



# Association of Colleges East Midlands

Promoting. Representing. Supporting.

East Midlands Colleges Our asks for the future



## FOREWORD

Further education colleges are major regional businesses in the East Midlands with a combined income of over £812 million. Their key contribution to the East Midlands is the delivery of further and higher education, technical training and skills in order to improve economic growth in the East Midlands.

Together, colleges in the region educate around 270,000 students, deliver 42,000 Apprenticeships, employ 12,500 people and work with over 26,000 employers. Colleges therefore make a significant social and economic impact in the East Midlands; as they add value to local businesses increasing their level of outputs and generating a need for further jobs, resulting in additional income.

This key asks document aims to highlight the strategic importance of colleges in the East Midlands and also sets out the needs and priorities of the sector ahead of the General Election in May 2015. These three issues identified are pertinent to colleges in the region and it is felt that

these asks need addressing on a local, regional and national level. Colleges would welcome the support of local authorities, MPs and stakeholders in the East Midlands in order to find solutions to these asks.

Lastly, as a region, we also lend our full support to the Association of Colleges National Manifesto. The key points from AoC's National Manifesto can be found within this key asks document, along with the latest key facts about the college sector in the East Midlands.



**Linda Houtby**

Principal and Chief Executive of  
Grantham College Chair of AoC East  
Midlands Regional Committee

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Linda Houtby".



**Paul Eeles**

Chief Executive of EMFEC  
AoC East Midlands Regional Director

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Paul Eeles".

## KEY ASKS FROM THE EAST MIDLANDS

### 01 **Preserving funding for adult skills, literacy and numeracy**

The pressure on colleges in the East Midlands to provide literacy and numeracy is increasing, whilst at the same time funding for adult skills training is reducing. Preserving a viable stream of funding for adults who have limited transferable skills within the world of work remains a priority. We would seek assurance that the needs of the local community are funded to enable the college sector to meet these needs.

### 02 **Ensure all Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) recognise colleges as strategic partners in delivering the skills agenda**

All LEPs should recognise that the local further education colleges and college groups are a major regional business, employer and stakeholder whose key contribution to the region is the delivery of further and higher education, technical training and skills in order to

improve the economic growth of the region. In doing so, the sector should be represented appropriately in the process of formulating regional LEP policy and the distribution of funds against major regional programmes and projects.

### 03 **Encourage local employers to recruit more apprentices and trainees**

Employers need to be encouraged to recruit more apprentices and trainees at all levels including Higher Level apprentices, especially those in the 16 to 18-year-old age bracket. We believe that the apprenticeship and traineeship route could potentially become a powerful tool in helping to tackle the NEET problem and provide an alternative route to higher education and employment in the East Midlands.

## AoC NATIONAL ASKS SUPPORTING STUDENT CHOICE

### 04 **Careers education & advice**

Government should introduce systematic careers education for 11 to 18-year-olds and facilitate a careers hub between schools, colleges and universities in each area, led by the local enterprise partnership.

### 05 **Education accounts for students aged over 19**

All adult students, whether studying at a university or a college, should have equivalent access to grants and loans via new education accounts. The Government, the student and their employer should contribute to this account. This would facilitate genuine learning throughout life and bring greater equity between higher and further education students.

### 06 **Affordable & accessible transport for students**

Transport legislation has not caught up with the fact that everyone is now required to participate in education and training until their 18th birthday. The transport rights for young people in education should mirror those which apply to school children so that all can choose the courses which best enable them to achieve their potential.

Image provided by Loughborough College



## SUSTAINING ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH EDUCATION & TRAINING

### 07 **Creating a higher technical & professional education system fit for the 21st century**

The next Government should reform the higher education system to ensure it can respond quickly in training the engineers, technicians and professionals of the future. Further education colleges should be given the power to award higher technical and professional certificates, in partnership with employers.

### 08 **Preparing young people for apprenticeships**

The next Government should develop a comprehensive pre-apprenticeship, concentrating on the needs of 16 to 24-year-olds, helping them prepare for an apprenticeship and gain the skills businesses need.

### 09 **Assessment which reflects real life**

The way people are assessed in school and college should reflect the fact that we learn in the workplace and at university incrementally, not solely through end of year exams. The next Government should maintain AS Levels in their current form and should allow for rigorous modular assessment in vocational and academic qualifications, alongside end of year exams.

### 10 **Continued autonomy to respond to local needs**

The new Government should continue to allow colleges the freedom and flexibility to respond to the needs of their community and local businesses, rather than setting rules from Whitehall. Calls to reduce autonomy, or return colleges to the control of local councils, should be resisted by future Ministers.

### 11 **Meeting the maths & English challenge**

To enable colleges and schools to meet the OECD challenge, the next Government should develop new English and maths qualifications which allow students, aged 16 to 19, and adults to gain the skills that business needs.

## CREATING A FAIR & EFFECTIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM

### 12 **Funding which matches pupil/student need**

There should be no further funding cuts to the education of 16 to 19-year-olds and they should be brought within the Government's protective ring-fence. Government needs to conduct a once in a generation review of how money is spent at each stage of compulsory education to ensure the budget is used most effectively.

### 13 **Spending scarce resource sensibly**

New schools should only be approved where there is genuine local demand because of poor quality provision and/or rising pupil numbers.



Image provided by Grantham College

East Midlands colleges engage with around **26,000** employers





Image provided by Derby College

## STRENGTHS

- There are over **270,000** students in colleges<sup>1</sup> in the East Midlands\*.
- Over **42,000** students undertake apprenticeships through East Midlands colleges.
- The total college income in the East Midlands is over **£812 million**.
- Around **13,000** students study Higher Education in East Midlands colleges.
- Education and training (classroom based) Success Rate: **85%**.
- Apprenticeship success Rate: **72%**.
- Over **25%** of students take STEM subjects at East Midlands colleges.
- Over **10,000** students are on ESOL courses at East Midlands colleges.
- East Midlands colleges engage with around **26,000** employers.
- Colleges in the East Midlands employ **12,500** people.
- East Midlands colleges are partners in five University Technical Colleges (UTC's). Nationally **29 out of the 50** UTC's involve colleges as a lead or co-sponsor.
- **35%** of all vocational qualifications nationally are awarded via colleges (7% are awarded through employers).
- Students aged 19+ in further education (nationally) generate an additional **£75 billion** for the economy over their lifetimes.

\* Refers to the Local Enterprise Partnership areas covering the East Midlands (and throughout document)

<sup>1</sup> This document refers to Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992

## DERBYSHIRE



### Burton and South Derbyshire College, Buxton and Leek College, Chesterfield College, Derby College

- Derbyshire colleges support **52,000** students, **7,400** apprentices, and **4,500** employers, operating with a combined income of over **£123 million**<sup>2</sup>.
- **All LEP (D2N2\*) key sectors** are supported by Derbyshire colleges, through qualifications, training and sector initiatives.
- Over **2,500** apprenticeships delivered in 2012/13 were at Advanced or Higher Level, including frameworks in LEP key sectors<sup>3</sup>.
- Apprenticeship success rate (16-18): **72%**.<sup>4</sup>
- Education and training success rate (all ages): **86%**.<sup>5</sup>
- **77%** of KS5 students achieved three or more A Level passes (including equivalences) in Derbyshire colleges.<sup>6</sup>
- Derby College (Manufacturing) and Burton and South Derbyshire (Biomedical Science and Engineering) are each partnering new UTC's which open in September 2015.

\* D2N2 key sectors: Transport Equipment Manufacturing / Life Sciences / Food and Drink Manufacturing / Construction / Visitor Economy / Low Carbon – Goods & Services, Transport and Logistics / Creative Industries

<sup>2</sup> Refers to the Local Enterprise Partnership areas covering the East Midlands (and throughout document)

<sup>3</sup> Colleges and Funding Agencies (EFA/SFA) data, 2012/13

<sup>4</sup> Government funded Further Education provision (16+), 2012/13

<sup>5</sup> Government funded Further Education provision (16-18), 2012/13

<sup>6</sup> State funded schools and Colleges performance tables (DfE), 2013



Image provided by Derby College



Image provided by Loughborough College

## LEICESTERSHIRE



Brooksby Melton College, Gateway College, Leicester College, Loughborough College, Regent College, South Leicestershire College, Stephenson College, Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College

- Leicestershire Colleges support **60,000** students, **7,000** apprentices, and **4,500** employers, operating with a combined income of **£147 million**.
- Apprenticeship Success Rate (16-18): **76%**.
- All Local Enterprise Partnership (LLEP\*) Key Sectors are supported by Leicestershire Colleges, through qualifications, training and sector initiatives.
- Education and Training Success Rate (all ages): **87%**.
- Over **6,400** Apprenticeships delivered in 2012/13 were at Advanced or Higher Level, including frameworks in LEP key sectors.
- **93%** of KS5 students achieved 3 or more A Level passes (including equivalences) at the highest performing Sixth Form College in the region.

\*North Warwickshire and Hinckley College: non-AoC East Midlands member

\*\*LLEP key sectors: Business and Financial Services / Creative Design, Media and Performing Arts / Environmental Technologies / Distribution and Logistics / Food and Drink Manufacturing / Knowledge-based Industries / (Hi-tech) Manufacturing / Space and Aerospace / Tourism and Hospitality



## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



Bilborough College, Central College Nottingham, New College Nottingham, North Nottinghamshire College, Portland College, Vision West Nottinghamshire College

- Nottinghamshire colleges support **76,000** students, **16,000** apprentices, and **6,500** employers, operating with a combined income of over **£180 million**.
- All LEP (D2N2\*) key sectors are supported by Nottinghamshire colleges, through qualifications, training and sector initiatives.
- Over **6,400** apprenticeships delivered in 2012/13 were at Advanced or Higher Level, including frameworks in LEP key sectors.
- Apprenticeship success rate (16-18): **70%**.
- Education and training success rate (all ages): **83%**.
- **78%** of KS5 students achieved 3 or more A Level passes (including equivalences) in Nottinghamshire Colleges.

\*D2N2 key sectors: Transport Equipment Manufacturing, Life Sciences, Food and Drink Manufacturing, Construction, Visitor Economy, Low Carbon – Goods / Services, Transport and Logistics and Creative Industries



Image provided by The Lincoln College Group



Image provided by Derby College

## GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE



Bishop Burton (Riseholme) College\*, Boston College, Grantham College, The Grimsby Institute Group\*, The Lincoln College Group, Linkage College, New College Stamford, North Lindsey College\*

- Greater Lincolnshire colleges support **49,000** students, **8,500** apprentices, and **4,000** employers, operating with a combined income of over **£174 million**.
- All LEP (GLLEP\*\*) key sectors are supported by Greater Lincolnshire colleges, through qualifications, training and sector initiatives.
- Apprenticeship success rate (16-18): **70%**.
- **64%** of KS5 students achieved 3 or more A Level passes (including equivalences) in Greater Lincolnshire colleges.
- Education and training success rate (all ages): **85%**.
- Over **1,000** apprenticeships delivered in 2012/13 were at Advanced or Higher Level, including frameworks in LEP key sectors.
- The Lincoln College Group is a partner for Lincoln UTC which specialises in engineering and science, and opened in 2014.
- North Lindsey College is a partner for Humber UTC in North East Lincolnshire which opens in September 2015, specialising in engineering and renewables.

\*Bishop Burton (Riseholme) College, The Grimsby Institute Group and North Lindsey College: non-AoC East Midland members

\*\*GLLEP key sectors: Agri-food / Health and Care / Manufacturing/ Ports and Logistics / Renewables / Visitor Economy

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



### Moulton College, Northampton College, Tresham College of Further and Higher Education

- Northamptonshire colleges support **23,000** students, **3,000** apprentices, and over **5,000** employers, operating with a combined income of over **£85 million**.
- All LEP (NEP\* & SEMLEP\*\*) key sectors are supported by Northamptonshire Colleges, through qualifications, training and sector initiatives.
- Over **1,500** apprenticeships delivered in 2012/13 were at Advanced or Higher Level, including frameworks in LEP key sectors.
- Apprenticeship success rate (16-18): **70%**.
- Education and training success rate (all ages): **83%**.
- **62%** of KS5 students achieved 3 or more A Level passes (including equivalences) in Northamptonshire Colleges.
- Tresham College is a partner in Silverstone UTC, which opened in 2013 and specialises in high performance engineering, business and technical events management.

\*NEP key sectors: High Performance Technologies / Logistics / Food and Drink / Creative and Cultural Industries

\*\*SEMLEP key sectors: Manufacturing & Advanced Technology / Green Economy / High Performance Engineering / Creative and Cultural / Logistics



Image provided by Moulton College



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