

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 4 January 2017
Subject: Follow on update – The Manchester College
Report of: John Thornhill, Chief Executive – LTE Group

Summary and proposal

The committee asked for an update on the College SAR and the Curriculum review. I have provided the best update given the timing of the meeting as the Group SAR is not formally finalised and submitted to OFSTED until end January 2017.

The committee is also invited to consider that the work they ask us to report on typically only covers about 30% of what our skills and education group now does.

Going forward it is our proposal to report on education and skills holistically for post 16 activity and include all relevant organisations within the group.

The committee may also want to consider how it governs and maintains oversight of the very wide collection of other providers that operate within the city particularly with a future eye on local commissioning of skills budgets.

Progress Updates 2015/2016

MOL

610 employed professionals successfully passed a range of professional qualifications in areas ranging from HR, property, and accountancy to public relations. These were at levels 3, 5 and 7, the latter being Masters degree level. Helping us address the growing skills gap at level 4 and above.

Total People

In September the work to consolidate our two apprentice offers for Manchester between The Manchester College and Total People commenced. This is in part to successfully implement the recommendations of the GM area review but also to get ready for the employer apprentice levy commencing in May.

The changes in May are very significant and one simplified offer from traineeship to degree level apprenticeships will be needed. Total People's final position on quality is expected to be healthily ahead of the national averages and we will know more when the national QAR details are published late in January.

Novus

Early in 2017 the very large new prison build in Wrexham North Wales will finish and begin admitting offenders for their custodial stay. A very high proportion of the inmates will be from the North West and many will resettle in Greater Manchester and Manchester.

Novus has formed a strategic partnership with Coleg Cambria in North Wales to provide education and skills training to offenders at the prison for the next seven years.

More importantly Novus will be using this new approach to work with offenders when they leave prison and help them back into the community, in work, housing, further study local or into an apprenticeship.

The new organisation is a legal joint venture and will be known as Novus Cambria. Further work is underway to link this to wider thinking on devolved government plans for Justice in the City and beyond.

The Manchester College

Our work on the SAR now covers all units in the group not just the college.

So far we are around 80% complete on the work to finalise the SAR but we are expecting to self-assess at “Good” overall with more curriculum areas rated outstanding. Yet, with a growing challenge to be addressed on English and Maths, especially resits being taken at the college after failure first time around at school or sixth form. There needs to be a much more integrated strategy around English and Maths across the City and we have started the broader discussions with our colleagues at MCC in this area.

Overall in terms of outcomes, the work the college has done over the last three years on a much more relevant curriculum, aligned to the latest LMI data, and with a new leadership and management structure is starting to pay dividends.

Of more than a dozen main curriculum areas all but two showed strong year on year upward trends on performance. Whilst we do not yet have a finalised SAR, I have shared the 2015/2016 top level outcome data in the slides attached.

Committee members can note the continued three-year trend on outcomes improvement. We believe that there is a fair chance that when the national data is produced the college will be in the top quartile nationally for the first time in a decade.

We are also preparing a comparator of our peer group of other large inner city colleges, such as Liverpool, Leeds and Birmingham so councillors can see how a closer peer group also compares.

Our focus remains on attendance which still needs work despite the achievements showing a steady increase.

Area review

We are progressing a project for Macclesfield College to join the LTE group where there are very strong synergies between South Manchester and North Cheshire. This project starts on 17th January 2017.

In November a new principal was appointed at Trafford College who has decided not to implement the recommendations of the GM area review. This is very disappointing after 15 months of work with the previous principal and very detailed plans being developed.

I, the leader, and the leader from Trafford met with various other representatives from Trafford on 7th December 2016 where we reiterated our view that we believed implementing the recommendations was the right thing for GM, Trafford and Manchester.

We await a formal response but we are aware of other meetings taking place between the FE commissioner and Trafford but again have had no formal response from the FE commissioner.

The committee will want to consider how to proceed if there were to be alternative proposals coming forward. Especially, if these are different to those developed over the last year or more and different to the final recommendations only published three weeks ago and agreed by GMCA.

Significant sums of public money may be used to address problems in the wider FE sector and the scrutiny committee will need to be aware of the recommendations, the process for arriving at them and the implications of the outcomes.

As members will know our estates and property plan for Manchester was delayed for a year pending the area review. We have consulted widely with MP's, councillors and communities this work will move quickly to implementation once we have a final view from Trafford.

PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK – QUALITY (1) 2015/16

		2013/14 outturn	2014/15 outturn	2015/16 outturn	NR 2014/15
Attendance:	FE 16-18	86.7	80.5	81.4	n/a
	FE 19+	87.9	81.3	83.1	n/a
	FE (all)	87	80.9	82.1	n/a
Retention:	FE 16-18	90	91.8	93.3	90.5
	FE 19+	94.9	94.2*	96.3*	93.3
	FE (all)	93.5	93.3*	95*	91.8

*excluding approved premises/community payback

PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK – QUALITY (2) 2015/16

		2013/14 outturn	2014/15 outturn	2015/16
Pass rate: (Achievement)	FE 16-18	86.6	82.5	85.6
	FE 19+	93.5	91.9	93.4
	FE all ages	91.6	88.6	90.2
Achievement: (Success Rate)	FE 16-18	78.0	75.9	80* (79.8**)
	FE 19+	88.7	86.3* (83.1**)	90* (87**)
	FE all ages	85.7	82.6* (80.6**)	85.7* (84.2**)
	FE 16-18 (long, excl. E&M FS)	83.1	81.4	82.3
	FE 19+ (long, excl. E&M FS)	85	84.1	90
	FE all ages (long, excl. E&M FS)	84.3	83.1	86.3

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