



Department
for Education

Tina Ellis MBE
Chair of the Board
Lowestoft College
St Peter's Street
Lowestoft
Suffolk
NR32 2NB



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

Nick Boles MP
Minister of State for Skills

1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@bis.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/bis

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I am writing to inform you of the Government's view of the position of Lowestoft College in the light of the ongoing Further Education (FE) Commissioner monitoring of the college since the Commissioner's initial assessment visit in March 2015.

As you know the FE Commissioner identified a number of recommendations and actions for the college to improve its financial management, leadership and governance and to help support improvements to the quality of your teaching and learning.

I am pleased to inform you that the FE Commissioner has advised me that he is now satisfied that you have successfully addressed his recommendations. In addition I am encouraged to note that you are pursuing one of the recommended outcomes from the pilot area review of post-16 provision in North East Norfolk and North Suffolk completed in the summer of 2015. I understand you are in advanced discussion with Great Yarmouth FE College and Lowestoft Sixth Form College with a view to merging your three colleges into a single corporation during 2016. This is extremely positive and I would urge you to pursue this merger to a timely and satisfactory conclusion. The successful implementation of the review recommendations will set an excellent precedent for other reviews to follow.

Therefore, on the basis that the college has made significant progress towards its recovery and that you are working towards merger, my decision is to now remove Lowestoft College from formal FE Commissioner-led intervention. This decision is made on the clear understanding that the college will continue to progress implementation of the pilot area review to a successful conclusion. It was a clear finding of the review that the sustainability of each of the individual institutions was dependent on merger. I would therefore need to review the decision if for an unforeseen reason the merger did not proceed.

My officials will continue to monitor progress, both generally and towards the merger, which I regard as important for your future success and for learners and employers in the local area.

I wish you every success with the continued improvement of your college and the subsequent merger with Great Yarmouth FE College and Lowestoft Sixth Form College.

The Skills Funding Agency's Notice of Concern will remain in place until all of its conditions have been met and they will shortly write to you about its continuing monitoring process.

You should note that we will be publishing this letter on www.gov.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Boles".A second handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Boles".

NICK BOLES MP