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Policy paper

Reviewing post-16 education and training institutions: indicative area reviews

Updated 3 December 2015

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About the reviews

1.

The government's policy statement [Reviewing Post-16 Education and Training Institutions](#) set out our approach to facilitating a restructuring of the further education sector. This will be done through a series of area based reviews of provision.

We have published [details of the colleges and stakeholders involved in the first 2 waves of the review process](#).

This statement sets out the indicative phasing of the final 3 waves of the reviews which will start later in 2016. We will publish specific details and timings at the start of each wave.

Some local areas may wish to change the timing of their reviews and the individual circumstances at some colleges may change.

Together the 3 waves set out in this document cover all of the areas in England not covered in waves 1 and 2, although area reviews covering Greater London are yet to be confirmed. We currently anticipate that they will form part of waves 2 and 3.

Each review will start by assessing the economic and educational needs of the area, and the implications for post-16 education and training provision, including:

- school sixth forms
- sixth form colleges
- further education colleges
- independent providers

The reviews will then focus on the current structure of further education and sixth form colleges, although there will be opportunities for other institutions

(including schools and independent providers) to opt in to this stage of the analysis. Regional school commissioners will consider the implications of the first stage of the analysis for school sixth form provision.

The reviews will be led by steering groups made up of:

- chairs of governors
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and local authorities
- FE and sixth form college commissioners
- regional schools commissioners

This approach aims to move towards fewer, larger, more resilient and efficient providers, and more effective collaboration across institution types. It will be important to create greater specialisation by establishing institutions that are genuine centres of expertise. These will be able to support sustained progression in professional and technical disciplines, alongside excellence in other fundamental areas – such as English and maths.

This will:

- ensure that we have the right capacity to provide good education and training for our young people across England
- include the creation of a new network of prestigious Institutes of Technology, and National Colleges to deliver high standard provision at levels 3, 4 and 5

Indicative information on wave 3 to 5 is provided below. Please send any questions to area.reviews@education.gsi.gov.uk.

Wave 3

2.

Areas currently proposed:

- Cumbria
- Lancashire (Pennines)
- Liverpool City Region
- North East
- Black Country

Indicative timing for this wave: starting April 2016.

3.

Wave 4

Areas currently proposed:

- Leicester and Leicestershire
- Hampshire
- Dorset
- South East Midlands
- York, North Yorkshire and the Humber
- Greater Lincolnshire
- Lancashire (Coastal)
- Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire

Indicative timing for this wave: starting September 2016.

Wave 5

4.

Areas currently proposed:

- Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough
- Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
- Essex
- Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- Somerset
- Norfolk and Suffolk
- Coventry and Warwickshire
- Hertfordshire
- Kent

Indicative timing for this wave: starting November 2016.

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