

### **Proposal to apply for significant change (physical expansion) in relation to second phase of Science Centre**

#### **Introduction**

Worcester Sixth Form College completed the first phases of its state of the art Science Centre in 2014. The planning permission granted was on the basis of a phased project to include the second phase which would provide a further four laboratories and preparatory rooms. The government has recently announced some capital funding ring fenced for sixth form colleges and the College is keen to secure funding for the second phase of this project through the Post-16 Capacity Fund. This extension of the Science Centre would allow the College to respond to recent and projected growth in student numbers particularly in science subjects, accommodate a growing demographic and meet the local skills need.

#### **The consultation**

The College carried out a public consultation on the proposal which started on 16<sup>th</sup> June and ended on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Details about the consultation, the process and how to respond, was distributed to key shareholders including:

- Staff, students and parents/carers;
- the local authority;
- the MP for Worcester;
- local schools and colleges;

Access to the formal proposal was placed on the College's website together with details of the different ways to formally respond (online, email and post).

The consultation asked two questions:

1. Do you support the proposal?
2. Do you have any additional comments, questions or suggestions that you would like us to consider and respond to?

#### **Summary of Consultation Responses**

Number of formal responses received – 8.

#### Responses:

- Support from Worcester MP who recognised the need of more college places within the Worcester constituency in response to a growing cohort and increased demand for places.
- Support from Worcestershire Children First who note the expectation that intake numbers look to exceed capacity within the College in particular subjects from 2021/22. They note that with the current expectant increase in student population from housing developments across Worcester and the wider Worcestershire County wanting access to Post-16 tuition, the local authority envisages a need for the expansion to accommodate the increase in anticipated student numbers
- Support from parents (6) who noted:
  - the benefit that the improved facilities would offer to students;

- that the proposal would allow more pupils from the Worcestershire area to access good quality teaching, equipment and resources in Science at the same time as responding to demand for science subjects in industries such as teaching and engineering

**Next Steps**

We are grateful to the respondents, and to those that attended the consultation meeting, for their input.

The outcome of the College's application to the Post-16 Capacity Fund is pending.

Edward Senior  
Principal  
15/07/21