

BRIEFING | FE WHITE PAPER
***Skills for jobs: lifelong learning for
opportunity and growth***

HOSTED BY: NICK LINFORD
MONDAY 25 JANUARY
12:00 – 13:30

FREE WEBINAR (LIVE)

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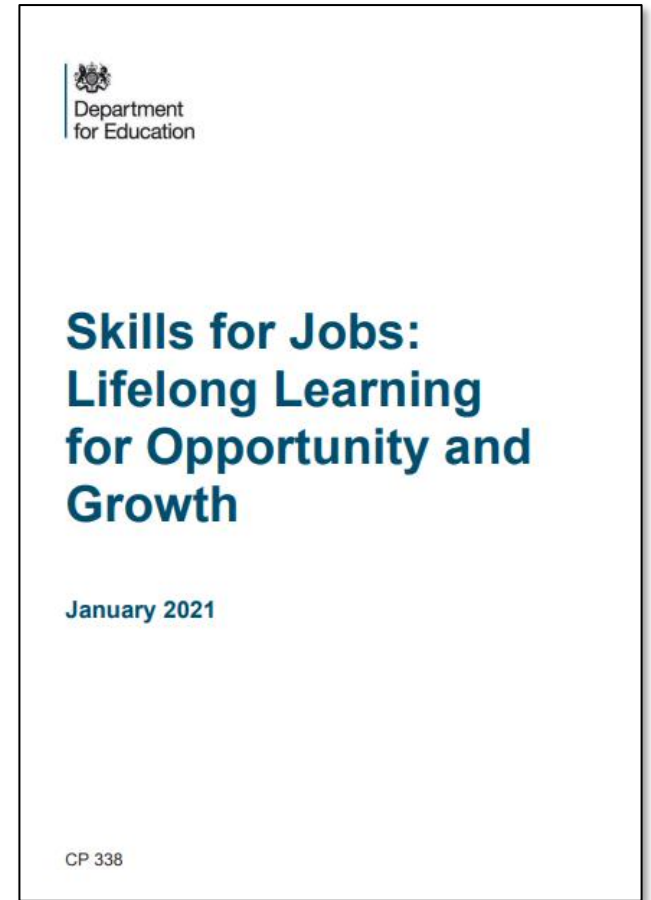
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The FE White Paper in numbers

- 6 chapters including summary
- 32 sections within the chapters
- 34 policy ‘decisions’
- 80 pages
- 156 paragraphs
- 25,143 words
- 140,806 characters (no spaces)
- 166,107 characters (with spaces)

Very wide ranging!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-for-jobs-lifelong-learning-for-opportunity-and-growth>



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What's does Gavin say is the big theme?



“This White Paper aims to **strengthen links between employers and further education providers**. We will place employers at the heart of defining local skills needs and explore a new role for Chambers of Commerce and other business representative organisations working with local colleges and employers.”

Repeat after me: from employer ownership -> to employer-led

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-for-jobs-lifelong-learning-for-opportunity-and-growth>

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One-year funding commitment (not 3)

“The courses offered by providers will be **tailored to meet the skill needs of businesses**. We will support their delivery through £1.5 billion of capital funding to improve the condition of further education colleges, a further £291 million to support 16-19-year-olds and £375 million to deliver our contribution to the Plan for Jobs in 2021-22 and start delivering our Lifetime Skills Guarantee.



Other legislation in the pipeline (hence being a white paper)?

“And we need all our further education providers to be well managed, governed and have the best quality teachers and lecturers”

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Next phase of employer-led: like Germany?

A £65 million Strategic Development Fund to establish “College Business Centres” within FE colleges, which will offer capital and revenue funding to help colleges “respond to locally agreed priorities” - *DfE told us £65m but there is no mention of budget in the white paper*



New legislation to give Chambers of Commerce leadership of new Local Skills Improvement Plans - *somehow not duplicating the work of devolved FE funders*

Give employers a “central role” in designing “almost all” technical courses by 2030, to “ensure that the education and training people receive is directly linked to the skills needed for real jobs” - *huge role for IfATE working with Ofqual*

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Raft of reforms already in train

Bootcamps: 12-16-week courses with ‘up to’ £43 million in 2021/22 from National Skills Fund to expand nationally into several sectors. Currently a tender taking place with 12 February deadline - totally new funding formula, no ILR (!) and so far no sign of Ofsted (!!)

- I think the ‘bootcamp’ name came from No10 back in October and I cannot find anyone that likes it



Lifetime Skills Guarantee: expansion of the existing first full level 3 entitlement from April 2021 (£95m budget) to include all ages - but with a very limited number of eligible courses chosen for being of economic value. Like bootcamps, funded from the new National Skills Fund but ESFA needing to use a ring-fence in the Adult Education Budget as temporary measure.

- expect tension between devolved mayoral authorities who will want more qualifications and sectors eligible

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Fascinating FE Week interview with the Skills Minister Gillian Keegan (1/2)



“Some of it has been announced before. I don’t know why people get so obsessed about it being announced before – it’s all part of the same strategy, some of which we’ve been working on to be able to start to get people ready to deliver it. But it’s all part of the same strategy, which is closing the skills gap, where we put **employers at the centre** of our qualifications and working with FE colleges and local skills improvement plans to basically make sure that we bring the system together.”

<https://feweek.co.uk/2021/01/21/white-paper-qa-with-skills-minister-we-have-got-an-awful-lot-to-do-and-an-awful-lot-to-prove/>

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Fascinating FE Week interview with the Skills Minister Gillian Keegan (2/2)



Would a 3-year spending settlement have been more preferable?

“The fact is, I don’t know. But I do know that trying to deliver a flexible, more modular approach with the lifelong loan entitlement, a level 3 entitlement, bootcamps, Institutes of Technology and T Levels, that is a massive programme in itself.”

“I feel there is a lot to deliver. Would I want more to deliver? Not necessarily. Sometimes there is a case of, well, if you argue for more stuff but you can’t spend it because you can’t actually deliver it, well, then that doesn’t always end well.”

<https://feweek.co.uk/2021/01/21/white-paper-qa-with-skills-minister-we-have-got-an-awful-lot-to-do-and-an-awful-lot-to-prove/>

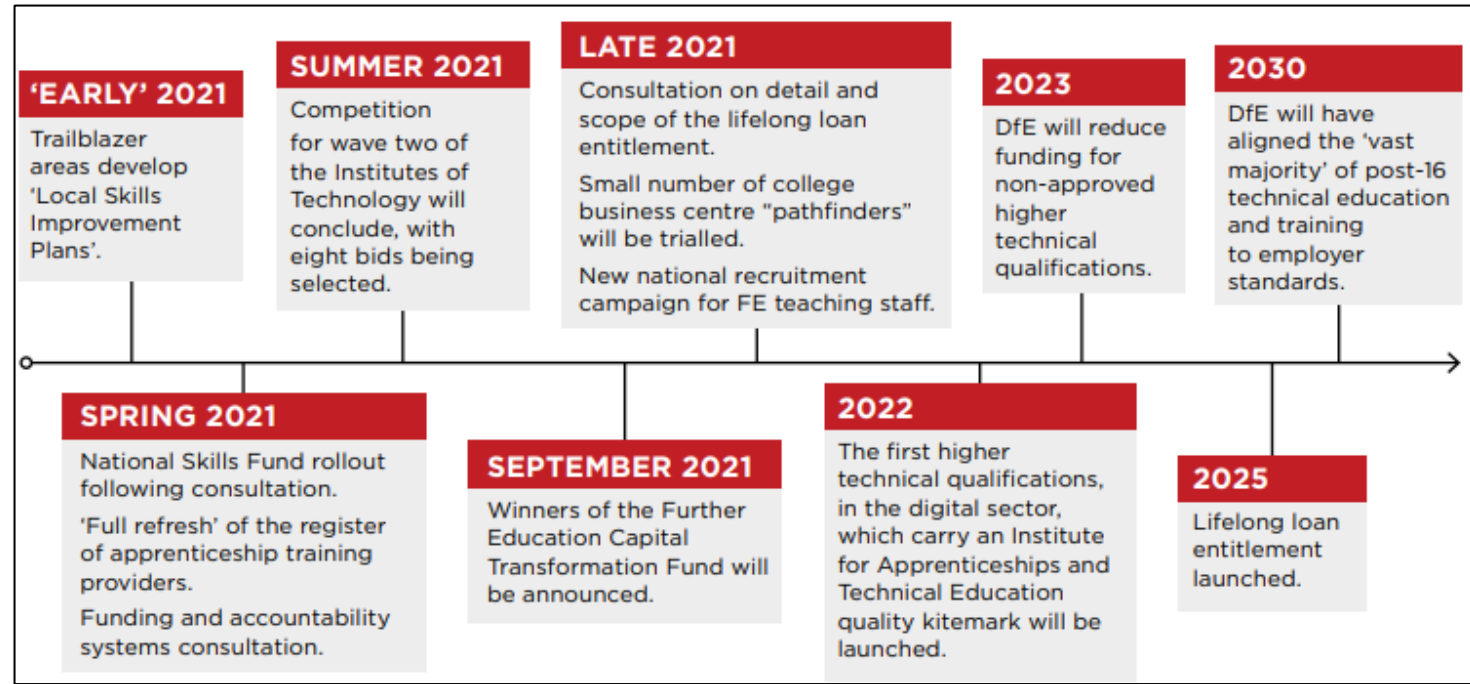
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What next?...

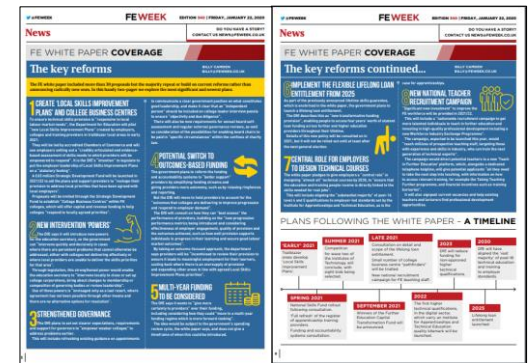
Implement the flexible Lifelong Loan Entitlement to the equivalent of four years of post-18 education from 2025

National Skills Funding consultation to reform the FE funding system and make it 'simple' - *unclear how simple given devolution of skills funding in many areas*



Source: FE Week

We will send out our handy #Fewwhitepaper summary after the webcast



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Discussion

David Hughes, CEO, Association of Colleges

Dr Sue Pember, Hoxley

Jane Hickie, CEO, AELP

David Russell, CEO, Education & Training Foundation

David Gallagher, CEO, NCFE

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