

Committee:	Cabinet	Agenda Item
Date:	18 October 2017	8
Title:	Grant for Harlow College to provide the proposed Technical and Professional College at Stansted Airport	
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Vic Ranger Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships	Key decision: Yes

Summary

1. This report considers a request from Harlow College for a capital grant towards the provision of a proposed Technical and Professional College on land at Stansted Airport being provided by Stansted Airport Ltd.
2. The total capital budget is £10,480,000 of which £7,480,000 is for buildings and equipment and £3,000,000 the value of the site. Contractors' prices came in over budget and the College has engaged in a process to negotiate best final fixed prices with bidders. South East LEP Local Growth Funding, matched by funding from Essex CC is providing £7,000,000 and Harlow College is able to provide £480,000 capital funding for equipment. The gap funding needed to cover the capital costs is being assessed.
3. The project will educate and train approximately 530 young people and adults per year in technical & vocational skills, traineeships and Apprenticeships. It will directly benefit people from Uttlesford who will have greater opportunities to train in skills leading to careers at the airport.

Recommendations

4. The Council makes a capital grant of up to £300,000 towards the provision of the proposed Technical and Professional College at Stansted Airport, subject to Harlow College providing a statement of the need for the amount of funding required up to the £300,000 cap and acknowledging the council as a supporter of the project.

Financial Implications

5. The costs of the capital grant will be met from the Strategic Investment Fund.

Background Papers

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

Impact

7.

Communication/Consultation	The council's financial contribution will be publicised through Harlow College's promotional material and a permanent record in the college
Community Safety	
Equalities	
Health and Safety	
Human Rights/Legal Implications	
Sustainability	
Ward-specific impacts	
Workforce/Workplace	

Situation

8. Uttlesford district does not have a further education college within its boundaries. The secondary schools offer academic subjects in their sixth-forms. Access to further education provision is an issue throughout Uttlesford, whether in the north or south, and there is anecdotal evidence that transport and the time taken to travel to further education is a factor in the decision-making process for learners when deciding where and whether to access post-16 learning opportunities. According to the Essex Employment and Skills Board (ESB) Evidence Base 2016, there are currently 960 young people and 2250 adults travelling outside of Uttlesford for further education. Significant numbers travel up to 2 hours heading north of Cambridge. The evidence from Essex County Council shows that 438 pupils drop out of 6th form education in year 12 from Essex Schools within a 20 mile radius of Stansted Airport. There is major housing and infrastructure development in the locality for 2400 homes in Great Dunmow with a potential further 500 homes under consideration. This will necessitate technical and professional training.
9. The project will support the development of employment growth at Stansted Airport. It will enable employers at the airport to recruit young people and adults with appropriate levels of skills to commence work and with the capacity to acquire advanced and higher level skills. It will meet SELEP and Essex Employment Skills Board priorities areas in STEM, advanced manufacturing and engineering, transport and logistics and the visitor economy. This approved Local Growth Funding contributes directly to the delivery of SELEP's objectives and priorities for economic growth, as well as being a key enabler for housing growth.

Housing growth in East Herts and West Essex will rely on many supporting services of which education is critical. The scheme will directly provide the skills required for the airport, and companies in existing towns and committed business development including TriSail and Harlow Enterprise Zone to grow. It will train the future generation of asset managers, logistical experts, engineers and technicians to support the development of the road, rail and air infrastructure, as well as the digital infrastructure.

10. The provision of vocational learning opportunities and higher level, high value training in Uttlesford is low in relation to the expressed demand stated by schools and other providers. Discussions with the Harlow and Uttlesford School Heads group have resulted in agreement of the need for such post-16 provision and a strong intention from the schools to back plans for the development of the Stansted Airport College.

Risk Analysis

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The project may run out of money compromising the specification	2 Best final fixed prices being negotiated between the college and its contractors	3 The college needs a quality learning environment offer to attract students	None

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.