



Leeds City College

## **APPENDIX 4 – REPORT TO LEEDS INNER SOUTH COMMITTEE**

### **MERGER OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY COLLEGE WITH LEEDS CITY COLLEGE**

In July 2011, final approval was received from the Minister of State, John Hayes for the merger to go ahead. The Joseph Priestley Corporation was dissolved from August 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 with all undertakings transferred to Leeds City College (LCC).

We have received strong local support for the merger and believe that it will offer significant benefits to the colleges and to provision in South Leeds. We are confident that it will have a very positive impact on the learning opportunities for the city and the region ensuring that our communities will be able to benefit from an even broader range of exciting, high quality learning opportunities. Provision in Morley, Beeston and Rothwell will continue and there is a strong commitment to preserving and enhancing local delivery. The Joseph Priestley buildings will have new signs over the summer with the LCC name and logo. The centre in Burton Avenue will be known as the Beeston Centre, the Rothwell centre will remain the Rothwell centre and the Peel Street building will be known as the Joseph Priestley campus. We will also continue to use Milton House on Queen Street, Morley together with continuing delivery from some community centres across the south of Leeds.

Staff will transfer to LCC under TUPE arrangements and management plans will ensure continuity. Sally Blunt, former Principal at Joseph Priestley College (JPC), has joined the LCC Executive leadership team as one of LCC's Deputy Principals with particular responsibility for South Leeds. Tony Waring, the JP Director of Corporate services is on the Senior Leadership team with other managers moving into appropriate roles. In the immediate future Joseph Priestley staff will be contactable on the same telephone numbers and email addresses.

Two of the JPC Governors have joined the LCC Board: Julie Drake, who was the JPC Chair, and Tina Turnbull, who was the Vice Chair. Their presence on the Board will support a smooth and effective transition. Both will serve the usual 4 year term of office.

Over future months we will be working hard to review and develop the curriculum for South Leeds building on the work of JPC but drawing on the wider resources and expertise within LCC. It will take time for the merger to fully bed in and realise its true potential but the college will do all it can to ensure that for local people it is 'business as usual'. One new development already agreed is the delivery of a SAIL programme for NEETs from the South Leeds Hub from late September. We are also in early discussions through the Middleton Park Jobs and Skills group about the possibility of developing a Retail Sector Based Work Academy.

We would suggest that a senior College representative, probably Sally in her senior role for the South, attends Committee meetings at intervals to report on progress and consult with the committee on priorities.

Peter Roberts  
Principal  
Leeds City College

Sally Blunt  
Deputy Principal Students  
& South Leeds