

## 80,000-Student Super College Gets Green Light

**Date of issue** 11 January 2008

**Publication number** NWR-155

Plans to create the largest college in England and one of Europe's largest, The Manchester College, have been given the go ahead by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The announcement, by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North West, follows an extensive review and consultation with a range of key stakeholders across the city which has been ongoing since May 2006. The move will bring together City College Manchester and Manchester College of Arts and Technology to form a new single institution with an annual budget of £130 million and 80,000 students.

The Manchester College will become operational on 1 August this year and will build on the strengths of the two individual colleges, bringing added value and synergy for the benefit of all learners, the City of Manchester and beyond.

Drawing learners from the widest range of groups, including adults, young people and employers, the college will provide excellence in education, and will work with other providers at school, college and university level. It will present a unique approach to 14-19 education and training, support for the economy and employers and provide opportunities for adult learners.

"The creation of The Manchester College is essential to effect the step-change required in Manchester to meet future needs for learners and employers and will support the continued development of the City of Manchester as a major player at regional and national level," commented John Korzeniewski, Regional Director, LSC North West.

“The new college presents a significant opportunity to transform learning and skills across the city and beyond. The combined forces of the two colleges will provide a comprehensive curriculum which will place the needs of learners and employers at the centre of its mission and deliver top quality provision which is accessible to learners of all abilities.”

Peter Tavernor, Principal of Manchester College of Arts and Technology commented, "Having initiated the process and following two years of working towards this, we are absolutely delighted at the Secretary of State's decision to approve the merger. It couldn't be better news for Manchester residents, who have been the entire focus of our planning. The merger fully supports the City Strategy, the skills agenda and the government priority of inclusion, and has been completely endorsed by the leader of Manchester City Council and Manchester MPs. We're now looking forward to beginning the real work of ensuring that the new Manchester College builds on existing excellence and becomes the best in the country."

“We believe that a single college will give double value in further education and training for the people of Manchester,” said Monica Box, Principal of City College Manchester. “It is no exaggeration to say that this merger is unique and will provide the chance of a lifetime to boost skill development in our city.”

City Council leader Sir Richard Leese concluded, "This is hugely welcome news. The merger is a significant moment for further education in Manchester and will make a key contribution towards ensuring Manchester residents have the skills to fill the jobs which are being created in the city. The City Council has supported this merger throughout and we are delighted it has come to fruition."

**Ends**

**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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**For more information contact**

LSC website: [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

**All media enquiries please contact:**

**LSC**

Debbie Newell on 0161 261 0434, [deborah.newell@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.newell@lsc.gov.uk)

**The Write Angle** on 01772 250505

Angela Smith: [angela@writeanglepr.co.uk](mailto:angela@writeanglepr.co.uk)

Stephanie Lord: [stephanie@writeanglepr.co.uk](mailto:stephanie@writeanglepr.co.uk)