

Gillian Keegan MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

15 July 2020

Sue Noyes Chair of Governors Coventry College 50 Swanswell Street Coventry CV1 5DG

Dear Sue,

I am writing following the intervention assessment of Coventry College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner on 9 to 10 March 2020. The FE Commissioner's team undertook the assessment following the issuance of a financial notice to improve by the Education and Skills Funding Agency due to the college's Inadequate financial health grade. You have already seen the draft report and recommendations. As you will be aware, routine FEC work was paused due to the coronavirus crisis, so the final version of this report has been delayed in reaching you.

The FE Commissioner has found that following the formation of Coventry College in 2017, the lack of a clear post-merger strategy or robust scrutiny have contributed to the substantial deterioration of financial stability and curriculum performance, to the point that the college now faces a challenging future.

Whilst I acknowledge that some efforts have since been made to improve the college's position, the effectiveness of these measures has been variable, and more robust action must be taken to secure the college's recovery.

Given the college's unsustainable position, you must prioritise implementing the FE Commissioner's financial recommendations, including urgently addressing the college's refinancing, implementing cost savings, and completing a robust recovery plan.

Due to the limited evidence of quality improvement, I strongly advise you to implement those recommendations focused on achieving improved learner outcomes, including the prioritisation of teaching, learning and assessment, and addressing inaccurate and undeveloped performance management arrangements.

As poor governance and leadership have significantly contributed to the college's present position, I fully endorse those recommendations focused on strengthening these areas, including finalising the appointment of a permanent Principal/Chief Executive Officer and Clerk.

I have accepted all the recommendations of the FE Commissioner and a copy of the assessment is provided with this letter. A copy of this letter and the summary report will also be sent to the following local MPs, whose constituencies are served by the college, to inform them of the FE Commissioner's findings:

•	Colleen Fletcher MP	Coventr	/ North East
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Zarah Sultana MP Coventry South

Taiwo Owatemi MP
Coventry North West

Craig Tracey MP North Warwickshire

Mark Pawsey MP
Rugby

Saqib Bhatti MP Meriden

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Keegan MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills