

LLN Research Database by sussexlearningnetwork

ID: 11498300000022043

Title: HE Construction in the Hastings College area - prospects for recruitment, delivery & progression

Keywords: construction; Hastings College; recruitment; progression; retention; Foundation Degree

Organisation: Sussex Learning Network

Purpose: In common with some other FE colleges, Hastings has experienced some difficulties in maintaining viable HE programmes in construction & engineering in recent years. The project will investigate the reasons for this with a view to making observations and recommendations as to the future prospects for these curriculum areas, and informing national, regional and local policy on these matters. The historical background and areas for investigation are outlined below.

Construction

The HNC Construction qualification was offered at Hastings College until September 2006 when it was replaced by Foundation Degree. At its peak of demand, the HNC was offered in three distinct streams namely Architecture, Structural Engineering and Building. Recruitment has declined over the years, possibly due to the reduction in the number of local construction companies. Not only does this appear to have created a down turn in the number of HE applicants but it has also reduced the demand for the provision of part time Level 3 courses. Although the numbers initially recruited onto the Foundation Degree (2006 intake) were sufficient, this has not been repeated this year and both the first and second years of the course have been cancelled with effect from September 2007. It would appear that employers are not enthusiastic about the Foundation Degree, particularly as it is being offered over three years, and prefer the HNC option with which they are familiar. This course is still being successfully offered at other colleges.

Method:

Outcomes of research:

Is a final report available?: No