



**Extract from Joint Strategic Committee - 9 July 2019**

**JSC/023/19-20 Supporting further and higher education provision:  
Strategic loan to local education provider GBMet**

**Purpose**

The Committee was informed that the Greater Brighton Metropolitan College was embarking on a major new scheme to create a Centre for Creative and Digital Industries (CCDI) involving the construction of a 3,000m<sup>2</sup> of new build development and partial redevelopment of Pelham Tower, in the centre of Brighton.

Over the last three years 1,142 students from Adur (499) & Worthing (643) had studied at the Pelham Campus. The new CCDI would deliver 100 new advanced-level and higher-level apprentices, 140 higher or technical level graduates and 260 additional level 3 students by 2020/21, creating an exciting local offer for Adur and Worthing residents.

The development of the CCDI centre of excellence at the Pelham Campus would also enable the delivery of a creative and digital higher education offer in Worthing, in a partnership with the University of Arts London (UAL), through the development of a University Centre in West Durrington.

Worthing Council had been approached for a £5m loan by Greater Brighton Metropolitan College to facilitate the development of the Pelham Street campus, within an overall scheme value of £21m, with funding from the sale of assets (also reducing overheads going forward) and the Coast to Capital local enterprise partnership.

The report briefed members on the proposal and sought approval for the granting of a £5,000,000 loan secured on the Worthing Campus at Durrington, which would generate an annual income for the Council of £100,000 alongside delivering the significant benefits to the further and higher education offer for Adur and Worthing residents.

**Decision,**

**The Joint Strategic Committee recommended that Worthing Borough Council:-**

- i. note support for the Greater Brighton Metropolitan College in its ambitions to create a Centre for Creative and Digital Industries at Pelham Street and a University Centre at West Durrington in partnership with the University of Arts London;**
- ii. note the significant benefits expected from these developments for students from the local area, in particular the provision of a higher education offer in Worthing as well as the improved offer at Brighton readily accessible to our local students;**
- iii. agree to a loan of £5m to Greater Brighton Metropolitan College to facilitate the delivery of the scheme, funded by prudential borrowing, and providing an income to Worthing Borough Council of circa £100,000 per year;**
- iv. agree to amend the capital programme accordingly, and increase the operational and authorised borrowing limits by £5m to accommodate the proposed borrowing;**
- v. agree to amend the approved investments listing to include GBMet as an authorised investment;**
- vi. approve the amendment of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy to enable a provision to be set aside in line with the repayments principal, in respect of loans to third parties funded by borrowing.**