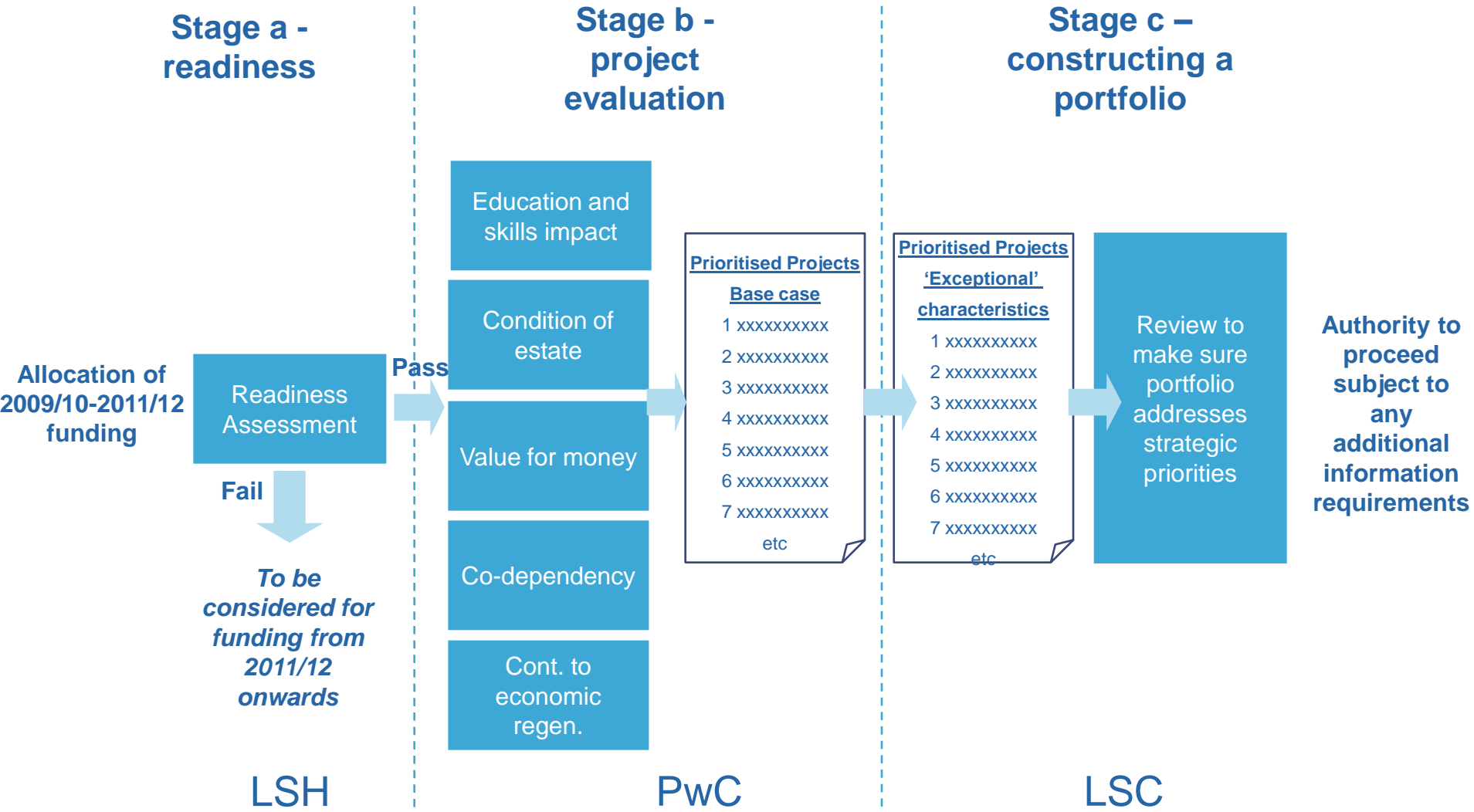


Learning & Skills Council
Further Education Capital Programme
June 2009
DRAFT

Introduction

- PwC has been commissioned to:
 - Work with the LSC and LSH, to define an approach to evaluating and prioritising projects for capital funding;
 - Support the LSC in undertaking consultation on the approach and evaluation criteria;
 - Apply the criteria to projects; and
 - Identify and consider a number of factors that might be taken into account when allocating funding to a portfolio of projects.

Overarching approach



Evaluation methodology

- Assessor briefing and **dry run evaluation undertaken**;
- Teams **met with regional representatives** to understand project context, review documentation and score project against criteria;
- **Scores and evidence captured** in a standard template;
- Each evaluation **reviewed and challenged** by a small team of reviewers;
- **PwC moderation** to maximise consistency of scoring;
- **LSC/PwC moderation** to review and validate scores;
- **Regional LSC representatives have reviewed PwC evaluation comments** to identify any factual inaccuracies, significant omissions and misinterpretations; and
- **LSC Capital Committee and National Council have endorsed the approach and process undertaken.**

Criteria

Education and skills impact	Cont. to local economic regeneration and other priorities	Co-dependency with 3rd parties	Condition of estate	Value for money
<p>This criterion assesses the extent to which the project addresses current and future education and skills need and supports industrial activism.</p>	<p>This criterion considers the wider economic and regeneration impact of the project.</p>	<p>This criterion looks at the practical implications of not proceeding with the project and the leverage ratios involved.</p>	<p>This criterion evaluates the existing estate needs and the extent to which they are addressed by the project.</p>	<p>This criterion assesses the extent to which the project demonstrates that it has gone through a process to maximise vfm.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers & specialisation • Technology enhanced learning • Impact on 14-19 yr olds • Expansion of high performing providers • LLDD provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of deprivation • Economic impact including support to inward investment • Advancing equal opportunities & social impact • Environmental impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration and interdependencies with other important projects in the locality e.g. BSF, regeneration schemes. • Interdependencies with 3rd party funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition • Suitability • Sufficiency • Urgency e.g. sale/closure of buildings, links to other phases of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost • Quality • Capacity • Readiness to deliver • Sustainability and longer term affordability

• Projects have been scored from 0-5 against each criterion, with 5 being the highest score.

Evaluation outcomes

- 200+ self assessment questionnaires received from colleges.
- 90 deemed to be capable of starting on site by September 2009 or earlier.
- Project evaluation exercise produced a range of scores from 20 to 92 out of 100.
- Given the nature of the criteria and their equal weighting, the scoring tends to prioritise broader based projects.

Addressing urgent issues and exceptional circumstances

- Through our evaluation we have identified a number of exceptional issues which the scoring bands do not adequately capture.
- In these cases, we have allocated bonus marks to reflect the exceptional circumstances.
- In general, bonus marks have been allocated sparingly, in the following instances:
 - **Condition of estate** - Where there are extremely urgent estate issues e.g. significant work already underway, buildings demolished, significant and unsatisfactory temporary accommodation, critical H&S issues;
 - **Co-dependency** - Where there is significant leverage of 3rd party funding or another important project will not proceed if this project doesn't proceed; and
 - **Regeneration** – Where the area is both highly deprived and the project is integral to a wider regeneration scheme.

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