

**Office of the Chief Executive**

Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX

**Chief Executive**

Barry Quirk

**Direct Line:** 020 7361 2299

**Email:** [barry.quirk@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:barry.quirk@rbkc.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.rbkc.gov.uk](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
**KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA**

Richard Atkins  
Further Education Commissioner  
*By Email*

01 March 2019

Dear Richard,

**Kensington and Chelsea College**

In the interests of openness and transparency, I wanted to write to you before the Kensington and Chelsea College (KCC) Board of Governors meets on 4<sup>th</sup> March. I hope this letter sets out the Council's position and reiterates the outcomes we want to see for our residents.

Over the last few months we have worked closely with all groups and organisations, including the Department for Education, KCC, the campaign group, the standalone group and Morley College, providing information and advice and sharing our key priorities. Both proposals to be considered by the KCC Board contain excellent ideas and demonstrate exciting possibilities for the future.

The Council recognises that the selection of a preferred option is a decision for the KCC Board alone, informed by your recommendations. This is a process and decision independent of the Council. This is entirely right and proper and I would like to thank you and colleagues at the Department for Education for your work.

Our priority as a local authority is to support a more diverse mix of employment and skills provision to better meet the needs of our residents. We have recently undertaken one of the largest engagement exercises in our history, reaching over 2,000 residents and capturing over 5,000 comments. Residents across the borough have repeatedly told us that education, work and skills are key priorities for them, and we intend to reflect these views in our forthcoming council plan.

The college will play a vital role in delivering this. We know residents are keen to see an open, accessible institution with a diverse range of provision that meets local needs, including a robust 16-18 offer, training and apprenticeship opportunities, access to information advice and guidance, entry level provision, space for community use, functional skills pathways, ESOL provision and lifelong and community learning opportunities.

We fully support those aspirations and recognise that both proposals include ways to make this a reality. In particular, we would like to commend the standalone group for the work it has done to put residents' needs at the heart of its proposals and to meet their aspirations fully. Once again, our community has led the way for positive change.

Alongside a focus on outcomes, we understand the Structure and Prospects Appraisal process will also consider questions of financial viability. We fully accept that whichever proposal is selected needs to

be sustainable in the long-term and this will be a critical consideration in your recommendation to the KCC Board.

The collective priority – and our single most important aspect at the council – is to secure a thriving, high-performing and sustainable Further Education college, in the north and south of the borough, which delivers key outcomes for residents. We are committed to working with whoever is selected on 4<sup>th</sup> March, and with all other groups and organisations, to secure the best outcome for the College and the local community.

In the meantime, it will be vital for all parties to be clear on the process, particularly the planned consultation on the preferred option. I would be very grateful if you could write to all parties after the decision is taken to set out the next steps.

I should be grateful if this letter could be shared with all parties concerned in advance of Monday's meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Quirk', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barry Quirk  
Chief Executive

Cc David Jeffrey, Deputy Director, Further Education Territorial Team