



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Agora, 4th Floor
Cumberland Place
Nottingham
NG1 6HJ

14 July 2020

Mr Mark Taylor
Chair of Corporation
City of Wolverhampton College
Paget Road
Wolverhampton
WV6 0DU

Sent by e-mail: Mark.Taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Cc: cowgillm@wolvcoll.ac.uk

Dear Mark,

Financial Health Notice to Improve

This letter and its schedules constitute a Notice to Improve (NTI) in line with clauses within the Funding Agreements between the Secretary of State for Education (DfE) acting through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on behalf of the Crown.

It sets out additional conditions of funding that City of Wolverhampton College is required to comply with in order that ESFA can continue to fund. The conditions set out in the schedule(s) of this NTI are in addition to the conditions of funding set out in the Funding Agreements.

I am re-issuing this NTI (first issued 7 June 2012) following review, to reflect updated policies and new processes and requirements for the submission and timing of financial data. City of Wolverhampton College is still classed as being in **formal intervention**.

Schedule 1 attached sets out the action required under this NTI.

Monitoring

ESFA will continue to closely monitor progress made towards meeting these conditions through the scheduled case conferences and will work with you and wider agencies to secure the best outcome for learners, employers, the local community.

Compliance

If City of Wolverhampton College does not comply with the additional conditions within the specified time period, ESFA will pursue one or more of a range of options outlined in, or incorporated into, the funding agreements.

In all cases, the removal of the additional conditions will occur when City of Wolverhampton College receives a letter from ESFA indicating that the additional conditions have been met.

Complaints

If you consider that ESFA has acted unreasonably or not followed a proper procedure in issuing the additional conditions, you can make a complaint under the procedure for [dealing with complaints about the ESFA](#).

Publication

ESFA publishes all NTIs on gov.uk.

Reviews

ESFA will regularly review this NTI with you. It is likely that the NTI will be re-issued, at least annually to ensure the terms and conditions remain relevant. ESFA reserves the right to reissue at any point should circumstances significantly change.

Action required

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and the schedule below by writing to me within 5 working days of the date of this letter.

This NTI is being copied to Ofsted, your local authority, West Midlands Combined Authority, Office for students, and the FE Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



Karen Riley
Deputy Director
FE Directorate Territorial Team – Midlands and East

Copy to: Mal Cowgill, Chief Executive / Principal
Ofsted
Deputy Director of Education, City of Wolverhampton Council
Head of Skills Delivery, West Midlands Combined Authority
FE Commissioner

Schedule: Inadequate Financial Health City of Wolverhampton College

This schedule sets out the additional conditions relating to the improvement of the overall services. It has been issued because ESFA has assessed City of Wolverhampton College as having inadequate financial health.

ESFA have assessed the College's 2018/2019 Financial Statements which confirm that the College continues to have inadequate financial health.

Timescales

The additional conditions outlined within this schedule must be addressed swiftly.

In addition, where it is evident that sufficient improvement is not or cannot be achieved within the timescales specified, the ESFA reserves the right to take further action open to it at any point.

Monitoring and Progress

All conditions will be reviewed at case conference and monitoring meetings with the ESFA Intervention Team and the FE Commissioner (regularity to be confirmed by ESFA).

Specific conditions

1. The college must work with ESFA and FE Commissioner as required.
2. The college must continue to work with Wolverhampton City Council and all key stakeholders to progress the City Learning Quarter project as the College's strategy for a sustainable future College.
3. The college must continue to attend regular meetings with ESFA. Attendees should include, as a minimum, the Principal, Director of Finance and Chair or other appropriate Governor to represent your Corporation. The meetings will focus on the college's progression against the milestones in the plan, where the college will be expected to provide information to demonstrate proper oversight and timely implementation of the plan, including updates on the progression of the City Learning Quarter Project. ESFA will arrange these meetings and your first point of contact is Michael Nicol.
4. The college should continue to undertake a regular review of potential cash flow requirements and the college is required to supply ESFA with a monthly cashflow template included within the submission of monthly management accounts.
5. This NTI may be revised and updated subsequent to the date of issue to reflect progress and/or any change in circumstances. It will be formally reviewed with you, at least annually, to ensure it remains appropriate and current.
6. If, in ESFA's view, the college fails to take the necessary actions (in whole or part) within the timescales set out, or if evidence of progress is not appropriate or not available, the ESFA will take further action.
7. ESFA will determine when the college has made sufficient progress for the NTI to be lifted. This will be when the college's financial health grade has improved from inadequate to at least requires improvement for the period of 2020/21 as evidenced by a financial record of requires improvement or better. When the college complies with the actions within the timescales set out ESFA will lift the NTI and confirm this in writing.