

22 January 2007

Dear Colleague

Proposed merger of North Trafford College of Further Education and South Trafford College

I am enclosing the consultation document on the proposed merger of North Trafford College of Further Education and South Trafford College and I am writing to seek your views on this by **9 March 2007**.

The rationale for the proposed merger, which is set out in detail in the consultation document, follows a review of post-16 education and training in Trafford. The review made recommendations which would seek to:

- ensure that the balance and mix of provision meets the current needs and future priorities of learners of all ages, employers and communities, while enhancing quality and increasing choice
- increase participation of young people in learning within the borough of Trafford and raise achievement at age 16 and 19.

One of the recommendations was that the colleges should explore the possibility of merging.

Since then, the LSC and the colleges have worked closely together to examine the potential of this proposal. An initial outline proposal for merger was presented to LSC Greater Manchester's local Council on 19 January 2007 and they agreed that we should proceed to the next stage - this public consultation.

After the consultation period, the colleges will work together, with support from the LSC, to put together a full merger proposal that will be presented to LSC Greater

Manchester local Council in May 2007. The proposed implementation date for the merger is 1 September 2007.

We have included a proforma for responses in the consultation document. **Responses should be sent by 9 March 2007 to Ian Pursglove at LSC Greater Manchester.** The consultation document is available from our website at <http://www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/northwest> if you would like to access it that way or share it with anyone.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Bracewell', written in a cursive style.

Jane Bracewell
Area Director: Greater Manchester South