

25905

CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL



www.carlisle.gov.uk

Legal and Democratic Services

Head of Legal & Democratic Services: J M Egan LLB

Civic Centre Carlisle CA3 8QG Telephone (01228) 817000 Fax (01228) 817048

Document Exchange Quote DX 63037 Carlisle Type talk 18001 01228 817000

Council Web Site www.carlisle.gov.uk

TO: THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF
THE CITY COUNCIL

Please ask for:

Direct Line:

E-mail:

Your ref:

Our ref:

Mr Dixon

01228 817033

IanD@carlisle.gov.uk

IJD/MH

22 January 2004

Dear Sir or Madam

RE: SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2004

I refer to the Summons for the above meeting which I recently circulated and now enclose a copy of a report which I have received from Mrs Tattersall the Principal of Carlisle College entitled "Post 16 Provision in Carlisle – a Carlisle College Perspective".

Yours faithfully

J.M. Egan

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Agenda item 9
refers



Post-16 Provision in Carlisle

A Carlisle College Perspective

Contents:

1. Introduction
2. A New Strategic Direction
3. Current Position
4. Sixth Form College Proposal – Carlisle College Position

Moirra Tattersall
Principal
January 2004

1. Introduction

Carlisle College is on the brink of a major capital programme that, subject to approval by the Planning Authority and the LSC, would see the College rebuilt for the 21st Century. The physical transformation of the College is the next step in ensuring that the College adequately meets the needs of our community, encourages greater participation and provides the environment and facilities necessary to support excellence in teaching and learning. There is a new Strategic Vision in place for Carlisle College and it is in this context that the proposal for a Sixth Form College was considered.

2. A New Strategic Direction

In January 2003 Sir George Sweeney, Principal of Knowsley Community College was commissioned to assist members of the Corporation to review the mission of the College and formulate a 3 year Strategic Development Plan. Work with members of the Corporation, the Acting Principal and the management of the College began immediately and culminated in a new strategic direction for the College. The final version of the plan was approved by the Corporation Board in July 2003 and implemented from August 2003.

The vision for the College and the development of key strategic priorities was based, not only on Government and LSC priorities, but also on an analysis of local needs. As a result a Vision for the College was formulated as follows:

"To be acknowledged as one of the best 10% of colleges by 2013".

Clearly a successful college must be one based on continually driving up standards, but there was a recognition that the College must also be responsive to the social and economic drivers in the community. Hence Carlisle College's Mission underpinning the Strategic Plan is:

"To achieve excellence by working in partnership to grow and meet the lifelong learning needs and aspirations of individuals and businesses in Carlisle and its surrounding areas".

3. Current Position

Carlisle College provides a wide range of vocational education and training. The only vocational areas we do not provide for are agriculture and Art & Design. The College does not offer a full-time AS/A level programme. It was decided a few years ago that the range of subjects offered was not broad enough and small numbers meant unviable groups. We do however offer a small number of AS/A levels as part-time or additional courses. The College also has a popular "Access to HE" programme.

Our main focus is therefore vocational provision ranging from pre-level 1 to Higher Education including a B.Eng degree course. New developments are planned in all vocational areas that is responsive to local need.

Our 3 year Strategic Plan is based on growth in full-time and part-time student numbers in Carlisle and the surrounding area but withdrawal from work we have been doing elsewhere in the country. We are now almost half way through Year 1 of our Strategic Plan. Key targets are being met and in many cases exceeded.

The College has 648 full-time 16-19 year olds (up 4.5% on last year) and a further 340 on part-time courses

By the end of the academic year the College expects to have engaged well over 4000 full-time and part-time adult students many of whom learn in their own community settings.

There are almost 400 young people who attend College for part of the week as an integral element of their apprenticeship programme.

Over 350 14-16 year old school pupils attend College for part of the week for vocational courses as part of the Increased Flexibility project. Carlisle College is lead body for this project which is funded by the local LSC and operated in partnership with schools and a representative training provider.

4. Sixth Form College Proposal – Carlisle College Position

In December, Carlisle College Corporation Board members (Governors) debated the LSC's proposal to establish a Sixth Form College "Working in close partnership with Carlisle College". By this it is understood that the new Sixth Form College would concentrate on more academic subjects and Carlisle College would remain focussed on vocational education and training. The new Sixth Form would be an entirely separate institution with its own Principal and governance arrangements and to be located in purpose built premises in the centre of Carlisle.

Governors of Carlisle College had also had the benefit of hearing from and questioning the Principal of a Sixth Form College in Salford who works in close partnership with a local FE College and another Sixth Form College.

At their Board meeting, Governors received a presentation on the findings of the LSC's Needs Analysis and noted the following points:

- In the Carlisle area the number of pupils in the school sixth forms varies considerably. Only 2 schools have sixth form numbers in excess of 200.
- In the Carlisle Area the participation of young people in structured Post-16 education lags behind county and national norms. The 2002 figures show that only 66.4% of Year 11 leavers remained in full-time education compared to a county figure of 69.3% and a national figure of 71.5%. Even when taking account of those young people who choose to take up the Work Based Learning route, the staying on rate of 74.4% compares poorly with the national average of 86.5%.
- There is a high leaving rate for 16-17 year olds in sixth form. In the Carlisle Area the leaving rate after Year 1 of the sixth form is 23% compared to the national figure of 13%. There are however significant variations in this figure between different sixth forms. Using 2002 figures from the LSCs Needs Analysis, the figures for individual schools ranged from the lowest rate at 8.3% to the highest at 39.5%.

A number of College Governors are also Governors of local schools. It was agreed that all College Governors would take an active part in the debate and where there was a conflict of interest they would abstain from the vote.

At the conclusion of the debate the following position was agreed:

"That from a Carlisle College perspective, the interests of all young people in Carlisle would best be served by the establishment of a Sixth Form College, working in close partnership with Carlisle College."