Date: 18th March 2019

Subject: GM Skills Capital 2017 – 2020 Programme Update

Report of: Simon Nokes

PURPOSE OF REPORT
The purpose of this report is to update members on the latest position on the Round 2 applications for Skills Capital funding from Bolton College & Wigan & Leigh College.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Members are asked to review and discuss information contained within the report, in particular:

   a) Delegate the LEP decision for Approval in Principal for Bolton College & Wigan/Leigh College to the Chair, in conjunction with the GMCA if a decision is needed before the next LEP cycle.

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Skills Capital investment is a key component of GM’s Growth Deal devolved responsibilities and successful deployment of this funding will support further education skills capital projects across the region. There is £71m earmarked for this investment for delivery between 2017 and 2021.

1.2 Round 2 of the commissioning process was launched in February 2018, with a closing for EoI submission of Friday 6th April 2018. 9 Expressions of Interest (EoI’s) were received and have been appraised by internal GMCA staff, of which 5 were successful in progressing to the full business case stage. All applicants have been notified of the outcome of their applications.

2. ROUND 2 UPDATE

2.1 BOLTON COLLEGE

Project title: Bolton College of Medical Sciences (BCMS)
Total project value: £30,000,000
Funding requested: £10,000,000
Summary: This project will deliver state-of-the-art vocational, professional skills and training facilities located at the Bolton NHS FT Hospital site in Farnworth, Bolton. BCMS will create over 20,000 apprenticeships over its lifetime, with a GVA impact of £150,000,000 and will significantly increase access to education and employment in the health / medical sectors.

2.1.1 Bolton college submitted a full business case application for their project ‘Bolton College of Medical Sciences’ which given the level of funding requested (£10,000,000), was evaluated by both internal GMCA colleagues and an independent external evaluation team from Jacobs.

2.1.2 The application was strong in places however the college have been working with GMCA and Jacobs to address some issues that were highlighted as part of the evaluation. There have been a number of engagements between all parties and the College are now in the process of submitting their final pieces of additional evidence to support their application so that a funding decision can be made.

2.1.3 The CA approval was given on 15th Feb 2019 where leaders were informed that LEP approval was still pending.
2.3 WIGAN & LEIGH COLLEGE

Project: Leigh Campus Capital Investment Strategy  
Total project value: £805,000  
Funding requested: £225,000  
Summary: This project is a remodelling project, at the college’s main Leigh Campus building, allowing the college to consolidate all activities in Leigh into a single campus and offer an expanded employment focused curriculum offer, acting as a dual A Level and vocational centre.

2.3.1 Wigan & Leigh College submitted two applications under Round 2. The first application for their project ‘Centre of Excellence – Engineering & Manufacturing (Pagefield Centre)’ was approved by the LEP in January 19.

2.3.2 The College has also submitted an application for a smaller project ‘Leigh Campus Rationalisation Project’, which was subsequently resubmitted following conversations with GMCA about strengthening the strategic case and supporting the need of the local area as well as local authority. This application was not subject to external evaluation but has gone through the same Green Book evaluation. The moderation panel met in January 2019 and signed off the appraisal with an approval in principal being given by GMCA on the 15th February subject to LEP approval in March 19.

2.4 OLDHAM COLLEGE

Project title: Oldham College Construction Skills Centre  
Total project value: £8,950,000  
Funding requested: £6,950,000  

2.4.1 Oldham College submitted a round 2 application for their ‘Oldham College Construction Skills Centre’ project. This was appraised by internal GMCA colleagues and given the level of funding requested an independent evaluation team from Jacobs.

2.4.2 The strategic case was well made in the application however there were a number of areas which needed further clarification and more evidence to be provided in order to make a funding decision. The College are working towards GMCA sign-off by the end of May 2019, and continue to work closely with GMCA and Jacobs to ensure their application meets all of the Green Book requirements and to ensure that all of the necessary evidence and additional information required can be submitted.
2.5 **BURY COLLEGE**

2.5.1 The College had their Round 1 application recommended for approval. However, this has since been paused as the College are currently working with Bury Council to ensure aligned curriculum following involvement in the local area from Bolton University.