

19 March 2007

Richmond 16-19 Competition

I am writing to you to inform you about the outcome of the Richmond 16-19 Competition in your capacity as the named lead person for the Richmond 14-19 Partnership (the Partnership).

You will be aware that the Partnership submitted the only proposal that was received by London South LSC by the Competition closing date of 12.00 noon on 22 December 2006. As you know, the proposal was considered by an independent Stakeholder Panel on 27 February 2007 and I should like to thank you and your colleagues for making a detailed and well-considered contribution to their consideration of your proposal.

The Stakeholder Panel (the Panel) is a body independent of the LSC. It is a non-statutory body and its recommendation to the LSC, although potentially influential, is non-binding on the LSC. The Stakeholder Panel's main findings and recommendations were considered by London South LSC on 13 March 2007. The Council received in addition, the proposal submitted by the Partnership and the Statement of Need issued by London South LSC in August 2006.

The Council acknowledged that the Partnership had made substantial progress in addressing the LSC's requirements to support 430 new 16-18 places in Richmond upon Thames as set out in the Statement of Need published in August 2006. The Council welcomed in addition the Partnership's intention to extend the breadth of provision in Richmond upon Thames and expressed the view that the introduction of the proposed Diploma Centre would be a welcome new addition to meet the needs of all learners in the Borough.

The Council noted, however, that the Panel had identified a number of key weaknesses in critical areas. The Council decided, therefore, that **before it could accept the Partnership's proposal significant changes need to be made to the proposal, in accordance with the concerns raised by the Stakeholder Panel, to ensure that the proposal would meet the needs of all learners in the Borough.**

These changes would include clarity regarding:

- 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, including avoiding 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 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
- how the proposed new capital provision will complement the facilities that will be developed as part of RUTC's proposed new capital provision

The Council indicated that it would be unable to consider the proposed change of status to 11-18 schools until it had received further information in the following areas:

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

The 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

The Council has asked Vic Grimes, Area Director, and his colleagues to work with you and the Richmond Local Authority to develop the aspects of the proposal identified above so that the positive aspects welcomed by the Council, that is, developing strong partnership arrangements, increasing and improving the

breadth of provision to meet the needs of all learners in Richmond upon Thames, and the introduction of a new Diploma Centre may be taken forward in an application for revenue and capital funds from the LSC.

I am particularly keen to clarify how the Partnership will be developed as a legal entity and how the new 16-18 provision can be reflected through that new entity. This will help the LSC identify in addition where the new provision will be offered and to whom capital and revenue funds will be paid. I am also keen to explore how the Partnership will work with Richmond Upon Thames College (RUTC) and Hawk Training to develop the greater breadth of provision and to expand learner choice in Richmond upon Thames.

In summary, we wish to take the Partnership's proposal forward to make an application for capital and revenue funds from the LSC subject to agreed revisions to the proposal to reflect the changes identified above. I think it is important that we meet as quickly as possible to discuss how these changes can be taken forward and LSC officers will contact you shortly to arrange this meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact Vic Grimes if you have any queries arising from this proposal.

The LSC will publish the Council's decision, along with national guidance regarding challenging the decision on the www.lsclondon.gov.uk website and is writing to all stakeholders in Richmond upon Thames to inform about the outcome of the Competition.

The LSC looks forward to working with you and your colleagues to develop an expanded post-16 curriculum in Richmond upon Thames to meet the needs of all learners in the Borough.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Allen
Chair
London South LSC