

### **Item 13. Richmond 16-19 Competition**

13.1 Mary Francis introduced Hugh Gildea, a consultant working on the Richmond 16-19 competition. Mary outlined previous decisions made by Council related to the statement of need in Richmond and presented the outcomes of the Competition Stakeholder Panel's evaluation of the one competition proposal received.

13.2 Council acknowledged the substantial progress made by the Richmond 14-19 Partnership in addressing the LSC's requirement to support 430 new 16-18 places in Richmond upon Thames as set out in the Statement of Need published in August 2006. Council welcomed in addition the Partnership's intention to extend the breadth of provision in Richmond upon Thames and the introduction of the proposed Diploma Centre to meet the needs of all learners in the Borough.

13.3 Council noted, however, that the Richmond upon Thames Competition Stakeholder Panel had identified a significant number of fundamental weaknesses in critical areas.

**Decision: Council decided, therefore, that significant changes need to be made to the proposal in accordance with the concerns raised by the Stakeholder Panel, to ensure that the proposal met the needs of all learners in the Borough before Council could accept the Partnership's proposal.**

These changes would include clarity on:

- governance and management for the Partnership
- establishing the Partnership's legal entity
- the body to which the LSC would pay revenue and capital funding
- the impact upon existing local successful provision and avoid duplicating successful provision
- establishing robust quality assurance arrangements
- the role that Richmond upon Thames College and Hawk Training will play in the Partnership
- the contribution that Esher College can make to the work of the Partnership
- the location of the proposed Diploma Centre and that a feasibility study should be undertaken to include identification of a suitable site
- financial arrangements demonstrating the viability and sustainability of the new provision
- detailed revenue costs to support a case to the LSC for capital and revenue funds
- how the proposed capital provision will complement RUTC's new proposed new capital provision
- how the Partnership's mission and vision will link to that promulgated by the LB RuT 14-19 Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan

**Decision: Council indicated that it would be unable to consider the proposed change of status to 11-18 schools as it contained insufficient information in the following areas:**

- details of the curriculum mix that will be offered in the new provision to respond to the Statement of Need
- views of the learners in Richmond about the proposed new provision
- impact upon other institutions in the locality

**Decision: Council indicated in addition that it could not approve the following feature of the Partnership's proposal**

- duplication of existing local, successful A level provision.

Council noted that RUTC and Esher College offered highly successful local A Level provision locally and agreement to new A Level provision within the Partnership would offer duplication to this local, high quality provision.

**Decision: It was agreed that the decision made by Council, to accept the proposal subject to significant changes, would be communicated to the Partnership in a letter from the Chair. The Chair thanked Mary Francis, Hugh Gildea, Vic Grimes and team for all their hard work.**