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Press Release

CRC STUDENTS' UNION PRESIDENT PUTS THE CASE FOR EMA AT CITY COUNCIL DEBATE

Students' Union president Owain Southren spoke out for young people on the Education Maintenance Allowance when he was invited to address a Cambridge City Council meeting on the controversial issue.

The CRC Sports Studies student told councillors of the hardship the withdrawal of the allowance would have on student members at the College and the difficulties they would face in travelling into Cambridge.



Owain Southren, president of CRC Students' Union, outside the city council meeting

Eighteen year-old Owain, who was given three minutes to address councillors, told the meeting that nearly 45 per cent of CRC student members received EMA, many of whom had said its withdrawal would make it harder for them to attend college because of transport problems.

The £560m EMA scheme, which provides up to £30 a week to help low-income students stay on at sixth forms and colleges, is to be replaced by a £180m bursary scheme.

Councillors later debated a motion calling for them to express opposition to the Government's decision to scrap the Education Maintenance Allowance. It was replaced by an amendment to say that more targeted approaches by the Government would benefit those young people who most needed support.

Councillors called on MPs to work to ensure that no young people in Cambridge were prevented from going to school or college because of cost.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes.