



Learning and Skills Council

16-19 Competitions

Milton Keynes

Prospectus - (Statement of need)

March 2008

Milton Keynes Competition:

Introduction

This Statement of Need has been produced in accordance with the Learning and Skills Council's guidance on 16-19 Competitions, published in December 2005. It sets out the findings of the Strategic Area Review of education and training provision in Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. It gives an indication of the amounts and mix of new provision required in Milton Keynes, which will meet the needs of young people in the City by improving choice, delivering high quality provision, enhancing curriculum breadth.

Background

In 2004, Bentley Jennison on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council for Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire undertook a Strategic Area Review (StAR) of the provision available for 16-19 year olds in Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The review examined the pattern of school, college, and work based learning opportunities open to the learners in the area and also identified key issues facing the LSC and others in managing the pattern of education and training.

The StAR was to enable the LSC to be in a position to plan and manage delivery of the learner entitlement for 16-19 year olds and the particular needs of 16-25 year old learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, including how post-16 learning should be organised and delivered.

The review considered a wide range of data and undertook an analysis of learner numbers, attainment, destination data and institutional performance at and above Key Stage 4. The major findings of the review were published in July 2004.

For Milton Keynes, the findings highlighted:

- The comparatively low levels of qualification success over all provider types. However in schools, the attainment rates at GCSE have improved appreciably more rapidly over the last four years than in Milton Keynes' statistical neighbours, England and across Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.
- Projected rapid population and economic growth and the associated impact on learning infrastructure and provision.
- The aspiration for a knowledge based high tech economy with its implications for learners in terms of the skills they need to enter and utilise the local economy

- The high levels of deprivation in a minority of wards, which may impact on aspirations and levels of achievement;

The StAR found that within Milton Keynes, the key issue was the strain put on existing learning and training resources by the rapid growth in population and the economic growth associated with this.

In 2004 the DfES published the Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners. This set out the Government's view that choice in education and training can be developed by opening up the provider market and giving institutions greater autonomy in serving their communities in order that successful provision can expand.

In accordance with national guidance the LSC is inviting proposals in response to the need for additional new provision in Milton Keynes. The LSC has consulted with the local authority on this matter.

Geographical area

Milton Keynes is a unitary authority and is bordered by Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire.

Milton Keynes is part of a designated growth diamond, the Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM) growth diamond which includes Milton Keynes, South Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Aylesbury Vale. This area shares a strategic agenda on growth development.

Milton Keynes is said to be the fastest growing urban area in Europe. Between 1981 and 2001 population increased by 64.4% against a population for England of only 5%. This rapid growth is set to continue into the future due to both natural population growth and net inward migration. As the house building schemes accelerate beyond 2016 there is projected to be a net inward migration into Milton Keynes in excess of 2,700 people annually, with a population rise of 38,160 by 2011 from a baseline of 2007 and to 44,460 between 2007 by 2015. We estimate that this represents a 6% increase in the number of children aged 5 to 16 between 2004 and 2011.

The next planned phase of house building includes the East and West flank of the Milton Keynes designated area. The number of new houses in the Milton Keynes area is set to increase from 99,530 in 2008 to 118,880 in 2015, an increase of 19 per cent.

In 2006 the unemployment rate in Milton Keynes was 2.5% which was just below that of the UK rate of 2.7% and higher than the SE rate of 1.8%. The percentage of the working age population in employment is 78.9%, with 83% being

economically active and 16.4% being economically inactive.

Although a new town, Milton Keynes has 6 lower super output areas which are within the most deprived 10% in England, with 13 lower Super Output Areas being identified within the most deprived 10% in England in terms of education.

Skills needs

As in virtually all parts of the UK, businesses employing less than 50 people make up almost all (95%) of the Milton Keynes business base. However the remaining 5% of medium and large businesses in the area account for over 61% of all employment. Business services and wholesale and retail are the two most important sectors, collectively accounting for over 48% of all employment.

The manufacturing sector accounts for just under 10% of employment in the area. Employment in the manufacturing sector is expected to continue to contract over the next decade, and by 2014 the manufacturing sector is expected to account for only just over 9% of total local employment (down from 23% in 1984).

The proportion of the workforce employed in construction is expected to remain fairly constant at around 39,000 from now until 2014.

The real forecast growth in employment numbers is in the Distribution and Transport and Business Service sectors which are both forecast to grow by 1.1 – 1.2% per annum. Within these, the Computing and Related Activities, Other Business Services and Retail and Distribution Sectors are forecast to see the strongest growth in numbers employed, with the workforce increasing by over 10,000 in each of these sectors in the former Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area between 2004 and 2014.

There is expected to be an overall shift in the level of qualifications that employees demand, with more jobs requiring higher skills and 16,000 fewer jobs (in the former Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area) that do not require any qualifications. **Principles Underpinning the 16-19 Competition**

The LSC is the lead planning and funding organisation for post-16 education and training (excluding higher education) in England. Its mission is 'to raise participation and attainment through high quality education and training that puts learners first'. Key objectives in achieving the mission are:

- Raising participation in education and training;
- Raising the achievement of young people; and
- Raising the quality of provision on offer and learner satisfaction.

It is stated Government policy that 16-19 provision should be organised in a way which ensures that in every area each and every young person has access, within reasonable travelling distance, to a wide range of high quality learning opportunities that will meet their interests, aptitudes and aspirations and promote participation and attainment in learning.

Five key principles will underpin the provision of new post-16 provision for 16-19 learners in Milton Keynes. These are:

- Increased learner choice – in particular vocational pathways;
- Improved levels of curriculum breadth;
- Distinct 16-19 provision of high quality which meets the needs of learners and the future skills needs of employers;
- Sustainability of the provision; and
- Affordability, value for money and cost effectiveness.

Reasons for the Competition and Provision Needed

As indicated above, the Learning and Skills Council undertook a StAR in 2004 which identified significant challenges facing Post-16 learners in Milton Keynes.

In particular there are issues on the levels of participation and achievement of learners. Nationally, 71.4% of 19 year olds have level 2 qualifications, up from 66.3% two years ago. In Milton Keynes only 61.4% of 19 year olds have level 2 qualifications. However this has improved from 55.5% two years ago.

Young people in some providers are achieving less well than others, and we expect this competition to stimulate increased achievement across the area at level 2 and above.

Nationally the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is 10.3%; in Milton Keynes it is 6.5%, down from 9.8% in 2006. This is clearly positive, but there is still scope to further reduce the number of NEETs in Milton Keynes.

Nationally, participation in education or training among 17 year olds had risen to 77.6% in 2006. In Milton Keynes, 74.6% of 17 year olds were participating in education and training in 2006, slightly less than the national average. One in four 17 year olds in Milton Keynes in 2006 had ceased to participate in education and training. There is considerable scope here to increase participation, and thereby to increase achievement at level 2 and above.

The Learning and Skills Council are seeking proposals that offer a wider choice to learners and enhanced curriculum breadth and balance which are sensitive to

the local population, demographics and learners with learning difficulties and or disabilities.

Proposals should focus on the following provision issues:

- High quality level 3 provision which, as a minimum, should meet the full learner entitlement for Milton Keynes to prepare the ground for progression to higher level skills. The provision should include suitable links to vocational opportunities and offer an improved learner choice of learning opportunity and mode of learning for all learners.
- How the provision will, wherever possible, work with other providers in the Milton Keynes area to deliver the full learner entitlement. This will include, for example, FE Colleges, schools, and the proposed Academy.
- Increasing the opportunity for young people to achieve a full level 2 qualification by age 19, including sub-level 2 activity in support of this target. This would need to meet the entitlement, offer a wide choice of provider, learning opportunity and mode of learning.
- Reducing the present high drop out rate at age 17 from learning, for instance by development of better quality or additional advice, guidance and creating a more tailored curriculum offer.
- • Provision which attracts and retains young people in learning who are currently not engaged in learning or training, for example, those within the NEET (those 16-19 year olds Not in Education or Employment with Training) group and disadvantaged groups.

Proposals should identify ways in which the new 14-19 specialised Diplomas will be integrated whilst ensuring that the 16-19 entitlement is met within the area.

Proposers should consider whether their plans would relate to existing and planned higher education provision in the area, and enable local learners to progress to courses at level 4 and above.

It is important to note that each bid is expected to demonstrate how they will be able to deliver against the above, whether singularly or in partnership / collaboration with other providers.

Number of new places

There is a clear demand in Milton Keynes for additional places to reflect the factors listed above, which will lead to increased need or demand for education and training in the local area. Milton Keynes is facing a period of significant

population growth, with the planned development of new housing in the area and two new school sixth forms to be opened in a years time. This alone will not be sufficient to meet the requirement.

The LSC considers that at least an extra 300 full time places are required to meet this need over the next **two to three** years, but encourages proposers to reach their own view of the need for additional capacity over the next five to ten years and to develop a vision of the scope and models of delivery. We require a submission in detail upto 2011-12 and an outline proposal for future growth.

It is anticipated that capital outcomes from the competition (e.g. need for additional teaching space) will be funded from the 16-19 capital fund where such funding is not available from the DCSF Building Schools for the Future programme and other DCSF, DIUS and LSC funding streams. However, there can be no guarantee that a project that is successful in the competition will also be successful in the national bidding process for the 16-19 capital fund, or that capital funding will be made available in any particular year. It is important to note that successful 16-19 capital funding does not automatically guarantee FE funding for all new 16-18 learners.

Key facts

Estimated growth in 5-16 population up to 2011 is 6%

Current Provider Numbers by Group

Provider Type	Number of 16-18 learners
FE Colleges	2,766
School Sixth Forms	2,639
Private Providers	569*
E2E	244

Source: LSC ILR data 2006/07

*Average in Learning

Number of NEETS in the borough: 464 (6.1%)

Source: DCSF Report, January 2008

Note: there is also inward migration on top of current school and college numbers.

Assessment Criteria

All proposals will be assessed against the national criteria for deciding the outcome of 16-19 Competitions; these can be found in the LSC guidance on 16-19 Competitions.

In order to enable a fair assessment of competing proposals, it is essential that all proposals are sufficiently well developed to make an effective bid for funding. The proposal should contain estimated revenue and capital costings and identify potential sources of funds including, if appropriate, the LSC 16-19 Capital Fund.

Timeline

All proposals (competition entries) from interested parties must be received at the address below by 5pm on the 14th July 2008. Two identical paper copies are required; an electronic copy may also be submitted in addition, either on CD or as an attachment to an e-mail to the address below.

Following receipt of entries, the LSC will publish a summary of all proposals (competition entries) and a six week representation period will be allowed for comments to be made on the proposals received.

Proposals should include a short summary of the proposal that fits on a single side of A4 paper, which could be circulated when representations are invited on the proposals received.

Within a six week period after the close of the representation period the LSC will make its decision, based on the recommendation of a local stakeholder panel. This decision will be made known to all proponents and key local stakeholders within one week.

Further information

Full guidance on the LSC 16-19 competition process can be obtained from our website: <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/southeast>
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