

CABINET RESPONSE TO CHILDREN AND EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE**DEVELOPING THE FIRST UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN SURREY
(considered by C&ESC on 10 July 2014)****SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Cabinet support the proposal for the establishment of Surrey's first University Technical College and give consideration to:

- how the Council can support the UTC to ensure capacity is met in future years;
- how positive, collaborative dialogue can be developed between the UTC and local schools and colleges, to ensure they work in partnership; and
- how the benefits of vocational education are communicated to young people and their families.

RESPONSE

I welcome the Children and Education Select Committee's support for the proposed first University Technical College in Surrey.

I note the Select Committee's question in relation to how the Council can support the UTC to ensure the UTC is full to planned capacity. The profile of both the university and employers is key to future recruitment of students. Employers in particular will be able to highlight future employment opportunities in sectors which are growing fast and offer rewarding careers. Officers are already working with key employers and I have asked officers to engage employers closely in future marketing of the UTC to prospective students and parents and carers. This will include additional employers not yet involved and Members may well be able to highlight further contacts to increase the range of employers included.

Additionally, enrolment will be supported through close engagement of schools and colleges in the area. The development of the UTC has been taken forward working with local schools, keeping them informed and reviewing the new provision to ensure there is a complementary curriculum and that the planned timing of the opening links to demographic growth. The UTC includes Guildford College of Further and Higher Education, Guildford Education Partnership and the Council among its Founding Members. This extent of involvement is unique for a UTC and will support future marketing of provision and enrolment to ensure planned capacity is met. As a Founding Member I will be working to ensure the positive collaboration and dialogue to date is maintained for the next phase.

Through the close involvement of employers in promoting the UTC, the benefits of vocational education will also be promoted. This will include employers promoting the UTC to secondary schools and primary schools. Young people will benefit from both the work relevant curriculum and the development of vocational skills and experience in areas of high demand, which will ensure they are well placed for future employment in leading high technology businesses.

Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
23 September 2014

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