



Report on the Consultation Regarding the Academisation of Woking College

May 2017

Stakeholders consulted * :

- Staff
- Students
- Parents
- Local schools and Colleges
- The Department for Education

Advertisements adverts were also placed:

- National press – the Times
- Local press – the Woking News and Mail

*Respondents could have responded by e-mail or letter

During the process of consultation some clarification questions were raised during the respective parent, staff and student sessions, mostly around issues of what this meant in terms of changes for the College and its students and working terms and conditions; College responses to these queries gave rise to no further concerns or objections regarding the proposals.

Overall there were no negative responses, one letter of support from the local MP and four letters of support from Woking Schools.

The Governing Body, therefore, gives notice of its intention to dissolve the corporation on 1st September 2017 (or as soon as possible thereafter) and to reform as an academy trust, as indicated in the proposal contained in the consultation document. The consultation document can be viewed below.



The Future of Woking College

This document is the formal public consultation produced by Woking College on its proposal to dissolve the Governing Body and to convert to a Single Academy Trust. This follows the announcement by the Government in November 2015 stating that Sixth Form Colleges would be eligible to apply for academy status in order to allow them to reclaim VAT which was not possible under incorporated status. Following the Local Area Review of FE and Sixth Form Colleges in Surrey, completed in July 2016, the formal recommendation was that Woking College should remain an autonomous institution and consider becoming an academy.

Background

Woking College is a growing sixth form college serving the Borough of Woking and surrounding areas. It also provides community education for learners who are speakers of languages other than English. The College is a comprehensive, open-access institution catering for over 1,250 full time students and 380 part time students. The College budget is £6.3 million.

Becoming an Academy

The Corporation is proposing that Woking College be dissolved and the property, rights, assets and liabilities of the Corporation be transferred to an academy company (Single Academy Trust) known as Woking College.

There will be no change in the character or ethos of the College and the name will remain Woking College. The College (16-19 academy) would continue to offer a wide range of academic and vocation courses at level 3 and level 2 to students aged 16-19 and also English courses to adults. Current students and future students will be able to study the same range of courses as at present and have access to the same facilities and opportunities.

Academy status puts the College under the aegis of the local Regional Schools Commissioner. The College will become a Single Academy Trust and sign a funding agreement with the Secretary of State. The model form funding agreement for a Single Academy trust can be found at the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-and-free-school-funding-agreements-single-academy-trust>

As a Single Academy Trust the College will collaborate closely with local schools, especially secondary schools to develop shared approaches to quality assurance, professional development and resources. The College will also continue to deliver high quality progression advice and progression events to the local secondary schools. The ability to reclaim VAT payments will provide additional funding of circa £137,000 annually which will be used to improve provision for current students and future students in local schools.

Calendar of events

November 2015	Announcement allowing Sixth Form Colleges to become academies.
July 2016	Area review recommends Woking College considers academy status.
October 2016	Governing Body agrees to pursue dissolution of the Corporation and to apply for Single Academy Trust Status.
March 2017	Formal Consultation period following announcement of proposal in local and national press.
June 2017	Summary of consultation feedback and proposed action.
August 2017	Woking College Corporation dissolved and Woking College Single Academy Trust formed.
September 2017	Formal establishment of Woking College as an academy.

Consultation events

Drop in sessions at Woking College, Rydens Way for people to learn more and ask questions about Woking College becoming an academy

Staff	Students	Parents/Carers/Public
6 March 12.50-13.20	13 March 12.40-13.40	22 March 17.30-18.30
16 March 12.50-13.20		

Responding to the Consultation

- Please let us know if you consider the proposal to dissolve the College and establish a new 16-19 academy to be positive or negative? If so why?
- Do you consider there will be a positive or negative impact on the local community or those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) as a result of this proposal?
- Any other comments?

You can comment on these proposals by emailing or writing to the Principal or the Clerk to the Governors at Woking College, Rydens Way, Woking GU22 9DL

hme@woking.ac.uk

Comments must be received by 12 May 2017