



Department for Education

David Cook
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Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP
Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills,
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21st September 2017

Dear Mr Cook,

I am writing following the assessment of Bracknell and Wokingham College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner. The college was referred to the Commissioner because its financial health was inadequate. The assessment took place from 28 - 30 June 2017.

It is clear from the FE Commissioner's report that the college leadership team and governors have significantly improved teaching and learning quality over recent years and I welcome this achievement. However, given the significant financial challenges facing the college and the limited growth opportunities available, the FE Commissioner has determined that the college will no longer be sustainable as a standalone institution in the future. To address this, you should work with the FE Commissioner to identify a long-term structural solution through an FE Commissioner-led Structure and Prospects Appraisal.

I am pleased to hear that you agree with this recommendation. The Structure and Prospects Appraisal is due to commence this autumn and, in line with the Area Review recommendation, should include the consideration of a merger with East Berkshire College and Strode's College, as well as other relevant colleges.

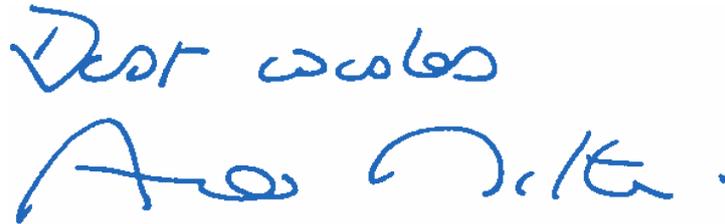
Secondly, you and your governing body should carefully consider how to best utilise the funds from the remaining surplus asset at Wick Hill, taking account of the Structure and Prospects Appraisal.

I have accepted all of the recommendations of the Commissioner and a summary of the initial assessment is provided with this letter. This document and my letter will be published on gov.uk.

Please confirm, in writing, within three weeks of receipt of this letter what actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter, please contact the Commissioner at FE.commissioner@education.gov.uk in the first instance.

I am copying this letter to Dr Phillip Lee MP.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Milton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a distinct 'M'.

ANNE MILTON MP