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Subject: Confidential: KCC OFSTED result and other news

Councillor,

The inspectors draft report (which is still confidential) has given KCC a 3 Requires Improvement. The scores are precisely in line with the College's recent self-assessment:

Outcomes	3
Teaching Learning and Assessment	3
Personal development, Welfare and behaviour	2
Leadership and management	3
Overall effectiveness	3
Apprenticeships	4
Adult Learning	3
Study Programme	2

A full draft report is awaited. Because of the senior management turnover it will not be kind to Governors. OFSTED will recommend rapid change in Board membership, the problem being that implementing this in current circumstances will be difficult.

Meanwhile, having reviewed draft due diligence information on KCC the City Lit Board has decided not to proceed with the merger. The final due diligence report on KCC is not yet available but the key reasons for City Lit's cold feet are likely be;

- KCC's poor financial viability, owing to declining student numbers and the College's commitment to retain an expensive two-site model;
- an awkward strategic fit; and
- governance complications because of City Lit's SDI status.

The due diligence on City Lit shows that the Institute is not exactly in robust financial health either.

The Principal's recent meeting with FE Deputy Commissioner Marilyn Hawkins, which took place before the City Lit news, was in the event inconsequential – its purpose was for the FE DC to explain that her new role was to support the achievement of the London Area Review recommendations – a number of which are already unravelling. Ms Hawkins had an inkling that the KCC/City Lit merger may be derailed, and offered to support KCC to find an alternative partner if that proved necessary.

The KCC Board remains clear that the College must merge. Other suitors – Ealing Hammersmith and West London and City of Westminster/CNWL – are already circling. KCC's problem, put baldly, is that its attraction to other Colleges is based on its assets rather than its activities.

A longer-than-anticipated period of change and uncertainty for the College beckons.

I will provide further information as I receive it.

Tony Redpath
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