

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

REGENERATION CABINET MEMBER

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet member on the application to develop a University Technical College (UTC) within North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To support in principle the proposals for a UTC within North Lincolnshire subject to consultation, agreement on location and an assessment on the impacts upon existing schools.
- 1.3 An urgent decision was required to meet the short timescale that had been given to formalise a bid and meet the deadline for submission.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The development of the South Humber Bank for renewable energy will provide major employment opportunities within the engineering and manufacturing sectors.
- 2.2 Proposals for the largest offshore wind park in Europe at the Able Marine Energy Park on the South Humber Bank have now been submitted to the IPC. This project alone will create around 5,000 new jobs within the engineering and manufacturing sector and further major renewable schemes are being progressed.
- 2.3 The transformation of the North Lincolnshire economy as a centre for renewables will create a substantial skills shortage for engineering skills within the area.
- 2.4 UTC's are one way that the council can address the skills challenge. UTC's are mixed gender 14 – 19 Academies, typically with 500 plus pupils that specialise in subjects that need modern, technical industry-standard equipment, such as engineering and construction. Pupils integrate academic study with practical learning, studying core GCSEs alongside technical qualifications.

- 2.5 The ethos and curriculum are designed with national employers who also provide support and work experience for pupils. UTC's are sponsored by a University, lead employer sponsor, other local employer sponsors as well as other educational providers.
- 2.6 UTC's attract between £8 and £12million Government capital funding with the expectation that this supports refurbishment of a current school or other buildings rather than support entirely new build.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Work on the UTC bid has been developed by the Humberside Enterprise Training Agency (HETA) and Baysgarth Comprehensive School and is supported by the University of Hull.
- 3.2 The closing date for bids is 17 January and successful proposals will be the subject of a second round interview process in spring 2011 to determine final approval.
- 3.3 There is an expectation that those areas that have been awarded Enterprise Zone status including the Humber and North Lincolnshire will also host a UTC. Two UTC bids at Grimsby and Hull in the first UTC round were unsuccessful.
- 3.4 The provision of a UTC will provide an opportunity for the growing engineering sector to provide a speciality school focused upon engineering and power engineering. The provision of a UTC will impact upon the school role of existing secondary schools within the Humber area and beyond. An independent Board is required to manage the UTC.
- 3.5 The council will need to engage with schools and undertake an assessment to assess the impacts of the UTC proposal before committing to the UTC proposal.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The provision of a UTC will provide a much needed speciality school focused upon engineering and will operate as a beacon for the new renewable energy and engineering businesses but may have an impact upon current secondary schools. A UTC will have a positive impact upon growing local skills to meet a quickly emerging new employment sector in the area.
- 4.2 Further work needs to be undertaken to ensure that the UTC will not have any unacceptable impacts upon current educational institutions before the council commits to the proposal. The decision not to endorse a UTC within North Lincolnshire would not impact upon

current school roles but may result in not being able to adequately address the new skills challenge.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

The funding for the UTC capital build will be provided should the bid be successful. Revenue costs will be funded via pupil numbers.

5.2 Staffing

None

5.3 Property & IT

Accommodation will need to be provided as part of the UTC bid and will be an asset of the UTC Board.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 There are no other implications.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The University of Hull, major engineering employers and HETA are all supportive of the UTC proposal within North Lincolnshire. The UTC proposal will need to be the subject of a comprehensive consultation exercise should the bid be endorsed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the cabinet member supports in principle the proposal for a UTC within North Lincolnshire and provides a letter of support for the bid.

HEAD OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report
Planning and Regeneration Performance Scorecard – Period 8