Learning and Skills Council publishes second consultation on post-16 education in Leeds

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has published a second consultation to consider a merger of three Leeds colleges to form a single further education college in order to create a prosperous future for learners, employers and the communities of Leeds.

The proposal is published in conjunction with Leeds College of Technology, Thomas Danby College and Park Lane College, who have all pledged support for the plans and have established the Leeds College Strategic Board – an independent board that will work with the LSC to take a key role in helping to develop and shape the new college.

Clive W. Leach CBE, Regional Chair for the LSC in Yorkshire and the Humber said,

“We are seeking to provide better quality and greater choice of learning, to substantially improve inadequate facilities and buildings, and to cultivate stronger links between further education colleges, employers and local communities. This consultation is a significant step in the reorganisation of further education in Leeds, which has already received firm support from education partners, local employers and key regional figures.”

Alan Gill, Chair of the Leeds College Strategic Board said,
“The available investment provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring about a transformational change to further education in Leeds. We must continue to invest in the education and training of our young people, our employers and those in search of work if we are to build on the economic success of the City. This merger, which will bring together our three largest further education colleges, is without doubt in the best interest of learners, employers, neighbourhoods and communities in Leeds”.

This consultation augments a previous consultation period, following which Leeds College of Building and Joseph Priestley College have indicated that they do not wish to be part of the reorganisation.

Margaret Coleman, Regional Director for the LSC in Yorkshire and the Humber said, “The LSC is carrying out this consultation to seek views on how a unified further education college for Leeds would work by bringing together the three colleges. We envisage that the new Leeds College would work closely with other colleges in the area.”

The new college would exist as a network of community-based campuses around Leeds, protecting local access to learning whilst bringing all colleges the benefit of closer links to the wider Leeds district.”

Ends.

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Notes to editors

- Further information, including the consultation document, is available online at:

  http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/YorkshireHumber

- The consultation process will commence on 8th May and ends on 16th June 2008.

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

The Leeds College Strategic Board

The independent board is chaired by Alan Gill, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chair of the Leeds Skills Board and member of Education Leeds Board.

The LSC will be working closely with the Leeds College Strategic Board as the details of the proposed reorganisation are developed, and will draw on the Board’s expertise for educational, financial and estate issues, organisational structure and planning courses.