



Leading learning and skills

LSC Suffolk

16-19 Competition: South and West Ipswich and South Suffolk

**Information for
competition entrants**

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Introduction

This document provides competition entrants with:

- A statement of need setting out the case for change
- Information on the competition process.

Further information on LSC funding and LSC property and capital strategies can be found on www.lsc.gov.uk/suffolk

Section One: Statement of Need

1. Background

1.1 The five-year DfES Strategy for Children and Learners, published in July 2004, summarised the Government's plans for:

- early years
- primary schools
- secondary schools
- 14-19 education and training
- adult skills
- higher education.

1.2 The strategy sets out the Government's 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, the 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 new 16-19 capital budget combining school and FE resources to support investment in new 16-19 provision.

1.3 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.

1.4 The outcome of Strategic Area Reviews (StARs) was acknowledged as the likely starting point for identifying the need for a competition.

- 1.5 This statement sets out the need for new provision for learners aged 16 to 19 in south and west Ipswich and south Suffolk as identified through the StAR and the concurrent 14-19 Area Wide Inspection (AWI). Following wide consultation, the Suffolk 14-19 Strategy was launched in September 2004 and offered a collective vision for the development of 14-19 education locally. The strategy can be found at:
http://www.suffolk14-19.org/pdf/14-19_Strategy_Development_Plan_Sep2004.pdf
- 1.6 The AWI identified four key areas that needed to be addressed to enhance young people's potential to achieve economic well-being:
- 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. South and West Ipswich and South Suffolk

- 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 StAR and AWI, but have not decided how such ideas could best be taken forward, or the necessary improvements secured.
- 2.2. It should be noted that Suffolk County Council is currently reviewing its pattern of school organisation across the county. It will be important that any proposals for the south and west Ipswich and south Suffolk area take account of this on-going work. The Policy Development Panel, appointed to oversee this process, is already aware of the potential impact of developments for 14-19 year-olds on its wider deliberations. It is expected that the panel will report the outcomes of its considerations in late December 2006. Competition applicants will be informed of any significant developments that may emerge during the application period, particularly where they have direct implications for proposals.
- 2.3. Whatever form the new provision takes, it is estimated that a total of between 1000 and 1500 places will be required, including those already in the three existing sixth forms. (See Appendix 1 for enrolment data.)

3. 16-19 Competitions

- 3.1. From January 2006, where a local 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 local LSC does this by organising a competition as set out in the LSC Guidance for 16-19 Competitions.
- 3.2. The Learning and Skills Council for Suffolk therefore now seeks proposals that will achieve the improvements that it and the schools recognise as necessary in the south and west Ipswich and south Suffolk area to offer every young person the opportunity to achieve their potential.
- 3.3. Specifically, it seeks proposals for new provision that will:
- ensure breadth and choice
 - lead to increased participation
 - represent high quality and value for money
 - meet the [Suffolk 14-19 Thresholds](#)

and will provide for the young people in the local area:

- a broad range of A-level courses
 - access, over time, to the full range of specialised diplomas
 - a wide range of level 1 and 2 sixth form courses, and
 - access to specialist diploma studies for some 14 to 16 year-olds to support progression and promote improved recruitment post-16.
- 3.4. It is expected that this broad curriculum may 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

- 4.1. The chart at Appendix 2 shows the outline timetable for the competition process.
- 4.2. Interested parties have five 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. 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 Council.
- 4.5. The final outcome of the competition process is a matter for decision by the Council of the LSC for Suffolk. It is intended that a decision will be made and published by the end of December 2006. All applicants will be informed immediately of the decision.
- 4.6. It is anticipated that capital outcomes from the competition will be funded from the 16-19 Capital Fund, where such funding is not likely to be available from the DfES Building Schools for the Future programme and other DfES 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 with the LSC 14-19 Strategy Administrator (pat.meadows@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.

Proposals should be addressed to:

The Area Director
LSC Suffolk
Felaw Maltings
Ipswich
IP2 8SJ

and must be received by 5.00 pm, Monday 9 October 2006.

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: pat.meadows@lsc.gov.uk)

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

Pat Meadows, 14-19 Strategy Administrator
E-mail: pat.meadows@lsc.gov.uk
Tel: 01473 883008.

- 5.3. The LSC Regional Property Adviser can be contacted solely in respect of property building costs and space utilisation: (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 Caroline Saffell, Senior Education Officer (Development): (caroline.saffell@educ.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,
- the name, e-mail address, postal address and telephone number 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 costing 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 in paragraph 6.2 will 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?
- Where appropriate, what are the arrangements for any proposed collaboration, including management 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?

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

Weighting 10%

(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 advice and guidance?
- If appropriate (in the event of multi-site proposal) how will transport be organised 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 information on learners, including the numbers of learners and age range?

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

Weighting 15%

For example:

- How will the proposal address 2010 targets for the local area?
- How will the proposal attract those young people who are at the greatest risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)?
- How will provision be made sufficiently flexible to accommodate young people with special educational needs, and those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and to 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?

(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 level 1 and 2 sixth form courses available 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?

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

Weighting **15%**

For example:

- If appropriate, how will the proposal support the requirement to deliver access to all 14 specialised 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 *Consultation Guidance on the 16-19 Competition*, available at: www.lsc.gov.uk/Suffolk

Information about the local area and its schools

1. The local area

- 1.1. Ipswich is the third out of 48 most deprived districts in the East of England with a high concentration of education, skills and training deprivation. Levels of economic activity in south and west Ipswich are similar to Suffolk generally, although unemployment is marginally higher. Of people aged 16 to 74 in south and west Ipswich, 34% have no qualifications. This compares with 30.3% across Suffolk as a whole.
- 1.2. By contrast south Suffolk is one of the least deprived areas of Suffolk. The education, skills and training deprivation score for the area is 9.0 compared with the Suffolk average 20.0. There are, however, small pockets of concentrated deprivation. Economic activity is high with a particular concentration in managerial and professional occupations. Slightly less than a quarter of those aged 16-74 have no qualifications compared to the Suffolk average of 30.3%. Overall the demographic profile of south Suffolk closely matches that for Suffolk as a whole.

2. Pupil/student numbers and school capacities

- 2.1. Secondary school pupil/student numbers in Suffolk are expected to remain broadly static over the period 2005 to 2010, however there are significant local variations. There is rapid housing growth in some areas, but a largely static population in others with a declining number of children of school age. Significant housing development is planned for central, northern and eastern Ipswich, but relatively little in the south and west or in south Suffolk. Suffolk County Council's pupil numbers forecasts indicate that 11-16 numbers in the schools in the south and west Ipswich and south Suffolk area will decline by 2.0% between September 2005 and September 2010.

- 2.2. The schools in the local area are:

School	Age Range
Claydon High School	11-19*
Chantry High School and Sixth Form Centre	11-19
Stoke High School	11-16
Thurleston High School	11-16*
Westbourne High School	11-19
East Bergholt High School	11-16
Hadleigh High School	11-16
Holbrook High School	11-16

Notes:

Chantry High School acts as a Sixth Form Centre for Stoke, East Bergholt, Hadleigh and Holbrook High Schools.

*Claydon High School and Thurleston High School have a partnership sixth form with shared management and teaching across both sites.

Main school numbers and forecasts (11-16) for the period 2005 – 2010 are as follows:

School	Capacity	11-16 Pupils (September)			
	Permanent	2005	2006	2008	2010
Stoke High	840	799	784	773	790
Chantry High	1,471	1,053	1,024	973	926
Westbourne High	1,477	1,096	1,084	1,144	1,189
Thurleston High	1,079	886	859	789	738
Claydon High	735	662	669	669	712
Holbrook High	500	484	490	480	461
East Bergholt High	887	901	899	896	874
Hadleigh High	810	750	768	785	807
Totals	7,799	6631	6,577	6,509	6,497
% change		-	-0.8%	-1.8%	-2.0%

Sixth form numbers as at September 2005 were:

School	Sixth Form Numbers (Sept 2005)			Total
	16+	17+	18+	Sixth
Chantry High	94	84	3	181
Westbourne High	103	46	4	153
Claydon/ Thurleston High	105	85	1	191
Totals	302	215	8	525

2.3. The total demand for sixth form places in the future will be significantly higher than the current 525 because 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
- a significant increase in local participation 16-18.

Overall it is anticipated that there will be a need for a total of 1000-1500 places by 2013.

3. Performance data for the area

3.1. The following tables show performance data for 2004 (the baseline data used in the preparation of the Suffolk 14-19 Strategy) 2005 outcomes and the locally agreed targets for 2006, 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 south and west Ipswich area:

Levels of achievement	Baseline 2004		2005		Locality targets for 2010
	Locality	County	County	Locality actual	
Proportion of students achieving 5 or more grades A*-C at GCSE	45%	57.8%	58%	52%	60%
Participation of 16-18 year-olds in structured learning	67.7%	70.1%	71%	68.2%	86%
Average points score per entry at A-level and equivalent	64.9	76.4	78.4	67.7	83
Proportion of 18 year-olds completing level 3 study in school sixth forms and progressing to Higher Education	28.4%	54%	60%	55.9%	50%
Participation in Apprenticeships (16-22 years)	5.4%	6.3%	Not available	Not available	12%
Proportion of 16-18 year-olds NEET as at May	9.23%	6.4%	6.04%	7.2%	5.8%

3.3. Performance data and targets for the south Suffolk area

Levels of achievement	Baseline 2004		2005		Locality targets for 2010
	Locality	County	County	Locality	
Proportion of students achieving 5 or more grades A*-C at GCSE	64%	57.8%	58%	67%	60%
Participation of 16-18 year-olds in structured learning	71.8%	70.1%	71%	73.3%	86%
Average points score per entry at A-level and equivalent	N/A	N/A	78.4	N/A	N/A
Proportion of 18 year-olds completing level 3 study in school sixth forms and progressing to Higher Education	71.8%	54%	60%	61.4%	N/A
Participation in Apprenticeships (16-22 years)	5.7%	6.3%	Not available	Not available	Not set
Proportion of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) as at May	5.3%	6.4%	6.04%	5.2%	5.9%

Outline timetable for submission and appraisal of competition entries

