

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

12 July 2012



University Technical College (UTC) Plymouth

Background

UTC Plymouth is one of a new generation of industry-friendly, science and technology colleges for 14-19 year olds. In Plymouth we are creating a UTC in Devonport, developed in partnership with Plymouth University, City College Plymouth and Plymouth City Council.

Designed with the support of local and national employers, it will offer a unique learning experience. Students will benefit from inspirational learning environments, replicating industry standards and links with businesses will ensure students gain the right skills to meet industry demands.

Specialised in marine engineering and advanced manufacturing the UTC will give students the opportunity to excel by encouraging learning through exciting and challenging projects connecting the theory with practical tasks in working contexts.

Admissions

UTC Plymouth admissions policy broadly follows the admissions policy already in place for other schools within Plymouth. The UTC is not able to operate a selection process as this is not allowed under the Admissions Code of Practice. Unlike other 11 – 18 schools in Plymouth the UTC will take pupils from Year 10 onwards (age 14). They will offer a very different curriculum environment for pupils one which is more work based as well as academic and will tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of the child. The travel to learn area is 45 minutes in each direction therefore pupils could access the UTC curriculum from Devon, Torbay, Cornwall or Plymouth. As part of the Admissions process a booklet and information on line will be available for parents. Two open evenings will be arranged for both parents and pupils to discuss courses, admission etc. Admission will be through Plymouth City Council admissions process and will follow the national dates for applications to be received by 31 October 2012 and allocations will be made in March 2013.

Appointment of Principal/Chief Executive Designate

The closing date for applications was 3 July 2012. 5 candidates have been shortlisted and will be put through a rigorous two day assessment/interview process on the 11 and 12 July 2012. This will be the second time that this post has been advertised. If successful in making an appointment on this occasion the candidate will take up appointment by January 2013 at the latest.

Buildings

The UTC Plymouth will open in September 2013 in the building formerly occupied by Parkside Community College in Devonport (the secondary provision closed in September 2008). Bam were appointed Preferred Bidder, (or Selected Panel Member (SPM) at the cabinet meeting held in June 2012.

This means that subject to the successful outcome of financial close, planning and Education Funding Agency (EFA) approval to the final business case, they will be contracted to deliver the necessary refurbishment/remodelling works at a cost of £7.9m including fees. The funding will be drawn down from the EFA.

A pre planning Public Consultation meeting was held on the 12 June 2012 and no major design concerns were raised out of the consultation event. The planning application documentation has been uploaded onto the PCC portal on the 19 June 2012 with payment made by 21 June 2012.

The programme for work to be carried is based on planning permission being granted by September 2012 with a full start on site in October 2012, this should ensure that the vast majority of the building works will be completed in readiness for the opening in September 2013.

The deadline is extremely challenging. It is the same time line as the old Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. This is a government time line not a local time line.

Jayne Gorton
School Organisation, Access and Services to Schools Manager
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