

College Liaison Committee

The Committee has met both at the Borough offices and the College.

Notable efforts have been made to improve teaching following changes to requirements for pupils, with the college training its own staff to undertake teaching English and Maths (in which there is a national shortage of teachers) where their skills are appropriate to this.

The College is currently following area reviews not likely to be merged with any other institutions, at present its pupil numbers are down owing to demography, in a few years they will increase again as there is a “bulge” in the student numbers working their way through the system, the college is endeavouring to keep skills and resources to be ready when they arrive, but in the short term further reductions in numbers are expected. Apprenticeships remain a priority for the College, although with changes to their administration there is a national slowdown in apprenticeships.

Work has been underway on a bid for an institute of technology, focussed on advanced manufacturing and engineering, with other colleges in the LEP area collaborating. At the same time the Career College trust, an air & defence partnership has been extended, as the RAF is a major local employer, there is also work on reducing the dropout rate in the RAF by having learning and basic training combined for new recruits.

The College has been working post Ofsted to improve its position, including exploring pairing with an outstanding college to learn what they can from them; Grimsby was cited as an example of a similar demographic but with an outstanding rated college.

Updates are also given to the College of what the council is doing, I have presumed members are aware of the council’s work.

Councillor Thomas Smith

March 2018