



Department
for Education

Julie Nerney
Chair of the Board
City College Brighton & Hove
Pelham Street
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 4FA

18 March 2015

I am writing to inform you of the government's view of the position of City College Brighton and Hove in light of the Further Education (FE) Commissioner's review, and the next steps that will be taken to secure improvement.

As you are aware, following the notification by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) that City College Brighton and Hove had been assessed as inadequate for financial health, I asked the FE Commissioner to undertake an assessment. Two FE Advisers, David Williams and Lynn Forrester-Walker, visited the college on the Commissioner's behalf between 2 and 6 February 2015.

I have now considered the assessment, which includes a set of recommendations. I have accepted all these recommendations. A summary of the assessment and the recommendations is provided with this letter. In line with our established processes, the summary and my letter to you will be published on www.gov.uk following receipt of your response.

The assessors recognised that the college is taking steps to address its financial difficulties, and I am encouraged by the additions you have made to the Governing Body. A strong governing body with the skills and experience necessary to hold the principal to account is critical for a successful college, so you and your colleagues will be vital in ensuring a successful recovery.



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Minister for Skills and Equalities

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
T +44 (0) 20 7215.5000
E enquiries@bis.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/bis
www.education.gov.uk

The college needs to focus on achieving a more sustainable financial position while ensuring it delivers a high-quality learning offer that meets the needs of learners and employers. In order to deliver the necessary financial improvements, the college should urgently work on its fundamental review of strategy and, most importantly, ensure that a high quality Interim Principal and CEO are appointed, with adequate support in place to deliver transformation. I note that since the FE Commissioner's assessment you have made an interim appointment and that Monica Box took up post on 25 February 2015. A permanent Executive Team will bring further stability to the College during the improvement period.

All of these steps should put the college in a good position to deliver the necessary financial improvement, however the position remains uncertain and it is important that you work with the FE Advisers and SFA to ensure that they can closely monitor progress. I have therefore asked SFA officials to work with you along with experienced colleges and providers in the area to ensure that high-quality skills programs remain on offer to the learners of Brighton and Hove.

I understand SFA officials have been in touch to arrange a meeting between you and the FE Commissioner to discuss this letter and agree next steps.

If you have any questions about the FE Commissioner's assessment or this letter please contact Hannah Caldwell SFA, Hannah.caldwell@sfa.bis.gov.uk in the first instance.



NICK BOLES MP