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Press Release

CRC PROVIDES 'EXCELLENT' SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES, SAYS MP

Cambridge MP Julian Huppert has praised Cambridge Regional College's 'excellent' provision for businesses in a debate in the House of Commons.

He spoke yesterday as MPs discussed the best ways of encouraging small businesses to take on apprentices after hearing of the Government's commitment to increasing the number of apprenticeships in the country.

Dr Huppert said a good apprenticeship scheme at a high level was exactly what small companies needed to grow into the large companies of the future.

"Small companies now, particularly within the rapid growth sectors, such as many of the high-tech industries in my constituency, are the bigger companies of the future," he said.

"Many small companies in my constituency, which receive support from the excellent Cambridge Regional College, say that their biggest problem is not about finding excellent scientists and people to work at that level, but about finding technicians who can do things.

"A good apprenticeship scheme at a high level is exactly what small businesses need to grow and become the large companies of the future."

John Hayes, the Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, told the House that apprenticeships were a flagship policy for the Government, and he asked

MPs to debate “how we can stimulate, encourage and exhort small businesses to think that taking on an apprentice is the right way forward”.

Cambridge Regional College, which has just enrolled its landmark 1,500th apprentice, works closely with hundreds of regional employers to provide work-based learning programmes and in-house training schemes designed to boost business and improve staff skills.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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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. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.