



Leading learning and skills

# **LSC Suffolk**

# **16-19 Competition: Lowestoft, Suffolk**

**Information for  
competition entrants**

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### Introduction

This competition for new 16-19 provision in Lowestoft is being launched in response to the outcomes and recommendations from two recent reviews undertaken in the area. Firstly the School Organisation Review, conducted by the Local Authority and secondly the LSC's own review of Post 16 education and training in the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft economic sub region. The LSC Suffolk Area Team have launched this competition to take forward the joint recommendations of the two reviews and welcomes applications from potential providers or partnerships of providers who could offer new opportunities to young people in the Lowestoft area.

This document provides competition entrants with:

- A statement of need setting out the case for change
- Information on the competition process
- Information on the timetable for submission of entries

Further information on LSC funding and LSC property and capital strategies can be found on [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

### Section One: Statement of Need

#### 1. Background

1.1 Since 2004 Government policy documents have set out the view that choice is best delivered by opening up the provider market and giving institutions greater autonomy in serving their communities so that successful provision can expand and local strengths be fully exploited. To help achieve this for 16-19 year-olds, Government strategy includes:

- measures to make it easier for leading 11-16 schools to open sixth forms;
- competitions, decided at local level, for new substantial 16-19 provision; and
- a 16-19 capital budget to support investment in new 16-19 provision.

1.2 The guidance for 16-19 Competitions states that a competition for new 16-19 provision will be held where:

- a need is identified for 200 or more new places
- there is a need to improve the quality of provision, and/or
- there is a need for a better balance of provision to meet the needs of young people.

1.3 During 2006, Suffolk County Council carried out a review of school organisation in Suffolk. The review was focused on three key themes:

- How well pupils perform in school
- How well resources are used
- How a successful school system for the 21st Century can best be built

At the end of this process, in March 2007, the County Council agreed to proceed with a stage two review of school organisation in Suffolk, with a preferred option of an all two-tier system of education. At this second stage, specific proposals for schools in the county would be considered in detail in the light of a detailed set of principles developed during the initial review phase. Because of the number of schools potentially affected, the County Council decided to carry out the review in three phases. Lowestoft was included in the first phase of this area by area review which reported to Suffolk County Council Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

- 1.4 The LSC launched a concurrent review of post 16 provision across the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft areas in April 2007. As part of this review provision for 16-19 year old learners in Lowestoft has been considered within the context of the wider economic sub-region.
- 1.5 The key conclusion from both reviews was that there is a need for new 16-19 provision in Lowestoft to replace and extend the offer currently made by the three high schools through the existing Lowestoft Sixth Form Consortium.
- 1.6 Full information on these two reviews and their outcomes can be found at: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/sor) for the Suffolk School Organisation Review; and [www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastofEngland/](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastofEngland/) for the LSC Post 16 Review of Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.
- 1.7 This statement sets out the need for new provision in Lowestoft for learners aged 16 to 19, as identified through the Suffolk School Organisational Review and the concurrent Review of Post-16 Education and Training in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.
- 1.8 The findings of both the School Organisation Review and the LSC Post 16 Review can be summarised within four key areas that need to be addressed to provide an appropriate offer for young people in the future:
  - extending **breadth and choice** in the range of subjects young people can study
  - raising **participation** by encouraging more young people to continue in learning between 16 and 19 years
  - ensuring **high quality** learning
  - offering **value for money** by using the resources available to Suffolk for its young people in the most effective way.

This forms the basis of the competition.

## 2. Lowestoft

- 2.1. The Learning and Skills Council recognises the need for radical improvement in this part of Suffolk. We have taken part in local discussions on ways to address the issues highlighted in the recent reviews, but it is the role of a 16-19 competition to determine how best to achieve the change required. Appendix 1 provides an analysis of information for the local area.
- 2.2. It will be important that any proposals for the Lowestoft area take account of the ongoing school organisation review (SOR) work in the wider north Suffolk area. The neighbouring areas of Beccles and Bungay may be affected by changes in Lowestoft educational provision and this needs to be considered. These areas will participate in phase 2 of the SOR process in 2008/9.
- 2.3. Competition applicants will be informed of any significant developments that may emerge during the application period, particularly where they have direct implications for proposals.
- 2.4. Whatever form the new provision takes, it is estimated that a total of between 800 and 1000 places will be required for Lowestoft and its surrounding communities. These numbers include those places already in the three existing sixth forms in the town (See Appendix 1 for enrolment data).

## 3. 16-19 Competitions

- 3.1. Where the LSC has identified a need to expand 16-19 provision by 200 or more places, it must invite bids from potential providers asking them to set out proposals about how such provision could best be made. The LSC does this by organising a competition as set out in the LSC Guidance for 16-19 Competitions available from:  
<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/2005/funding/streams/guidance-for-16-19-competitions.pdf>
- 3.2. The Learning and Skills Council therefore now seeks proposals that will achieve the improvements that it, the County Council and the schools recognise as necessary in the Lowestoft area to offer every young person the opportunity to achieve their potential.
- 3.3. Specifically, it seeks proposals for new provision that will:
  - ensure greater breadth and choice
  - lead to increased participation and an appropriate range of provision to meet the needs of all young people as the requirement for continued participation in education or training to 18 years is introduced
  - represent high quality and value for money
  - deliver the step change required to meet Suffolk's 14-19 targets by 2013

and will provide for the young people in the local area, in collaboration with and complementary to other local providers :

- a broad range of A-level courses
- access, over time, to the full range of new diplomas
- a wide range of level 1 and 2 sixth form courses, and
- access to specialist diploma studies and similar options for some 14 to 16 year-olds to support progression and promote improved recruitment post-16.

3.4. This broad curriculum could be offered through a variety of potential solutions, including partnership with other local providers where such arrangements offer the most effective means of delivery; separate 'stand alone' provision; or other innovative solutions.

## Section Two: Application Process

### 4. Overview of the Competition Process

- 4.1. The chart in Appendix 2 shows the outline timetable for the competition process.
- 4.2. Interested parties have four calendar months from the date of publication of the notice to prepare and submit proposals. In developing the bid, it is important that capital and revenue funding, and site and building issues, are considered alongside the proposed curriculum.
- 4.3. Following the closing date for the competition, the LSC will produce a summary report of all submissions and this will be published locally and on the LSC website. A copy will be sent to all applicants immediately before the general publication.
- 4.4. The LSC will establish a Stakeholder Panel which will be made up in accordance with national guidance. This panel will have a key role in assessing the proposals and making a recommendation to the LSC Regional Council. It will be chaired by a member of the current LSC Regional Board, nominated by the Board.
- 4.5. The final outcome of the competition process is a matter for decision by the Regional Council of the LSC for the East of England. It is intended that a decision will be made and published by the end of December 2008. All applicants will be informed immediately of the decision.
- 4.6. It is anticipated that capital outcomes from the competition could be funded from the 16-19 Capital Fund where such funding is not likely to be available from the DCSF Building Schools for the Future programme and other DCSF and LSC funding streams. However, there can be no guarantee that the project that is successful in the competition will also be successful in the national bidding process to the 16-19 Capital Fund, or that capital funding will be made available in any particular year.

## 5. Competition Entries

- 5.1. All applicants intending to submit a competition entry must register their intent via e-mail to Hayley Debenham in the LSC Suffolk Area Office as soon as possible at [hayley.debenham@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.debenham@lsc.gov.uk). This is to ensure that, if necessary during the application period, the LSC is able to provide all potential applicants with the same information at the same time.

Competition proposals should be addressed to:

The Area Director  
LSC Suffolk  
Felaw Maltings  
Ipswich  
IP2 8SJ

and must be received by 5.00 pm, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

Applicants must supply versions of the full proposal in the following formats:

- two paper copies
- one electronic copy (either CD, or by e-mail) to: [hayley.debenham@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.debenham@lsc.gov.uk)

- 5.2. For points of clarification on the competition process, please contact:

Lynne Tabone, Partnership Manager, Learning and Skills Council, Suffolk  
E-mail: [lynne.tabone@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.tabone@lsc.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01473 883061.

- 5.3. The LSC Regional Property Adviser may be contacted solely in respect of property building costs and space utilisation at: [keith.felgate@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:keith.felgate@lsc.gov.uk).
- 5.4. Depending on the proposals brought forward, the County Council may be able to assist with advice about site issues. Applicants should contact Ian Brown, Head of Service (Infrastructure Development) at [ian.brown@cyp.suffolkcc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.brown@cyp.suffolkcc.gov.uk)

## 6. Selection Criteria

6.1. Proposals must set out clearly:

- the name of the group or organisation making the proposal (if the proposal is from a partnership please include the name of the lead partner and all other partners); and,
- the name(s), e-mail address(es), postal address(es) and telephone number(s) of the main contact(s).

6.2. It is essential that all proposals are sufficiently well developed to make an effective bid for funding, including, if appropriate, to the LSC 16-19 Capital Fund. The proposal must contain detailed costings and identify potential funding sources. If appropriate, studies in relation to site and building issues should have been undertaken.

6.3. Competition entries that satisfy the prerequisite as stated in paragraph 6.2 above will then be assessed against the following seven criteria. We have given examples of the factors that will be taken into account in appraising proposals. These examples do not represent an exhaustive list of the factors that will be taken into account. Where possible, evidence should be provided to substantiate responses. Please note that each of the seven criteria is weighted.

**(i) How will the proposal ensure effective collaboration with existing providers and complement existing provision as part of a locally coherent system?**

Weighting **20%**

For example:

- To what extent is the proposal consistent with the overall strategy for the area, including the changes to be implemented as a result of the school organisation review?
- Where appropriate, what are the arrangements for any proposed collaboration, including management and governance arrangements?
- How will the proposal contribute to work with existing local providers to deliver the Government's 14-19 agenda?
- If a partnership is proposed, who is the lead partner, and what arrangements are there for effective accountability for learners' outcomes?

**(ii) Will there be an adverse impact on existing, successful local 16–19 provision? If so what will the impact be and how will this be ameliorated?**

Weighting **10%**

For example:

- How will undue competition be avoided while enhancing choice and diversity?
- What is likely to be the impact of the proposal on other local providers?

**(iii) How will the proposal ensure a broad range of sustainable provision?**

Weighting **15%**

For example:

- What arrangements will be made to ensure students have full access to high-quality impartial information, advice and guidance?
- If appropriate (in the event of multi-site proposal) how will transport be organised (and paid for) to avoid significant loss of learning time?
- What evidence is there that the proposal is likely to receive wide support from the local community?
- How will the proposal meet the needs of local employers?

**(iv) How will the proposal meet the basic need for additional 16-19 learners?**

Weighting **10%**

For example:

- Does the proposal contain realistic and appropriate projections on learners, including the numbers of learners and age range?

**(v) How will the proposal increase levels of participation, meet the raising of the participation age requirements and increase attainment at levels 2 and 3 to meet local, regional or national targets?**

Weighting **15%**

For example:

- How will the proposal address 2013 targets for the local area?
- How will the proposal address the September Guarantee and the Government's intention to raise the compulsory participation age to 18 years by 2013?
- How will the proposal attract those young people who are at the greatest risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)?
- Will young people who need courses at entry level, level 1 and level 2 be accommodated and if so how?
- How will provision be made sufficiently flexible to accommodate young people with special educational needs and those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and enable them to progress in a way that is appropriate to their abilities and aspirations?
- How will the proposal facilitate progression to higher education and/or employment?
- What strategies are proposed to ensure high quality provision is developed and maintained?

(vi) **How will the proposal enhance institutional and curriculum choice?**

Weighting **15%**

For example:

- How will advanced level provision be enhanced to provide greater breadth and choice?
- How will the range of entry, level 1 and 2 courses available in the area be enhanced by the proposals to increase student choice and promote progression and participation?
- To what extent will the proposal provide equality of opportunity for all groups of learners in the local area?
- How will the new arrangement enhance institutional choice?

(vii) **How will the proposal contribute to delivering the new diploma lines?**

Weighting **15%**

For example:

- If appropriate, how will the proposal support the requirement to deliver access to all 17 new diploma lines for 14-16 year-olds as well as for 16-19 year-olds?

6.4. Further detail on the information to be provided can be found in the document *Guidance on 16-19 Competitions*, available at:  
<http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/2005/funding/streams/guidance-for-16-19-competitions.pdf>.

## Information about the local area and its schools

### 1. The local area

- 1.1. Large areas of Lowestoft have above average levels of deprivation, including 11 Super Output areas in the 20% most deprived in England<sup>1</sup>. These are mainly concentrated along the seafront to the East, around the town centre. Four wards in Lowestoft have over 10% of their population in receipt of income support and over half of the town's population (56%) does not have a qualification at Level 2 or above. This compares with 30.3% across Suffolk as a whole<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, Waveney's unemployment rate is the second highest in Suffolk (3.3% of the resident working age population) and an increasing proportion are long-term unemployed<sup>3</sup>
- 1.2. Population growth in the area was nearly twice the national average over a 20 year period from 1984 to 2004, but this has slowed down and, from 1994 to 2004 was slower than the rate of growth across the East of England as a whole. The population continues to rise slowly<sup>4</sup>. The age structure of the adult population is however different to that nationally, with 42% of local residents recorded as age 50 or above, compared to only 34% across England.

### 2. Pupil/student numbers and school capacities

- 2.1. Overall, secondary school pupil numbers in Suffolk have held relatively stable over the past three years. There is significant housing development planned or underway in the Kessingland area of South Lowestoft and Suffolk County Council's pupil numbers forecasts indicate a need for a further secondary school in this southern part of the area.
- 2.2. The mainstream schools in the local area are:

School	Age Range
Benjamin Britten High School	All are currently 13-18 schools, but following the Suffolk School Organisation Review, may become 11-16 schools
The Denes High School	
Kirkley Community High School	

There are also schools in Beccles (Sir John Leman High School) and Bungay (Bungay High School) which, although outside the Lowestoft town area, may well be impacted by any changes in provision within the town. Currently several pupils from South Lowestoft attend the high school in Beccles due to the lack of provision available in the town. There are, additionally, two special schools: Ashley School, which does have 16+ provision and Warren School, which has no post-16 provision and a Pupil Referral Unit, Old Warren House.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004

<sup>2</sup> Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics (Jan to Dec 2005)

<sup>3</sup> Source: DWP, NOMIS, June 2006

<sup>4</sup> Source: Mid Year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics, 2004

2.3 The numbers of learners in the 14-16 age group in the high schools in the area.

	2003/4			2004/5			2005/6		
	KS 3	Key Stage 4		KS 3	Key Stage 4		KS 3	Key Stage 4	
	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y9	Y10	Y11
Benjamin Britten High School	232	233	215	238	233	236	239	240	231
The Denes High School	215	227	204	231	210	215	242	229	206
Kirkley Community High School	377	378	366	349	374	383	375	355	365
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>802</b>

Source: Local Authority Data

2.4 Sixth form numbers currently and projected forwards are:

School	Sixth Form Numbers		
	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Benjamin Britten	217	141	135
The Denes	141	136	148
Kirkley	234	207	207
<b>Totals</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>490</b>

2.5. The total demand for sixth form places in the future will be significantly higher than the current 490 because there is likely to be a further secondary school in the area and it is expected that the new provision will ensure:

- greater participation post-16 in A-level studies
- access to specialist diplomas
- increased participation in post-16 level 1 and 2 courses
- better access to suitable provision for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and learners with more complex needs
- a significant increase in local participation 16-18.

Overall it is anticipated that there will be a need for a total of 800 to 1000 places, dependant on the type of provision, by 2013.

### 3. Performance data for the area

3.1. The following tables show performance data for 2006 learner outcomes and the locally agreed targets for 2008 and 2010. The data in the tables reflects the achievements of young people in the local area across the full range of providers: schools, colleges and work-based training providers.

3.2. Performance data and targets for the Lowestoft area:

Levels of achievement	Baseline 2005/6		2006/7		Locality targets for 2010
	Locality	County	Locality actual	County	
Proportion of students achieving 5 or more grades A*-C at GCSE	48.3%	59.2%	49.8	61.3%	60%
Proportion of students achieving 5 or more grades A*-C at GCSE including English and Maths	30.5%	45.9%	30.5%	47.3%	n/a
Participation of 16-18 year-olds in structured learning	72.4%	71.1%	73.9%	73.3%	79%
Average points score per entry at A-level and equivalent	650.6	715.1	637.1	724.1	n/a
Proportion of 18 year-olds completing level 3 study in school sixth forms and progressing to Higher Education	39.1%	56.6%	40.5%	55.3%	50%
Apprenticeship success rate (16-18 years) at Level 2			72.28%	63.12%	n/a
Apprenticeship success rate (16-18 years) at Level 3			66.67%	56.46%	n/a
Proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) as at November	11.6%	8.3%	10.4%	7.3%	6%

Outline timetable for submission and appraisal of competition entries

