

Committee: **Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services**
Date: **9 September 2005**
By: **Director of Children's Services**
Title: **Post 16 Review in Hastings and Rother**
Purpose: **To update Members on the response by the Secretary of State to the proposals and the actions being considered by the County Council and Learning Skills Council**

RECOMMENDATION - to note the Director's oral update and continue to monitor the situation

1. Introduction

1.1 The Secretary of State's response to the Learning Skills Council/County Council proposals for post 16 review in Hastings and Rother was placed in the public domain on 4 August 2005 and a copy of the response is appended to this report. The Secretary of State is minded to support a modified proposal which would:

- a. retain the separate corporations of Hastings College of Arts and Technology (HCAT) and Bexhill College; the sixth forms at William Parker and Helenswood;
- b. relocate HCAT to Hastings town centre and close the sixth forms at Filsham Valley, the Grove, Thomas Peacocke and Hillcrest; and
- c. plans for a rural Rother College would proceed under this modified proposal.

1.2 The Secretary of State's modified proposal requires the approval of the Learning Skills Council (LSC), and it and the County Council have until 30 September 2005 to respond. The modified proposal bears little resemblance to the original proposal. It does not address some of the fundamental issues which underlay the original decision to review post 16 provision. There will be a need for intensive discussion with the LSC and schools and colleges before a response to the Secretary of State is agreed. The Director will provide the committee with an oral update on the progress being made in responding to the Secretary of State.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the Director's oral update and continue to monitor the situation.

MATT DUNKLEY
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Roger Howarth Tel No. 01273 481327

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Secretary of State's response to the LSC/County Council proposals