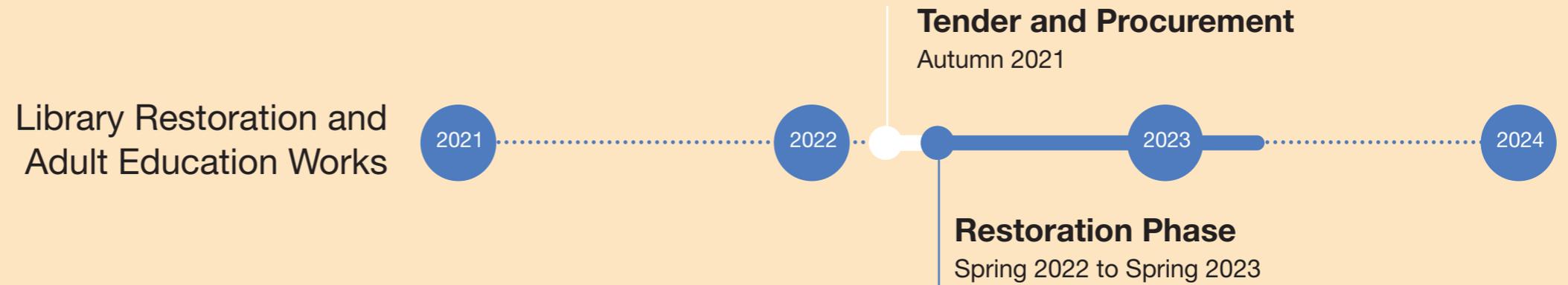
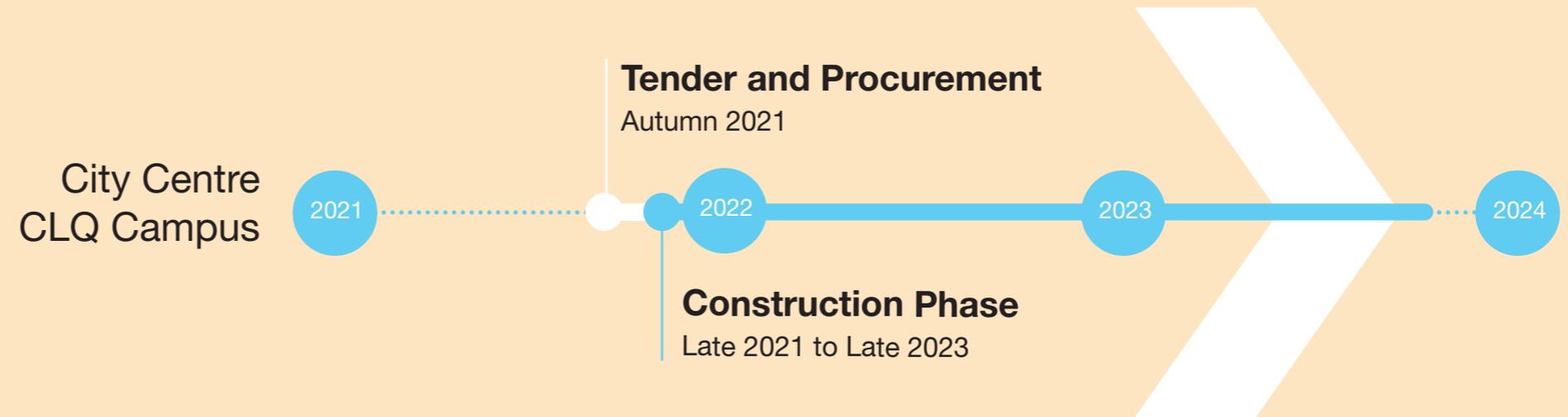
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Graisek

A shovel-ready opportunity

- ✔ Site acquired, cleared and assembled
- ✔ Detailed design, intrusive ground investigations, demolition of existing structures and other enabling works all complete
- ✔ Planning consent achieved and multiple conditions already discharged
- ✔ Procurement ready - tender pack (RIBA Stage 3) prepared for issue to the market
- ✔ Programme established
- ✔ Project management and governance in place (partnership between the Council, City of Wolverhampton College and supported by external consultants Turner & Townsend)
- ✔ Council and Black Country LEP already committed at risk £6.1m to implement advanced development works.
- ✔ A further £45.4m investment is needed from Levelling Up Fund and Further Education Capital Transformation Fund to close the funding gap.
- ✔ Ready for a start on site during 2021 / 22 upon the above funding confirmation

Forward plan



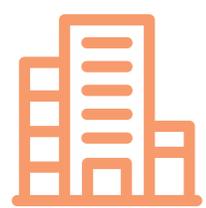
Direct outcomes/benefits

 **Jobs created**
51

 **Jobs safeguarded**
366

 **Learner assists**
21,612 ▶ **44,961**
(by Year 5) (by Year 10)

 **Benefit Cost Ratio**
4:1

 **Area of Brownfield Site Regenerated**
1ha

Apprenticeships started
 **3,624** ▶ **7,539**
(by Year 5) (by Year 10)

Business assists
 **115**
(over 10 year period)

GVA
 **£233m**

Training / learning floorspace
3,339m² **7,503m²**
Refurbished New build

Floorspace Rationalised
 **5,633m²**

Indirect outcomes/benefits



Jobs created and safeguarded in the local economy

745

(calculated by Independent Consultants Genecon in 2019)



New Homes created (at Paget Road site)

90-214

(depending on density) and to be realised following completion of the CLQ overall programme.



Combined impact on shift to CLQ users to more sustainable modes of travel and more energy efficient buildings

630t_{CO2}
310_{NOx}

CLQ is the city's top regeneration priority

City centre regeneration:

major site developed, capital investment in public buildings / public realm / stimulate economic activity / showcase learning opportunities / technical skills base to visitors / aid transition of the city centre away from retail use / increase vibrancy and daytime footfall / support our evening economy

Education and skills improvement:

more and better employment opportunities and unbeatable accessibility for learners, employers and residents

Economic growth sectors:

the 4 transformative sectors identified by Black Country LEP and WMCA in respective Strategic Economic Plans – advanced manufacturing, building technologies, transport technologies, and environmental technologies. Wellington Road will create high level technical skills in Advanced Engineering and an Automotive Electric Vehicle (EV) Centre of Excellence - key to the Government 2030 target to phase out petrol and diesel cars

More and better homes:

housing delivery and green economy agendas



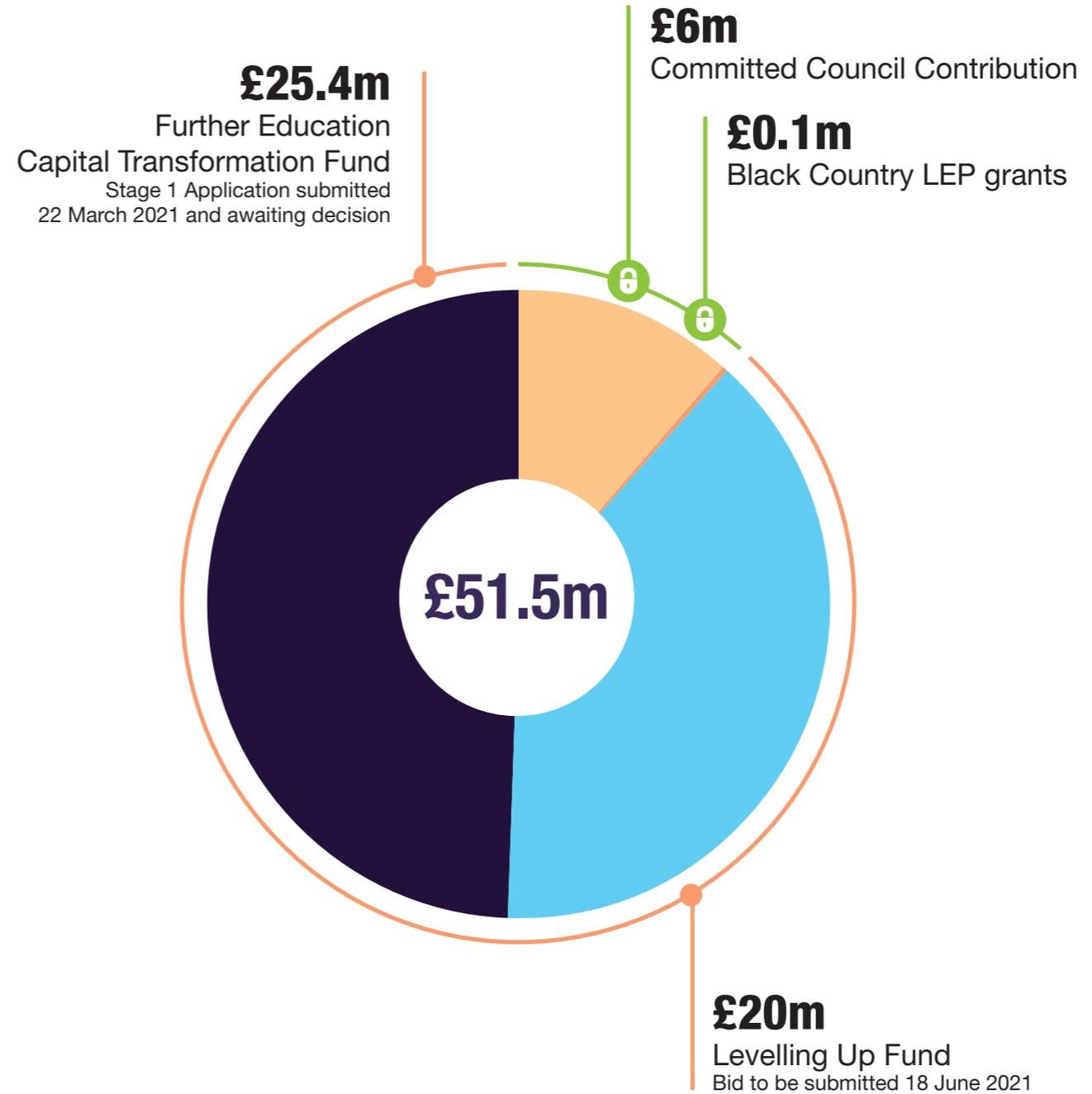
CLQ funding

Project site has planning permission, has been assembled and is development ready for expenditure during 2021/22

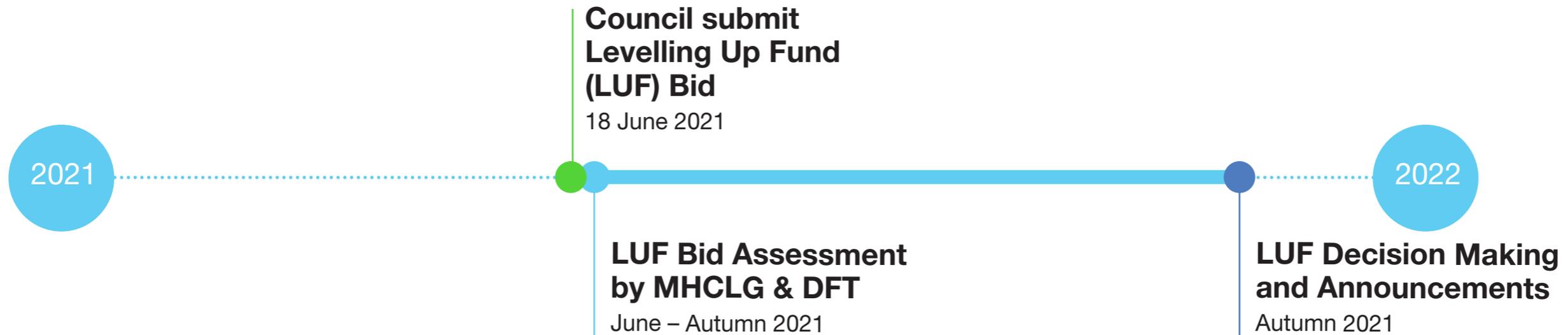
Status

 Funding secured

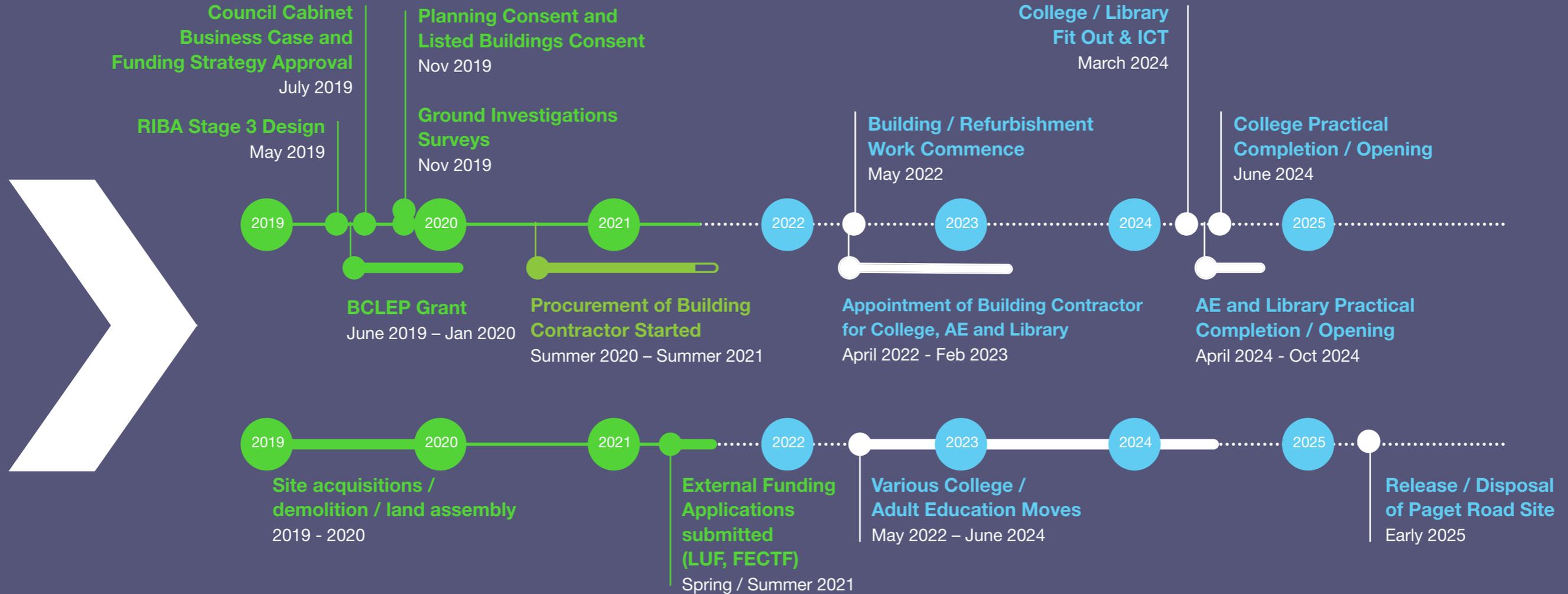
 Progressing



Levelling up funding roadmap



Milestones/Activities



Student comments



BRIGHT UCHE
L2 Computing

Being able to access high speed connections such as 5G will be amazing! Having access not only to the connection, but the investment in technologies that the CLQ will provide will really help me develop the right skills to make sure I stand out in the crowd and get the right job as I'll be work ready.



ALICIA STANACA
L3 Uniformed Public Services

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.

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SHALID SALIH
L3 Uniformed Public Services

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CHYNA NELSON
L2 Sport

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