



Leading learning and skills

**Thursday 9 April 2009**

Dear Colleague,

**Proposed Merger of Thurrock & Basildon College and South East Essex College of Arts and Technology**

Enclosed are the consultation documents for the proposed merger between Thurrock & Basildon College and South East Essex College of Arts and Technology. I am writing to seek your views on the merger by the deadline provided below.

The proposal to merge is the result of a strategic options review, requested by Thurrock & Basildon College, to look at how best they could meet the needs of learners, employers and the wider community. The proposal builds on previous reviews dating back to 2004. It is a response to the regeneration agenda and changing local skills needs in the area.

South East Essex College emerged as the preferred partner for Thurrock & Basildon College with both institutions working together to examine the potential of the proposal.

An outline proposal was approved by the East of England Learning & Skills Council on 8 October 2008 to proceed to the next stage of the process: public consultation. That decision was confirmed by the Department of Innovation, Universities & Skills (DIUS).

After consultation the colleges will produce a full merger proposal, which takes account of the outcomes from the consultation. The final proposal will need to be endorsed by LSC and DIUS. The proposed implementation date for the merger is 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

I have included a proforma for responses in the consultation document, which should be sent by 5pm, Friday 29 May 2009 to Terry Collin, Partnership Director, Learning and Skills Council. The information is also available on the LSC website, at [www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/eastofengland/whatwedo](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/eastofengland/whatwedo)

We hope you do take the opportunity to respond: I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Janice Logie  
Area Director  
Learning and Skills Council Essex