



Department
for Education

Mr Chris Dando
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I am writing to confirm the outcome of the FE Commissioner Structure and Prospect Appraisal at Norton Radstock College, and to set out the actions we expect the college to take to ensure the Appraisal outcomes, and the FE Commissioner's earlier recommendations, are fully implemented. I am very grateful for the support that the FE Commissioner has received from the college during the Appraisal, and the steps you have taken to date to respond to the recommendations set out in my letter of 18 August 2014.

As you will recall, the FE Commissioner's assessment of Norton Radstock college in July 2014 identified weaknesses in the governance and leadership of the college, and concluded that in light of the precarious financial position at the college it cannot continue to operate on its own. I therefore asked the FE Commissioner to lead a Structure and Prospects Appraisal to consider the way forward. This Appraisal was completed in October 2014.

I have now received the FE Commissioner's Appraisal report – a copy of which is attached. The report recommends that Norton Radstock College should merge with City of Bath College. I fully support this recommendation and I ask the college to put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure the merger is completed by 1 August 2015 at the latest. I have asked my officials in the funding agencies to work with you to ensure the smooth transition of provision to City of Bath College. I note that the college has been engaged throughout the Appraisal and the governing body has formally endorsed this recommendation.

I understand that the college has put in place interim arrangements following the decision by the Principal to retire in November 2014. I would encourage Norton Radstock to work with the City of Bath College to establish permanent arrangements as

soon as is practically possible in order to bring stability and certainty to staff, learners and employers.

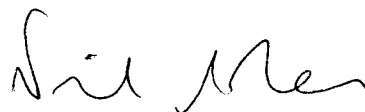
Until the merger has been completed, Norton Radstock College remains under enhanced monitoring and review by the FE Commissioner. An FE Adviser will continue to work with the college until the end of December 2014 to monitor progress with implementing the FE Commissioner's recommendations. Once the merger has taken place, the FE Commissioner will re-visit Norton Radstock College to confirm that the Appraisal outcome has been successfully implemented. The FE Commissioner will also consider the timing for formally ending the FE Commissioner intervention and moving the college into regular monitoring and review by the funding agencies as part of City of Bath College. My officials at the Skills Funding Agency will be in touch shortly to arrange a meeting with you and the Principal to discuss this letter and agree next steps.

In line with the published intervention process (May 2014) summaries of the findings from all FE Commissioner led Structure and Prospects Appraisals are published. I attach a copy of the summary with this letter. This summary will be published within two weeks of the date of this letter.

I have copied this letter to the Chair of City of Bath College, the FE Commissioner and my officials in the funding agencies.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact Sara Marshall (sara.marshall@sfa.bis.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



NICK BOLES MP