



Post-16 Provision at Lees Brook Community Sports College

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The DfES five year strategy makes a commitment to extending post-16 vocational provision and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) 16-19 Capital Fund provides the resources to achieve this.
- 1.2 The proposal is to build a new 150 place post-16 Vocational Skills Centre at Lees Brook Community Sports College.
- 1.3 The centre will offer a range of vocational courses at pre-entry, Entry Level and Level 1 and key skills courses.
- 1.4 The scheme build will be funded by the LSC. The centre will be managed by Lees Brook in partnership with neighbouring secondary schools and Derby College.
- 1.5 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To carry out detailed feasibility and design work on the proposed new build for a new Post-16 Vocational Skills Centre at Lees Brook Community Sports College.
- 2.2 To approve submission of a bid for external funding for the full cost of the centre to the LSC's 16-19 Capital Fund.
- 2.3 To approve publication of statutory notices for a prescribed alteration to the school's organisation, to change the upper age limit of the school to create post-16 provision.
- 2.4 To approve delegation of authority to determine the statutory proposal to the Corporate Director for Children and Young People, subject to there being no objections.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The DfES five-year strategy announced new measures to increase choice and diversity in 16-19 provision. There is a presumption that School Organisation Committees will approve sixth-form proposals from "high performing" specialist schools that opt for a Vocational Specialism.

3.2 The proposal supports targets in the Derby Strategic Plan for 14-19 Education and both local and national LSC targets.



Post-16 Provision at Lees Brook Community Sports College

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The proposal is for a new 150 place Post-16 Vocational Skills Centre to be built at Lees Brook Community Sports College. The centre will be managed by Lees Brook in partnership with da Vinci Community College, West Park School and Derby College.
- 1.2 The centre would offer a small range of vocational courses at Pre-Entry, Entry Level and Level 1, alongside courses and qualifications in Key Skills, Functional Skills, Employability Skills and Vocational Skills. It is aimed at those young people in the Chaddesden, Oakwood, Derwent and Spondon areas of Derby who wish to continue in education after leaving school at 16 and who, for a variety of reasons, would benefit from a further year or two in a more structured, school-based environment.
- 1.3 The centre would complement the vocational courses offered by Derby College and work-based training providers by providing first step vocational opportunities for young people. The centre would provide a smooth transition beyond the end of year 11 for students in the local area and offer them progression pathways to courses leading to higher level qualifications at other centres in the city and beyond (for example; Level 2 Hair and Beauty at Derby College, Level 2 and 3 Catering at High Peak College).
- 1.4 The centre would aim to give those young people who need it the chance to develop their skills and confidence before moving on to employment or courses at Derby College or in work-based training. It would also aim to help reduce the number of young people who, on leaving school at 16, are not in education, employment or training and help reduce the number of young people dropping out of college.
- 1.5 There would be a choice of courses offered in the following areas:
 - Construction (Brickwork, Painting and Decorating, Joinery)
 - Hospitality, Catering and Customer Care
 - Hair and Beauty
 - Retail and Customer Service
 - Health and Social Care
 - Key Skills, Functional Skills and Employability Skills.

Whilst the proposal arises directly from a DfES initiative rather than a local plan, the Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which, with the Council, is responsible for the planning and funding of post-16 learning, have identified these areas in their strategic plan.

- 1.6 Some staff from all three partner secondary schools would work at the centre. The centre would also have a Connexions Office to ensure appropriate advice and guidance would be available for students.
- 1.7 The school has conducted broad consultation with stakeholders. This consultation period ran from 6th October 2006 to 23rd October 2006. The consultation document is attached here in appendix 2. The results of this consultation will be reported at the Cabinet meeting.
- 1.8 The LSC have a two stage bid approval process for projects of this sort. A bid for outline funding agreement can be submitted to the LSC in advance of the detailed feasibility and design work that will be required to determine the design, location and accurate cost of the centre. Planning Permission will also need to be sought at this stage. A final approval can then be given by LSC.
- 1.9 The proposal will also be subject to publication of statutory notices. The statutory notice will be subject to a one month representation period.
- 1.10 Should there be no objections during the representation period, the proposal determination can be delegated to the Corporate Director for Children and Young People. If there are objections the matter must be referred to the School Organisation Committee. Under the DfES five-year strategy there is a presumption that School Organisation Committees will approve sixth-form proposals from “high performing” specialist schools that opt for a vocational specialism, provided a proposal is lodged within one year of designation.
- 1.11 Secondary schools in the city will soon be part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) initiative, with Lees Brook being a high priority. It will be important to ensure either that the funding and timing is tied in with BSF or, if this funding has to be used in advance, that the location takes account, as far as possible, of likely work under BSF. Great care would therefore need to be taken over the exact location of the centre.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This funding cannot be used for any other purpose other than that outlined in the bid conditions issued by the LSC.

For more information contact:
Background papers:
List of appendices:

Gail Thornton, 01332 716851, gail.thornton@derby.gov.uk
 None
 Appendix 1 – Implications
 Appendix 2 – Consultation Document

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The Learning and Skills Council 16-19 Capital Fund is in place to address college and school capital projects that lead to a strategic expansion of 16-19 provision in line with LSC guidance. The fund cannot be used for other schemes. Funding for bids will be up to 100% of the capital cost of the scheme. The bid submission will be for 100% funding. Based on the LSC formula for acceptable floor space for post-16 provision of this nature and its capital costs, we expect the bid to be in the region of £3,000,000.
- 1.2 The LSC determines post-16 revenue funding in schools. This allocation would then form part of the school's delegated budget.
- 1.3 The school will be funding the initial feasibility and design works required for submitting the bid to the LSC.

Legal

- 2 Statutory Notices will be required for this proposal under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Personnel

- 3 None arising directly from this proposal.

Equalities impact

4. The new provision will offer full accessibility and modern facilities capable of meeting a wide range of educational and physical needs.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. Capital investment in schools will contribute to the corporate objective to provide a stimulating and high quality learning environment and the corporate priority of raising educational achievement.

Lees Brook Community Sports College

A DfES High Performing Specialist School
for Sport, Languages & Vocational

Proposal for a Post-16 Vocational Skills Centre

Consultation Period

6th October 2006 to
23rd October 2006



VOCATIONAL

Proposal for a new Post-16 Vocational Skills Centre at Lees Brook Community Sports College

This leaflet is about a proposal to build a Post-16 Vocational Skills Centre on the Lees Brook Community Sports College site. The Centre will be built by Derby City Council and developed and managed by Lees Brook in partnership with da Vinci Community College, West Park Community School, and Derby College. If the project is approved and funding from the Learning and Skills Council secured, the Centre would be built behind the existing school buildings, away from residential properties. This would be subject to full consultation as part of the planning approval notice. Building would be unlikely to start before the summer of 2007.

This is your opportunity to let us know what you think about our proposal. This paper contains an explanation of the proposal, the reasons why we think a Post 16 Vocational Skills Centre is needed in our area and the type of courses that might be offered. There is also a response form for you to complete and return to us, to let us know your views

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Carol Dibbs
Head
Lees Brook Community Sports College
Morley Road
Derby
DE21 4QX

or email your comments to: communityA2@leesbrook.derby.sch.uk

If you have any specific questions about the proposal, please contact Joe McColgan, Assistant Head (Director of Community and Lifelong Learning) on 01332 662661 or email JoeMcColgan@leesbrook.derby.sch.uk

Lees Brook Community Sports College: A DfES High Performing Specialist School for Sport, Languages and Vocational

Lees Brook Community Sports College is situated in the Chaddesden and Oakwood area of Derby City. There are currently 1135 students on roll. The majority of students live within the DE21 postcode area of the city which comprises the electoral wards of Chaddesden, Derwent, Oakwood and Spondon. 93% of students are from White British heritage. 43 students have statements of Special Educational Needs and 149 pupils are on the Code of Practice register at School Action Plus.

Lees Brook became a specialist Sports College in 2001. In 2005, it successfully applied for re-designation as a Sports College. At that time, it was identified by the DfES as a high performing specialist school and was granted additional specialist in Languages and Vocational from January 2006.

The most recent OFSTED inspection of the College (September 2006) judged that Lees Brook is a good college with many outstanding features. The OFSTED report said

'A strength of the curriculum is the innovative use of a broad range of accreditation and vocational opportunities to engage the interests of students and recognise their achievements..... The move towards a broader range of vocational subjects in addition to a wide range of academic subjects has proved popular and has contributed significantly to raising standards of attainment.....The college works outstandingly well with other schools, agencies and community links to enrich the students' education and ensure their well-being.'

Lees Brook is also an Enhanced Resource School providing mainstream education and support to 29 young people who have a particular profile of special educational needs.

The College has a growing reputation, and as well as improving its academic results for students, it also provides an extended programme of adult learning and sports provision for the local community.

What is the Proposal?

The proposal is to build a new Post-16 Vocational Skills Centre. The Centre would offer a small range of Vocational courses at Entry Level and Level 1, alongside courses and qualifications in Key Skills, Functional Skills, Employability Skills, and Vocational Skills. It is aimed at those young people in the Chaddesden, Oakwood, Derwent and Spondon areas of Derby who wish to continue in education after leaving school at 16 and who, for a variety of reasons, would benefit from a further year or two in a more structured, school-based environment.

Why is this type of Centre needed in our area?

Some young people in our area leave school not ready to move into further education, training or employment for a variety of reasons. They may lack self confidence and still need support to help them make the most of their educational opportunities. They may not be sure what kind of course they want to follow and need more time to look at what is available. They may have special educational needs and would benefit from a further year in a more structured, school-based environment following courses that help develop their key skills, functional skills and employability skills. A Centre like this would give help and support to all these young people. In doing this, it would also:

- Give those young people who need it the chance to develop their skills and confidence before moving on to employment or courses at Derby College or in work-based training
- Meet parental demands for a better choice of opportunities for young people after the age of 16 who have additional needs and learning difficulties
- Offer young people who need it a smoother transition to post 16 education in a more familiar context and, through more structured support, reduce the number of students dropping out of post 16 education
- Help reduce the number of young people who, on leaving school at 16, are in *NEET* (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
- Contribute to the economic needs of the city by providing employees with appropriate skills for new developments like the extended Eagle Centre, Riverlights and the new hospital

What courses would be offered?

The Centre would complement the vocational courses offered by Derby College and work-based training providers by providing first step vocational opportunities for young people at pre-entry, entry level and level 1.

The Centre would provide a smooth transition beyond the end of year 11 for students in the local area and offer them progression pathways to courses leading to higher level qualifications at other centres in the city and beyond (eg Level 2 Hair and Beauty at Derby College, Level 2 and 3 Catering at High Peak College). The Centre would also help reduce the number of young people dropping out of college for a variety of reasons.

There would be a choice of courses offered at pre-entry level, entry level, and level 1 in the following areas:

- Construction (Brickwork, Painting and Decorating, Joinery)
- Hospitality, Catering and Customer Care
- Hair and Beauty
- Retail and Customer Service
- Health and Social Care
- Key Skills, Functional Skills and Employability Skills

These reflect areas where there is likely to be demand in the job market over the next 10 years in the city through developments like the extended Eagle Centre, The new Hospital and the Riverlights Project. The Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which is responsible for the planning and funding of post 16 learning, have identified these areas in their strategic plan. The LSC also has targets to substantially reduce the number of young people in *NEET* groups in the city and county.

Within the curriculum offered, there would also be opportunities for work placements, leadership courses such as CSLA (Community Sports Leader Award), short qualification courses in Sport, such as JFO (Junior Football Organiser) and taster courses at Derby College and in work-based training.

Staff from all three partner secondary schools would work at the Centre giving a sense of continuity to the students. There would also be a Connexions Office in the Centre to ensure appropriate advice and guidance is available for students.

Next steps and proposed timetable

Lees Brook Community Sports College welcomes views from all stakeholders on the proposal set out in this paper. All views expressed will be reported to the Governing Body, the Local Authority and the LSC. Derby City Council will consider the responses. There will then be a decision about whether and how to take the project forward. To do so would require the publication of statutory notices and agreement to the funding by the DfES/LSC. It is likely that this decision will be taken at the end of October and there will then be one month after a notice is published for anyone to raise an objection. The specific site and design have not been determined yet and the proposal would be subject to planning permission.

Who will be consulted?

We aim to consult as many people and interested groups as possible including:

- Students currently on roll at Lees Brook Community Sports College, da Vinci Community College and West Park Community School
- Parents and carers of students currently on roll at Lees Brook Community Sports College, da Vinci Community College and West Park Community School
- The Head teachers and Governing Bodies of Lees Brook Community Sports College, da Vinci Community College and West Park Community School, and the staff who work in those schools
- The Head Teachers and Governing Bodies of other secondary and special schools in Derby and the surrounding area in Derbyshire, and the staff who work in those schools
- The parents of pupils at partner primary schools

- The Principals and Chairs of Governors at Derby College and South East Derbyshire College
- The Derbyshire Learning and Skills Council
- Local M.P.s (Bob Laxton Derby North; Margaret Beckett Derby South; Mark Todd South Derbyshire; Liz Blackman Erewash; Judy Mallaber Amber Valley)
- Local ward councillors
- Local community groups and business partners
- Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Connexions
- Trade Unions
- Any other interested party

The Consultation Document will be available on both Derby City Council's website and Lees Brook's website from October 6th.

Hard copies are available from the school. Please contact:

Joe McColgan, Assistant Head (Director of Community and Lifelong Learning)

by telephone on 01332 662661 or by e-mail JoeMcColgan@leesbrook.derby.sch.uk

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RATIONALE

DFES' FIVE YEAR STRATEGY TO INCREASE CHOICE AND DIVERSITY IN 16-19 PROVISION

"The Five Year Strategy and Manifesto commit us to go further and create a right for successful schools to establish sixth form provision where there is pupil and parental demand to extend quality and choice for local students.

HIGH PERFORMING SPECIALIST SCHOOLS' SIXTH FORM PRESUMPTION

"...high performing 11-16 specialist schools wishing to establish a sixth form should be allowed to do so. This is backed by capital resources sufficient to allow the construction of 60 new sixth forms."

EDUCATION AND SKILLS WHITE PAPER (FEBRUARY 2005)

In the White Paper '14-19 Education and Skills' the Government sets out ambitious proposals to tackle low post 16 participation, with the aim that participation at age 17 should increase nationally from 75% to 90% over the next ten years.

DERBY CITY STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 14-19 EDUCATION

Within the Derby City 14-19 Strategic Plan, there exists in the city sufficient places to meet the student demand for Level 3 vocational and academic studies. However, there is an accepted deficit for initial vocational skill training at Entry Level and Level 1.

In the four wards of Derwent, Chaddesdon, Oakwood and Spondon (the prime catchment area for the three partnership schools in this proposal) the 2005 Yr 11 leavers' participation rate was 71%. (Source: Derbyshire Connexions)

The OFSTED inspection of 14-19 education in Derby City identified the following weaknesses:

- Insufficient pathways to meet the needs of young people who do not gain five GCSE passes at grades A*-C
- High proportion of young people not in education or training
- Achievements at Key Stage 4 which are below national averages for a significant number of learners
- High proportion of work-based learners who are not achieving a qualification.

The post-inspection Action Plan identifies specific objectives for the young people of Derby. These are that:

- they will feel confident and well informed in their educational training and career choices
- they will be active learners, who progress effectively through a wide range of routes for learning that meet their needs and aspirations
- vulnerable learners are supported to participate in learning
- provision will address current and future skills and employment demands, to ensure a well-educated and trained community and enhance prosperity in Derby.

The principles underpinning the vision for the 14-19 phase of education and agreed with stakeholders reflect a commitment to developing and delivering distinct and affordable 14-19 quality provision that:

- puts the needs of the learner first
- raises aspirations and motivates young people to remain in learning
- raises levels of attainment in all parts of the city
- ensures access for all learners to good quality and impartial advice and guidance which enables them to make appropriate and informed choices
- provides a range of quality options for all learners and encourages a culture of continuous improvement
- ensures equality of opportunity and inclusion.

This proposal also reflects some of the strengths identified in the OFSTED inspection report, namely:

- clear commitment to improving partnerships, raising standards and widening access
- collaborations amongst schools which have been successful in providing more opportunities for young people
- good targeted support for vulnerable groups
- good personal support and effective mentoring for young people.

STUDENTS

The planned Centre would have capacity for 150 students, approximating to five groups of 15 in each of two years.

In 2005, the total year 11 cohort of the three partner schools was 578 of which 410 (71%) progressed to full time post 16 education and training or employment with training. The target within the White Paper is to increase this proportion to 90%, which equates to an additional 120 places *each year* for the three schools concerned. For the City of Derby overall, an additional 390 places each year would be required.

Whilst inevitably there would be some displacement from existing provision, for example some Hospitality students who might otherwise have chosen a different option, the students attending the VSC would primarily be those who currently are not participating in post 16 educational and training.

From August 2005 to August 2006, the average number of young people aged 16-18 in the four Derby Wards of Derwent, Chaddesdon, Oakwood and Spondon who were in the NEET category was 141; this figure excludes those whose status is unknown, lapsed or who are not available for education or training due to personal or family circumstances. For the City of Derby as a whole, this figure was 570. (Source: Derbyshire Connexions)

The new Vocational Skills Centre will, therefore, make a substantial contribution to meeting the planned growth of participation in post 16 education and training, but will do so by addressing identified needs at pre-entry, Entry Level and Level 1

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

**Proposal for a Post-16 Vocational Skills Centre at
Lees Brook Community Sports College**

Please return this form by Monday, 23rd October 2006 to

Carol Dibbs
Lees Brook Community Sports College
Morley Road
Derby
DE21 4QX

Name of person responding	
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Please tick a box below to indicate which category best describes you:

Student at FE College/School []

Parent of student at FE College/School []

Member of staff at FE College/School []

Governor at FE College/School []

Other (please specify)

Are you in favour of the proposal to build a new Post 16 Vocational Skills Centre at Lees Brook Community Sports College?

YES NO

If you wish to comment on the proposals outlined in the paper, please use the space below:

Thank you for completing this response form.