



Department
for Education

Maggie Galliers CBE
Chair of the Board of Governors
City College Coventry
50 Swanswell Street
Coventry
CV1 5DG



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Nick Boles MP
Minister of State for Skills

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@bis.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/bis

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Dear Ms Galliers

I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of City College Coventry following the recent review by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's team, and the steps that will need to be taken to secure improvement.

As you know, the college was classified as "inadequate" by Ofsted at its most recent inspection in November 2015. In line with the policy set out in "Rigour and Responsiveness in Skills", I asked the FE Commissioner, Sir David Collins, to carry out an assessment of the college and this was conducted in February this year.

The key finding is that the college is failing too many of its students through a combination of poor teaching and weak curriculum management. It does, however, have a number of strengths which, deployed vigorously and over time, could turn the institution around to create a curriculum offer appropriate for and worthy of the city of Coventry.

I note that the College has acted to address its financial position and has achieved its goal of a satisfactory financial health rating a year early. This is good news and I would urge you, your Board and management team to continue to work to deliver similar progress across all aspects of the college.

The FE Commissioner makes a number of recommendations for action that the college should take over the coming months, including clarifying its strategic direction and its intended stronger vocational character and working with Henley and Hereward Colleges to consider methodically a full range of options for creating a robust FE curriculum for Coventry, including relationships with higher education.

I have carefully considered the FE Commissioner's assessment, and accept all the recommendations he makes. I note that, the FE Commissioner plans to undertake a stocktake visit when the student success rates for 2015-16 and the latest financial outturn are available. He may wish to make further recommendations in the light of progress at that stage.

The City College Coventry faces a challenging future. I shall be looking to you, the other members of the Board and the college's Executive team to provide the appropriate leadership in these difficult times.

A summary of the assessment report and recommendations are provided with this letter. This summary and my letter to you will be published on www.gov.uk.

If you have any questions about the assessment, or this letter please contact Karen Riley, in the Skills Funding Agency; karen.riley@sfa.bis.gov.uk in the first instance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Boles', with a stylized, cursive script.

NICK BOLES MP