

EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 16-19 COMPETITION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

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The outcome of the East Northamptonshire 16-19 Competition, where bids were put forward to provide an extended range of education and training opportunities in the East Northamptonshire area has been announced by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in Northamptonshire.

The proposals submitted by The East Northamptonshire College Partnership will now be taken forward for more detailed planning and design and could result in up to £6 million of new investment for the region.

The partnership, led by local schools and colleges, has put forward proposals for purpose-built, high quality vocational facilities. This will provide access to new high quality vocational education for over 250 more 16-19 year olds across the District. Positive features endorsed by the LSC include: new purpose-built vocational facilities; a focus on progression by learners from entry level to advanced levels; support for the Government's new diplomas, which are being piloted in East Northants as one of the region's leading partnerships; and an opportunity for the schools, colleges, employers and other partners to work together to provide a wide range of innovative learning opportunities for young people in East Northamptonshire.

Liz Searle, LSC Area Director for Northamptonshire said, "The East Northamptonshire College Partnership's proposal offers a real opportunity to improve and develop the breadth of provision in East Northamptonshire. The LSC is looking forward to working with the Partnership to develop its plans into an exciting new offer for all young people across the District."

Linda Brooks, Headteacher at Manor School and Sports College, on behalf of The East Northants College Partnership said, "This is an exciting opportunity for our partnership of schools and colleges who already work closely to maximise opportunities for students. We have been entrusted to pilot the Government's new Diplomas and these new facilities are essential to help us plan ahead".

Ends

Notes to Editors:

For more information please contact Linda Penrice on Tel: 0116 228 1849 or email linda.penrice@lsc.gov.uk

LSC

- The Learning and Skills Council 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.
- Competitions for new 16-19 provision are held where a need is identified for 200 or more new 16-19 places to meet basic need, to improve quality and/or improve the balance of provision in an area, where there is no proposal to meet that need under the sixth form 'presumption' arrangements or from an academy.
- LSC Northamptonshire established the need for new 16-19 provision in East-Northamptonshire based on the outcomes of Strategic Area Review (StAR), inspection results, provider annual reviews as well as our on-going work on District profiles.
- The LSC Northamptonshire held an LSC 16-19 Competition during 2006-07 and the competition was conducted in accord with the stages set out in the National LSC document '16-19 Capital Fund and Policy Guidance: 2007-08 Onwards' (May 2007).
- The proposals received were considered by an independent Stakeholder Panel on 26 June 2007 and the Stakeholder Panel's main findings and recommendations were considered by LSC Northamptonshire on 6th July 2007.
- The successful East Northamptonshire College Partnership comprises Manor School and Sports College, Rushden Community College, Prince William School, Huxlow Science College, The Ferrers Specialist Arts College, Tresham Institute and Moulton College with the support of Aim Higher, Connexions and Northamptonshire County Council.
- Further information and relevant documents can be found on the following website www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastMidlands/