

Mr John Barratt Chair of the Corporation Huntingdonshire Regional College California Road Huntingdon PE29 1BL Rt. Hon. Robert Halfon MP Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills

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Dear John,

I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of Huntingdonshire Regional College following the recent assessment by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's team and the steps that need to be taken to secure improvement at the college.

As you are aware, following an 'inadequate' Ofsted inspection grading in October 2016, I asked the FE Commissioner to carry out an assessment of the college. This took place between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Having read the FE Commissioner's report, I am aware that leadership and management have, in the past, been slow in effecting improvement and have not been sufficiently challenged by governors. I understand that decisive action is now being taken and I am encouraged by the college's approach to seeking the necessary improvements.

In particular, I welcome the Board's decision to merge with Cambridge Regional College, and I know this is in line with the emerging outcomes of the Greater Peterborough Region Area Review. I also welcome the decision for Cambridge Regional College's senior leadership to take leadership of Huntingdonshire Regional College until the merger has been completed.

I understand that the interim management team have already brought clarity and direction to the college and that this is acknowledged by governors and staff. It is important that arrangements are put in place to ensure that the voice of learners is heard as you take forward the changes required.

It is important to ensure that the local needs of the communities that Huntingdonshire Regional College serves are both reflected and are seen to be a priority as the merger progresses. The FE Commissioner's team make a number of recommendations in their report, including the need to accelerate the merger process. In addition to this, it is essential that the 2016/17 budget and the 2017/18 financial plan are reviewed urgently to ensure that the assumptions on which they were based remain valid.

I have accepted all of the FE Commissioner's recommendations described in the summary of the initial assessment provided with this letter. This document and my letter will be published on www.gov.uk in approximately two weeks.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the factual accuracy of the FE Commissioner's assessment, please contact the FE Commissioner (fe.commissioner@education.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP

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Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills