

Learning and Skills Council publishes public consultation for College Merger

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has announced a public consultation to consider a merger of two colleges in South West London.

The proposal is published in conjunction with South Thames College and Merton College, who are working towards a merger to take effect on 1 August 2009. Both sites will be retained in the merged institution and existing learners will not be affected.

It is proposed the new organisation will be called South West London College. The consultation takes place between 23 January and the 27 February 2009.

Claire Ighodaro CBE, Chair of the LSC's London Regional Council said: "The LSC is today announcing the start of a five-week public consultation period for people to submit their comments on the proposed merger between South Thames and Merton Colleges. The proposal aims to strengthen the services currently offered by the colleges for students and enhance existing facilities and opportunities for future students."

Godfrey Allen, Chairman of Governors at South Thames College and Karl Carter, Chairman of Governors at Merton College said the following: "The merged college will bring together the strengths and potential for development of both colleges. We strongly believe that the merger will mean we are better placed to serve our

communities through increased social inclusion, community cohesion and a strengthened commitment to local identity. Greater opportunities will be provided for those who are both most difficult to reach and most at risk of being sidelined by society by improving employability in the Wandle Valley. Merton and South Thames Colleges recognise each other as the best partner and a merged college as the best option for learners, employers and the local community. We hope you support our vision.”

To access the public consultation document, please visit www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/london/news . Responses must be submitted in writing to Joyce Roberts, Partnership Director, Learning and Skills Council, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1DR or by email to mertonsouththamesmerger@lsc.gov.uk by Friday 27 February 2009.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

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 notice is given in accordance with the provisions of section 51 of the Further and higher Education Act 1992 (the Act) of the draft proposal that the Secretary of State under section 27 of that Act should be order provide for the dissolution of each of the further education corporations and the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities of that corporation.

Media Enquiries

For further information please contact:

Julie Carson
Learning and Skills Council
020 7904 0632/07770 272826
julie.carson@lsc.gov.uk

Sarah Horrell,
Marketing and Business Development Director
South Thames College
020 8918 7480