

Letter to Stakeholders.

18 December 2009

Northstowe Competition

I am pleased to be able to announce the outcome of the Northstowe 16-19 Competition launched in February 2009. Following evaluation of the bids received by a panel of local stakeholders and agreement by the LSC Regional Council, I can confirm that Cambridge Meridian Educational Trust (CMET) has been successful in their bid to deliver 16 to 19 provision in Northstowe.

The Trust's bid was evaluated by a panel of stakeholders who found that the criteria of the competition had been met and recommended acceptance. The LSC Regional Council met on 15th December and confirmed the recommendation of the Stakeholder Panel, subject to the conditions below. The LSC Regional Council also recognised that Cambridgeshire County Council will need to go to consultation to extend the 11 to 16 facility at Northstowe to an 11 to 19 facility.

The bid was thought to be inspirational and aspirational, very inclusive, strong on vision, ideas and leadership, and demonstrated robust institutional commitment. The Stakeholder Panel made a number of conditions regarding the bid and the LSC Regional Council confirmed that the Cambridge Meridian Educational Trust should be required to address the following areas when developing the detailed plans:

- Apprenticeships- clear arrangements to deliver Apprenticeships to students, including details on the range of different providers required
- Employer engagement strategy- the bid lacks specifics on a strategy to engage with employers and the pivotal role they play in post 16 delivery.

LSC East of England Region

Cambridgeshire Area

Stuart House St. Johns Street Peterborough PE1 5DD

T 0845 019 4165 F 01733 895260 www.lsc.gov.uk

This is coupled with a general lack of experience in delivering post 16 provision and therefore the bid is potentially susceptible to missing the wider linkages such as HE.

- The panel recommends building good relations with CRC to benefit from their strengths in the vocational market place.
- The panel would like CMET to work with the wider partnership to capitalise on the aspects of the CRC partnership bid that were compelling. The panel would encourage CMET to talk to CRC and its partners and build these bridges.

We are sure that CMET will be taking these matters into account as they move towards developing their plans in detail with Cambridgeshire County Council and the successor bodies to the LSC.

The Learning and Skills Council will now publish the outcome of the competition to all stakeholders and on its website. If the other bidders are not happy about the outcome of the competition, they must indicate this within 14 days of the date of this letter, by communicating in writing with the LSC solicitor, with a copy to the Chair of the Regional Council.

Subject to the above, we hope that you will join us in congratulating the Cambridge Meridian Educational Trust and wishing them every success in the next stage of developing this exciting new provision for Northstowe.

Yours sincerely



Graham Brough
Area Director
Tel: 01603 218858
Email: graham.brough@lsc.gov.uk