



Report of the Area Manager

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 20th October 2008

Subject: Leeds Colleges Merger - Consultation

Electoral Wards Affected: All	Specific Implications For: Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/>	
Council Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

The City Council's Executive Board has endorsed the proposed merger of the City's 3 largest Colleges, namely Leeds Thomas Danby, Leeds College of Technology and Park Lane, which will result in the creation of a new single institution to be known as Leeds City College. This report, supported by a short presentation from the LSC Partnership Director for Leeds, informs the Area Committee of the progress made. This will set out the rationale for the merger and summarises the outcome of the extensive consultations which have been held over the past few years.

The report seeks agreement from the Area Committee on a process by which it is felt appropriate influence can be made on future delivery of post 16 and adult learning by the new merged College. This could include locations for the centres and sites for the new College - including any refurbishment/upgrade of existing community buildings for the provision of further education in the neighbourhoods and communities served by the Area Committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The City Council's Executive Board has endorsed the proposed merger of the City's 3 largest Colleges namely Leeds Thomas Danby, Leeds College of Technology and Park Lane which will result in the creation of a new single institution to be known as Leeds City College.
2. The merger is supported by key partners including Yorkshire Forward, the two Leeds Universities, Leeds Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds Chamber and the Leeds Skills Board.
3. It will have a budget of in excess of £70m and will provide extensive further education opportunities to over 70,000 students.
4. The White File is currently with the Secretary of State (The White File catalogues the merger process) and a decision is expected by October 2008.

CURRENT POSITION

5. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) which currently has responsibility for the funding of post 16 learning and skills provision is seeking the views of the Area Committee members on the future delivery of post 16 and adult learning in the City by the new merged College.
6. One of the key issues which the Committee is being asked to consider is the possible locations for the centres and sites for the new College together with any refurbishment/ upgrade of existing community buildings for the provision of further education in the neighbourhoods and communities served by the Area Committee.
7. Area Committee members need to be aware that from 2010 the Government has indicated that the funding of all learning and skills provision for 16-19 year olds will transfer from the LSC to the Young Persons Learning Agency (YPLA) and ultimately subject to a satisfactory progress check to the individual Local Authorities. Post 19 funding will be through the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) which will be a national body based in the offices of the former LSC in Coventry.
8. The LSC Partnership Director for Leeds will make a short presentation at the meeting, setting out the rationale for the merger and summarising the outcome of the extensive consultations which have been held over the past few years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The Area Committee are requested to note the report and agree a process by which it can:
 - (a) submit views on the future delivery of post 16 and adult learning by the new merged College.
 - (b) consider the possible locations for the centres and sites for the new College
 - (c) suggest any opportunities for refurbishment/upgrade of existing community buildings for the provision of further education in the neighbourhoods and communities served by the Area Committee