

Message from Professor Debra Humphris

We thought that it would be helpful to update you on the next steps in the decision-making process on our review of the future of our HE provision in Hastings.

As you will know we have been working in partnership with Sussex Coast College Hastings over the past couple of months to develop a proposal for a new University Centre. This proposal will build on the legacy of the University of Brighton in Hastings, with evolving provision over the next three-to-four years.

Whilst the final shape of the proposal is still under development, given all the factors that made the review necessary, it is clear that the model of Higher Education provision in Hastings will be significantly different from that which is currently in place. This means that no change is not an option and, whilst we know this might not alleviate current concerns, it would be misleading to suggest otherwise.

Given the above, and in light of recent discussions with our Trades' Unions, staff and students it is clear that there is still some confusion about our plans and our intentions.

To be clear, whilst our proposal for a new University Centre would lead to the eventual closure of our Hastings Campus in its current form this does not in any way equate to our withdrawal from Higher Education in the town or signal our intention to do so. Furthermore a final decision on the future of our Hastings Campus can only be taken once we have completed the development of the proposal for the new University Centre.

To this end, and having taken time to hear initial views from a range of stakeholders, we are now at the point where we can begin formulating a proposal for the University Centre and planning the accompanying consultation process.

On 16 June our Academic Board will be asked to consider the academic activities of the proposed new University Centre. We will also be engaging consultants to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) on the initial proposal. The report of the Academic Board and the results of the EIA will inform the proposal to be considered by the University Management Board, and then our Board of Governors in July.

Should the Board of Governors adopt the proposal, we will then carry out a three month formal consultation on the University Centre, where everyone will have an opportunity to respond to the proposal. The outcomes of the consultation will be collated and presented to the Board of Governors for a final decision in November.

We will continue to keep you updated.

Professor Debra Humphris
Vice-Chancellor