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Learning and Skills Council awards £2.5 million for Post-16 Centre in Melton Mowbray

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has awarded £2.5 million towards the costs of building a new Post-16 Centre to be built off Burton Road, Melton Mowbray. This funding is to provide additional places, with the major part of the £12.2 million project costs already secured from the Department for Children Schools and Families.

The Centre will provide Post-16 learning facilities and enable wider choice for learners from the secondary and special schools in the Melton and Vale of Belvoir Partnership. The new centre will cater for up to 659 students.

Colin Chinnock 14-19 Manager, LSC Leicestershire, said:

“The Centre is being built in response to a review of the organisation of schools in Melton Mowbray and the Vale of Belvoir which found there was a need for increased provision for 16-19 year-olds in the area.

“It will cater for those students wishing to continue their academic studies into sixth form and will also provide a wider curriculum choice, working in collaboration with Brooksby Melton College.”

Ivan Ould, Leicestershire County Council’s Cabinet Member for the Children and Young People’s Service, said: “The award of this additional funding is excellent

news. It will provide a real boost to developing provision for 16-19 year olds within the Melton and Vale of Belvoir Partnership. This will ensure that we offer the widest possible choice in state of the art learning facilities.”

The award to the Post-16 Centre was made alongside another four projects nationally. The total value of the grant funding for the five projects was £7.8 million. Announcing the five projects, the LSC said that the five capital projects will increase the number of 16-19 year old learner places, reduce the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training and to expand the curriculum range on offer, particularly in vocational courses.

The 16 -19 Capital Fund, administered for the Department for Children Schools and Families by the LSC, was established in 2006 to support the capital costs of new 16-19 provision arising mainly from presumptions and competitions.

Geoff Russell, LSC Chief Executive said:

“This announcement means that 123 projects throughout England have now been supported by this successful programme. As a result, there are more places for learners 16-19 years of age and better educational and training facilities. By improving facilities and broadening the curriculum so that it meets more learner needs, schools and colleges plan to reduce the number of young people who are, or are at risk of becoming, not in education, employment or training.”

Iain Wright, Minister for 14-19 Reform, said:

“I am delighted that these projects will be getting investment for post-16 learning places. The number of students in this age bracket is growing all the time. Backed by the September Guarantee and the January Guarantee, as well as continued

investment in the Education Maintenance Allowance, today's announcement means we are also responding to the increasing number by offering more places, especially in areas where there is a shortage."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further information, contact Linda Penrice, Learning and Skills Council East Midlands, Tel: 0116 228 1849.

**Or: Permjit Mann, Public Relations Unit, Leicestershire County Council
Tel: 0116 3056242.**

The projects above are in addition to the 118 projects that are underway or have been completed under the programme.

Since the launch of this successful programme, 123 projects throughout England have been supported, benefiting learners in schools and colleges. Those projects include:

- 45 school presumption projects,
- 8 projects as a result of 16-19 competitions, and
- 70 'other' school and college projects.

In August 2009, DCSF and the LSC commenced a review of current commitments and future demand against the budget available for 2010-11. That review is continuing and will be completed in March 2010. The Secretary of State announced on 14 December an additional £30m of capital investment bringing the 2010-11 budget to £270m.

The 16 - 19 Capital Fund administered by the LSC was established in 2006 to support the capital costs of new 16-19 provision with priority to be given to presumptions and competitions.

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers. Visit www.lsc.gov.uk/inourhands