



Children and Education Select Committee  
10 July 2014

## Developing the first University Technical College in Surrey

**Purpose of the report:** Policy development

To inform the Committee of the proposed development of the first University Technical College in Surrey.

### Introduction:

1. University Technical Colleges (UTCs) are government funded schools that offer 14-18 year olds an education that is geared to meet the needs of employers, with extensive experience of the work place and projects designed to meet employers' needs. They teach students technical and scientific subjects in a new way, educating the inventors, engineers, scientists and technicians of tomorrow.
2. By integrating technical, practical and academic learning, UTCs create an environment where students can thrive and develop the abilities that employers need.

To do this, UTCs:

- Focus on one or two technical specialisms.
- Work with employers and a local university to develop and deliver the curriculum.
- Relate the content of academic subjects to their technical specialisms.
- Have the latest equipment and technology used by industry.
- Dedicate at least 40% of time to the technical specialism including design and building, working in teams and problem solving.

3. By working with a university and local employers, UTC students benefit from access to:
  - The latest research, industry experts and specialist facilities;
  - Real-life employer designed projects that stretch their technical skills and creative thinking; and
  - Teaching and mentoring from specialists who currently work in industry.
4. UTCs are academies and are smaller than traditional secondary schools. They are not academically selective and charge no fees. UTCs typically have 600 to 800 students, are sub regional and their catchment area may extend across a number of local authorities.

### **Proposal for the first UTC in Surrey**

5. The UTC is a proposed new specialist academy developed with employers and higher education, based in Guildford. It would provide education for 14-19 year olds of all abilities, and open in September 2017, with a focus on digital technologies and engineering. The location in Guildford has been selected following a feasibility study across Surrey and discussions with key partners.

#### **The Vision**

6. The vision for the UTC is for young people to be enterprising, ambitious and resilient, with the skills required by employers and the academic ability for higher education. They will be strong team players, motivated and professional, good communicators, with a high level of academic achievement, technical skills and leadership potential.
7. This supports the vision in Surrey's 14-19 Plan 2010-2015 and Young People's Employability Plan 2012-17.

#### **What is the UTC?**

8. The UTC will be a high performing specialist academy for 14-19 year olds, producing excellent results with 100% progression to higher education, training or employment. The UTC will offer a different learning environment to schools and colleges, with an emphasis on digital technologies and engineering. These are fields which employers and higher education have identified as growth areas, with shortages of well-qualified and motivated young people. Students will benefit from both academic and technical pathways with clear links between every aspect of their education and the world of work. They will be engaged in their education, working on real world projects and mentored by sponsoring employers. With a business-like environment, students will be learning key employability skills and will have clear progression pathways after Year 13 to higher education, higher apprenticeships and employment. The vision is driven by a shared ambition to motivate and enable all young people to fulfil their

potential, become enterprising citizens and make a positive contribution.

9. Located conveniently for transport links, the UTC will recruit students from across Surrey, as well as from London and Hampshire. It will complement and enhance the local education offer and help to meet the need for school places at a time of demographic growth. The UTC will gain a reputation for achieving excellent destinations for the students, inspiring not only students but also the local community.
10. The development of the UTC will be funded through a bid for capital funding, up to £10 million, to Central Government, bringing in additional resources to support the development of education opportunities for the future in Surrey, addressing needs arising from the growing population and providing a distinctive new offer for young people. Additional capital funding is also being sought from Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership. Following a successful bid and launch of the UTC, funding would be provided annually in the same way as other secondary schools in Surrey are funded.

#### **How will the UTC be developed?**

11. The UTC is being developed through a close collaboration between Royal Holloway College, Guildford College of Further and Higher Education, Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, local businesses, particularly CGI and British Aerospace, Guildford Education Partnership and Surrey County Council, working closely with local schools and communities. Local businesses will have a key role in encouraging young people to develop the skills, behaviours and attitudes sought by employers now and in the future. The UTC will offer a relevant work-related curriculum underpinned by academic rigour, providing an exciting and unique opportunity to learn in a different way, supporting economic growth and competitiveness

#### **How are employers involved and why is there the emphasis on particular skills?**

12. The bid is being developed by with local businesses to design the curriculum, which will focus on the key skills shortages of digital technologies and engineering. We are working closely with employers to develop future work-based education projects and employment opportunities, including apprenticeships. The focus on particular specialist areas will be further refined as the bid develops, and the service will continue to work with employers, higher education and other partners to focus on particular aspects of digital technologies and engineering. The focus will be designed with schools and colleges to be complementary to current provision, with a distinct offer to young people.

### Who will go to the UTC and when?

13. Young people will join the UTC at age 14 (year 10) or age 16 (year 12) to take a full time academic and technical programme of study, alongside the requirements of the National Curriculum. The UTC will open in September 2017, initially offering places for about 150 students across Year 10 and Year 12 (numbers will be finalised as the bid is developed). Students will be drawn from across Surrey and neighbouring Local Authorities such as some London Boroughs and Hampshire, where the transport links provide access within a reasonable travelling time. The admission arrangements will be developed to ensure young people join from across the ability range and from a wide geographical area. In subsequent years, higher numbers will be admitted, rising to a total capacity of 700 to 800 across years 10 – 14 (ages 14-19) by 2021.

### How will the bid be developed?

14. We are jointly developing a bid to national government for the UTC for submission in October 2014, working with local partners through the UTC Steering Group which comprises key partners, including employers.

### What are the next steps?

15. Further involvement of partners and views of parents and young people will be sought over the next few months as the bid is developed for submission in October 2014. If successful, development funding will be allocated for the next phase and the site will be confirmed. This will be followed by further local engagement to finalise the design of the UTC.

<h3>Recommendations:</h3>
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16. The Select Committee is asked to make recommendations for the proposed development of a University Technical College in Surrey, which will be taken to Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014.

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### Report contacts:

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### Sources/background papers: