



Gillian Keegan MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
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15 July 2020

Sir Dexter Hutt
Birmingham Metropolitan College
Jennens Road
B4 7PS

Dear Sir Dexter,

I am writing following the intervention assessment of Birmingham Metropolitan College by the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's team on 29 and 30 October 2019.

Birmingham Metropolitan College has remained in formal intervention since July 2015, with areas of concern having included the college's financial position, governance, leadership and quality of provision. Despite this long precedent, the FE Commissioner's report describes the college as having made remarkable improvements, and it is clear that you, the interim principal and fellow members of the senior leadership team have been working diligently and effectively to implement rigorous and focussed strategies for improvement.

The college's financial position has been improved through staff restructuring and upgraded financial monitoring and control systems. It is greatly encouraging that these efforts have yielded promising results, and that the college's financial health is forecast to improve to a 'Good' rating in 2021/22. I fully support the FE Commissioner's recommendations to accelerate this financial recovery, including that the board works with the senior leadership team to agree the college's target budget operating performance expectations for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The college's implementation of the structure and prospects appraisal recommendations, and the clear strategic direction provided by you, the board and the senior leadership team to effect cultural change, has made reasonable progress to improve quality of provision throughout the college. This progress, although promising, must not lose momentum, and I

advise you to implement the FE Commissioner's recommendations to ensure that recent structural changes are completely embedded and evidenced by improved outcomes and learner experiences, and that the senior leadership team ensures consistent operational practice across each campus to guarantee high quality teaching, learning and student experience.

College leadership and governance arrangements are clearly strong and have been responsible for driving many of the improvements observed by the FE Commissioner's team. To ensure continuation of this improvement, I urge you to clarify arrangements for the long-term senior leadership of the college, and to work with the FE Commissioner's team to ensure that a timely succession strategy for the principal/CEO is in place.

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

Please confirm within three weeks to the FE Commissioner (FE.Commissioner@education.gov.uk) what actions you are taking to address all of the recommendations and your timetable for doing so.

A copy of this letter and the summary report have been sent to all the following local MPs, whose constituencies include individual college sites, to inform them of the FE Commissioner's findings:

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| • Shabana Mahmood MP | Birmingham, Ladywood |
| • Preet Kaur Gill MP | Birmingham, Edgbaston |
| • Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP | Sutton Coldfield |
| • Khalid Mahmood MP | Birmingham, Perry Barr |
| • Jack Dromey MP | Birmingham, Erdington |
| • Mark Garnier MP | Wyre Forest |
| • Suzanne Webb MP | Stourbridge |

Yours sincerely,



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