

3rd December 2008

Andrew Marvell Business & Enterprise College (AMBEC) – Trust Status Update

To all members of staff

The current position in respect of the proposal for AMBEC to acquire Trust status is as follows:

Under the statutory process the Governors issued their formal proposals in June seeking representations from all the relevant parties who would be impacted by the proposals. After examining the formal proposal and statutory notice informing all parties of the proposed change to the status of the College an objection to the proposals on the basis of "Inadequate consultation and failure to have regard to the responses to the consultation" was made by the Local Authority (LA) to the Schools Adjudicator. As a result a meeting was held with Sir Phillip Hunter, the lead Adjudicator, on 27th July 2008 where he listened to the arguments put forward by both parties in respect of the objection. His determination was that the College had indeed consulted adequately and that the other key aspects of the proposals; **the Trust meets the legal requirements; the Trust was likely to lead to raising standards, and; the Trust was likely to promote community cohesion**, were also met. The full adjudicator's report is available on the College website or from www.schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk.

His decision was therefore that the proposal should be approved but with a change to the date of implementation to April 2009 and information to be provided to him on the names of the Members and Directors of the Trust.

The Leadership Team and the Governors have continued with the work to deal with the current budget shortfall and are confident that the 'Notice of Concern' will be withdrawn shortly, confirming the progress made to date.

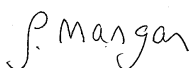
A parallel set of meetings have been held and will continue into the New Year with the LA in preparation for any move towards Trust status. This involves deciding and agreeing the land 'footprint' of the College and the assets currently held; gathering the necessary agreements under the regulations to continue the present Pensions arrangements for non-teaching staff; determining the content of the new Instrument of Governance for AMBEC.

Meetings have been held with the Joint Consultative Committee of the LA and the Full Time Officials of the Trade Unions have been presented with an update.

A series of meetings are planned with all our intended Trust partners and to identify named individuals from those organisations where we have a commitment but not necessarily a name for the proposed Trustee. A meeting of all the proposed Trustees is then planned for the New Year, which will develop the proposed Co-operative and Community model to meet the needs of the College and of the members of the community it serves.

If anyone wishes to discuss the proposals in more detail or have any concerns then they should contact the Head or the Chair of Governors to arrange a meeting to discuss them.

Yours sincerely



Gary Mangan
Headteacher



Barry Jacobs
Chair of Governors