

## **Post-16 Education in Rutland**

Additional information for parents and guardians regarding background, a synopsis of Rutland County Council's proposals and the position of the UCC Governing Body to these proposals is set out below.

### **Background**

- The Rutland Learning Partnership (RLP), comprising the Principals of the three 11-16 Colleges, Tresham Institute and the Local Authority (LA), was formed to review and to make recommendations on the future needs of Post-16 Education in Rutland. This work was driven by changes in educational legislation and the desire of Tresham Institute to withdraw from Rutland College in order to focus on significant changes to its core provision in Northamptonshire.

The direction of the RLP's work was also driven by the strong desire of the LA to set up an Educational Trust as a vehicle for Post-16 education in Rutland.

- The deadline for the RLP to produce its proposals was mid-September and this work was on track with many areas of common agreement. However, the LA had already stated that pre-requisites of becoming a full member of a newly formed Trust were (1) the transfer of land and assets from the three 11-16 Foundation Colleges into the Trust and (2) each College would need to absorb a share of the transition/start up costs from within their 2009/10 budgets.

The Governors of UCC, whilst strongly supporting the pursuit of an optimum Post-16 provision for all Rutland students, challenged the requirement to transfer land and assets from a high performing school operating at full capacity and also the legitimacy of funding any costs associated with Post-16 education from existing 11-16 budgets.

- In mid-August, when schools had already broken up, Rutland County Council brought the work of the RLP to an abrupt halt by pursuing its own agenda and proposals. This was done without the involvement of UCC and Catmose College, neither of whom were included in the proposals which are now being put forward.

Our letter to you in October set out our view that these proposals did not meet the requirements for a high quality and attractive Post-16 education provision available to all Rutland students. A copy of this letter is also available on this website.

### **Rutland County Council's Proposals**

In order to provide a broader context for the consultation process now taking place, our understanding is that these are:

- To set up an Educational Trust which would require the transfer of land and assets from the 11-16 Colleges who are members of the Trust, into that Trust.

- To enable the exit of Tresham Institute from Rutland College, who could potentially then sell off at least some of the existing land and assets.

- To establish a single 11-18 Admissions Authority for Rutland, administered by Casterton Business and Enterprise College (CBEC). CBEC would also manage all of the Post-16 provision for Rutland, including a substantial part of the 'A' Level

curriculum which would be based in Casterton. This means that all Post-16 decisions in Rutland would therefore be made by CBEC.

- To provide the required facilities, including a broader curriculum, within a limited capital budget of 5 million pounds.
- To attract significantly higher student numbers in order to establish long term viability for a Post-16 provision within Rutland.

### **Reasons why UCC Governors and Staff do not support these proposals**

The Governors and Staff of UCC do not support the proposals above. We have made these views clear to Rutland County Council and are fully supported by the Governors of Catmose College.

We believe that the Council's proposals:

- will not deliver the highest quality Post-16 education that Rutland students deserve.
- do not enable an equitable balance of involvement and contribution from all three 11-16 Colleges to be achieved.
- should not require the transfer of all UCC land and assets nor funds from our existing budgets in order to set up an Educational Trust. Specialist educational legal advice supports this view.
- are flawed in locating part of the Post-16 curriculum in Casterton on the eastern edge of the Rutland and in close proximity to extensive existing provisions in Stamford. Casterton is difficult to get to and has no real public transport links.
- will not succeed in making Post-16 education within Rutland the number one choice for students and their parents. The capital available is woefully inadequate and the on-going viability is likely to be very doubtful.

### **What do we believe should happen?**

- By 2013, establish a single, centrally located Post-16 provision which is equipped to provide the highest quality teaching and offers as wide a variety of courses as is needed. Students also require one base for their extra-curricular activities, tutor groups and social requirements.
- Locate the College where it is easily accessible both from within and also outside the County.
- Pursue the capital necessary to provide an attractive environment, with state of the art facilities, which, together with the highest calibre teaching, will make staying in Rutland the number one choice for our students. This, in turn, will create a College which has long term viability.
- Form a Post-16 Educational Trust which enables each of the secondary schools to make an equitable (not necessarily equal) contribution to governance, strategic direction and management.
- Each secondary school should remain as their own admission authority so that full accountability for their college specific results is unimpeachable. This is vital. It should not be CBEC.

**The Governors and Staff of Uppingham Community College are fully committed and passionate about the necessity to provide the very best Post-16 education for all Rutland students. We have repeatedly said this to all parties. At the same time, we are also responsible for ensuring that UCC continues to deliver the highest standard of 11-16 education that we can and that we do not put this at risk.**

Rob Sawyer  
Chair of Governors