



**DORSET**  
Local Enterprise Partnership

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Local Growth Fund (LGF)

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Weymouth College Centre of Excellence  
for Construction

End of Project Report

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**PROJECT SUMMARY**

Weymouth College Construction Centre of Excellence – a project to deliver additional workshop and teaching space for the Construction curriculum by means of a new purpose-built facility on the main College campus.

The aims of this project were to recognise and meet the growing demand for Construction related curriculum at 16-19 full time and Apprenticeship level and liaison with the business community for construction related jobs.

The College works with local business and SMEs through the Apprenticeship and Employability Services team and this project supports this liaison already in place.

Too early to report on objectives being met (review in the Autumn 2021 once enrolment is underway) but project delivered on time and within budget.

Project start date	Sept 2019 (planning application)
Project construction start date	November 2020
Project completion date	March 2021

**CHANGE REQUEST**

Change request followed additional funding in the Spring 2021 which enabled additional works for plumbing and electrical within the main Purbeck building.

**OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES:**

INDICATORS	FORECAST OUTCOMES				TOTAL
	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25	
<b>New learning floorspace (sqm)</b>	1,805	0	0	0	<b>1,805</b>
<b>New indirect jobs created (No.)</b>	30	30	30	30	<b>120</b>
<b>New indirect jobs retained (No.)</b>	30	30	30	30	<b>120</b>
<b>New indirect up-skilled jobs (No.)</b>	20	20	20	20	<b>80</b>
<b>New Apprenticeships (No.)</b>	160	160	160	160	<b>640</b>
<b>New Full -time students (full qualification) (No.)</b>	280	280	280	280	<b>1120</b>
<b>New businesses relocated to LEP region</b>	10	10	10	10	40
<b>New business start ups</b>	10	10	10	10	40

- The outcomes have delivered Increased capacity for Construction curriculum delivery from 2021/22 academic year.
- There are No changes to report on outcomes as evaluation is too soon, so close after project completion, end of College academic year and pre- enrolment for August / September 2021.
- It is too early to report on student growth – suggest review undertaken this Autumn.
- Student number growth 16-19 full time courses and Apprenticeship new starts.

### **BENEFITS REALISED TO DATE**

- More teaching space and associated benefits with relocation of classroom space to new modular build.
- Staff satisfaction with new working environment, improved ICT access and modular build connected to main Purbeck build.

### **FINANCES**

- The project's budget was £825K.
- The college provided matched funding of £7,597 for internal works.

### **LESSONS LEARNT**

- Liaison with CCS specialist for Modular building was key to delivering tender review effectively and timely to ensure adequate project time for build, delivery and install. Modular builds are deemed 'permanent' and the process for tender and build as well as affordability met the College and LEP needs for this project.
- Risks were mitigated by early conversation with contractor on timeline to ensure materials and supplies were available for build and delivery of modular build took place in early March (post lockdown) and building constructed on site with minimal interruption to College teaching and learning.

### **SUCCESS STORY**

- This project was delivered on time and within budget during challenging circumstances with COVID19 lockdown and potential BREXIT impact on supplies. The project has delivered for the College with a state of the art extension to our Construction centre that offers 4 additional teaching spaces and modifications to other pre-existing classrooms / corridors in the connected Purbeck building. The project will support growth in all Construction trades for our 16-19 curriculum and Apprenticeship offer.
- The College actively works with local businesses and SMEs and through the Apprenticeship and Employability Services Team, further collaboration and partnership work is expected.
- It is too early to report, but growth anticipated in curriculum through local, demographics will serve the College well with greater 16-19 and Apprenticeship investment which will in turn benefit the local area with young people, skilled and trained in construction trades for local businesses and SMEs.

**Dorset LEP**

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<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/construction-skills-excellence>

**Weymouth College**

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