



Leading learning and skills

POTENTIAL MERGER BETWEEN
FARNHAM COLLEGE
AND GUILDFORD COLLEGE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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Section A

Introduction

A.1 This consultation document sets out the context and rationale for a potential merger of Farnham College and Guildford College on which comments are invited from key partners, learners, staff, local employers and the local community.

The feasibility of merger is being considered by the Colleges themselves. The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) wish is that any merger contributes to a step-change in provision to meet local needs and to increase participation.

In compliance with the Learning and Skills Council's guidelines for provider reorganisations, the two colleges submitted an Initial Outline Proposal for consensual merger to the Learning and Skills Council Surrey. At its meeting on 11th December 2006, the Council agreed for the proposal to be taken forward to public consultation.

A.2 We would encourage you to express your views on this proposal. These views will inform the Learning and Skills Council Surrey's decision making. The consultation arrangements and guidance on how to respond are set out in Section D.

Please note: The final date for receipt of comments is **3rd March 2007**. Any comments received after this date will not be taken into account.

Executive Summary

A.3 The Corporations of both Farnham College and Guildford College have agreed to explore the possibility of merging into one organisation. The potential merger aims to improve provision and choice by:

- Ensuring that the post-16 education training needs of the Farnham area are met,
- ensuring that the needs of the emerging 14-19 academic and vocational agenda are met in Farnham,
- increasing access and choice to an academic and vocational curriculum for a broader range of learners, mainly 14-19 and a wider group of adults in Farnham,
- improving responsiveness to the academic and vocational needs of local learners and employers in Farnham,
- enabling investment in better facilities for learners in Farnham,
- supporting all learners and potential learners in the local communities and organisations served by the proposed new organisation in Farnham.

The corporations believe that by delivering through one, financially robust, organisation they will be able to achieve objectives that would not be possible with two separate institutions.

LSC Priorities for the Local Area

A.4 This proposal will be considered against the findings of the LSC Surrey's Strategic Area Review (StAR), which was published in March 2005. The StAR concluded that there is ¹“insufficient alternative provision [to A and AS level] and what is available is unevenly spread across the County”. This proposal will therefore need to:

- Ensure that FE provision in the Farnham area is responsive to the academic and vocational needs of the local community and local business,
- improve provider responsiveness in order to meet local learner, employer and community needs in Farnham,
- combine elements of academic and vocational learning at all levels to create a rounded curriculum for all young people in the local area delivered in Farnham.

The principal benefits sought from the merger are to:

- Increase opportunities for all learners through the enhancement and diversification of a vocational and academic curriculum providing increased choice and progression for learners,
- secure sustainable provision on the current Farnham College campus which retains and enhances the existing academic provision as well as developing a new vocational curriculum thereby creating and gradually developing a modest, financially viable campus,
- enhance capacity for improved and strengthened collaboration and joint planning with schools, businesses and other key partners and make a significant contribution to the learning infrastructure in Farnham.

¹ As far as our talents can take us: the concluding report of the Surrey Strategic Area Review. Published March 2005. (Publication reference: LSC –P-SUR-050001)

Section B

Background to the Merger Proposal

B.1 Farnham College is one of the smallest Sixth-Form Colleges in the country. During the past four years the number of young people attending the College has fallen. The College has good quality provision but a narrow curriculum offer.

B.2 Independent research conducted for the LSC has established that less than a third of learners in the Farnham area are choosing to study at Farnham College. It found that the College has a similar curriculum offer to neighbouring sixth-form providers and that the AS/A2 market in the area is nearing saturation point.

B.3 The Farnham College Corporation have for two years been considering potential options for the College. During the Summer of 2006 the Corporation resolved to consider collaboration with Guildford College, with agreement from Guildford for mutual consideration. Subsequently an Initial Outline Proposal for consensual merger was put to, and accepted by both College Corporations and the Surrey LSC Council in December 2006.

B.4 The Surrey LSC Council agreed that the Colleges should progress their Initial Outline Proposal and as a result this phase of public consultation has been initiated. Concurrently, the colleges are preparing their Full Proposal, which will be informed by the consultation.

Rationale for the Potential Merger

B.5 It is important to recognise the policy context in which the two Colleges are planning. The key drivers include the recently published *Leitch Review of Skills*, the *Foster Review of Further Education*, the *14 -19 White Paper* and associated *Implementation Plan*, the *Skills White Paper* and the *Further Education and Training Bill 2006*.

The *Leitch Review of Skills*, published in December 2006, sets out the Government's vision for the creation of a demand-led Further Education system. Leitch's recommendations include:

- Increasing skills attainment at all levels, so that the UK becomes 'world class' by 2020,
- increasing employer investment in higher-level qualifications, especially Apprenticeships, degrees and postgraduate courses, and significantly increasing training in the workplace.

Leitch has also set a number of stretching targets, which include:

- 95% of adults to have functional literacy and numeracy skills,
- 90% of adults to achieve a Level 2 qualification,

- more than 40% of adults to possess qualifications at Levels 4 or 5.

The *Foster Review* outlined the need for Further Education establishments to become known for the quality of their provision and the need to ensure that Further Education providers are responsive to the vocational needs of their local communities and local businesses.

Nationally the LSC has prioritised the need to raise quality and improve choice for young people through its ²*Annual Statement of Priorities*. As a result, this proposal to merge a Sixth Form College with a General Further Education College should be considered as a means of 'combining elements of academic and vocational learning at all levels' and creating a rounded curriculum offer for all young people in the local area. The aim is to provide, as set out in the *Further Education and Training Bill (2006)*, young people and adults with a more diverse curriculum offer, providing more choice between academic and vocational learning delivered in Farnham.

It is important, in this context, to create a strong vocational offer in an area of high population, such as Farnham. The LSC and Further Education providers need to work alongside the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and local schools to support the effective introduction of the new vocational Diplomas for 14 -19 year olds. By 2013 there will be a statutory entitlement to these qualifications. This in turn will ensure that young people have the opportunity to access a personalised learning programme which is a key feature of Government policy.

B.6 Both Colleges recognise the importance of addressing Government priorities and are clear that, as a result of combining their strengths and reputations and putting learners first, the new College would set out to promote and enhance learner choice, meet business needs, sustain local provision and increase participation across all of the academic and vocational curriculum. A merged College in Farnham would be in a strong position to provide clear academic and vocational progression routes for learners and employers and to develop the skills needed to progress to higher education and employment.

² Raising our Game. Our Annual Statement of Priorities. Published October 2006.
For further details and an electronic copy see: www.lsc.gov.uk (publication number LSC-P-NAT-060527)

Profile of the Existing Colleges

Farnham College

B.7 Farnham College was established as the first sixth form college in Surrey in 1973 to serve the community of Farnham and Ash in South West Surrey. The College is situated on a single site in a residential part of Farnham, on the south side of the A31 and to the south of the town centre, with easy access by rail and bus.

B.8 The College's mission focuses on being a high-achieving college for students aged 16 to 18 and developing effective partnerships with the community in and around Farnham. The College is incorporated and its corporation includes members of the Farnham College Foundation which, through a Trust, owns most of the land and buildings and supports the College's ethos for quality sixth-form study.

B.9 The College's intake is primarily full time 16-19 year olds studying academic A / AS levels, with 430 students. In addition, there are over 800 adult learners on part-time short courses. The College's annual turnover is £2.75m. The College boasts a student-centred approach and a reputation for high achievement and good-added value. The College prides itself on an individualised approach to learning and helping all its students to achieve. Students find it a safe and supportive place to study.

B.10 Academic standards are high:

- The College's A-level pass rate for 2006 was over 97% for the fourth consecutive year,
- a 100% pass rate was achieved in 22 subjects, and 80% of entries resulted in A-C grades,
- the A-level pass rate in 2005 was 98%,
- there was, in 2005, a 100% pass rate in 21 A-level subjects and 75% of A-level passes at grades A-C.

Farnham College has outstanding added value results. Students on many courses gain results better than those predicted based on their GCSE results, which demonstrates that the College adds significant value to student achievement and provides students with the opportunity to 'stretch' their capabilities. It is placed in the top 16% in the ALIS system and top 6% in ALPS: two of the nationally recognised measures of added value.

B.11 Inspection by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) demonstrates good overall performance. The College's most recent Ofsted inspection was in 2003, when six of the eight curriculum areas inspected were graded 2 (Good), one graded 3 (Satisfactory) and one graded 1 (Outstanding) Inspectors praised: the students' positive attitudes towards learning; the high level of student achievement on Advanced-level courses; the high quality of teaching and learning; the academic and personal support for students; and the ethos of the College which values individuals.

B.12 The College offers a mix of full time academic A- AS levels, Applied A - AS levels and a small number of BTEC programmes for young people and adults. The majority of the students are 16-18, with fewer than twenty 19+ students on full-time programmes. The programme for 19+ students reflects Government priorities: Skills for Life [Literacy and Numeracy Skills], English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), English as a Foreign Language (EFL), Modern Foreign Languages, and Child Care.

B.13 Most of the College's A-level students go on to Higher Education, with a minority going into other forms of training and employment. Many of the College's students go on to top universities.

Guildford College

B.14 Guildford College is the largest General Further Education College in Surrey, with over 20,000 learners and a turnover of around £33m. Based on two main campuses, at Stoke Park (east of Guildford town centre), and at Merrist Wood in Worplesdon (three miles North West of Guildford). The College delivers a very wide range of vocational, academic and professional courses at all levels, ranging from pre-entry to degree.

B.15 The College has successfully achieved its targets for both participation and achievement over the last three years and is about to embark on a major Property Strategy to improve its learning environment to 21st Century standards.

B.16 The College's mission is to: *“strive to be a beacon of excellence for its local and wider community by enabling individual learners to achieve their full potential, and by supporting and meeting the skills and learning needs of employers, thereby contributing to economic prosperity and social cohesion within Surrey and its neighbouring communities”*. The vision can be summarised as: *Placing the learner at the heart of everything we do.*

The College's over-arching strategic framework is 'Aiming for Excellence', which has 5 corporate aims:

- Widening participation,
- improving quality,
- maximising income and business efficiency,
- investing in physical resources,
- valuing its people.

The College's Strategic Plan and supporting strategies ensure that it is responding to local, regional and national priorities.

B.17 The College's Curriculum Strategy is updated annually and uses Labour Market Intelligence to drive curriculum development and inform the Property Strategy. The Quality Improvement and Teaching and Learning Strategies focus on supporting and systematically improving the quality of teaching and learning to raise standards.

B.18 The College's Ofsted Inspection in 2005 identified a largely grade 3 (Satisfactory) profile with some grade 2 (Good) areas and one grade 4 (Unsatisfactory). Key strengths identified by Inspectors included strategic leadership, staff development, provision of additional learner support and the management of the merger of Merrist Wood and Guildford Colleges. Teaching was found to be good in Landbased subjects and in Health, Social Care and Early-Years courses. Practical teaching was found to be good in many other areas. In Science and Maths (a key A-level area) Inspectors identified the Colleges strength in responding to local demand and effectiveness of assessment and support systems. The College is working to ensure that it moves its Inspection profile to largely grade 2s by 2007/08, with some grade 1s. Inspectors carrying out the Annual Assessment Visit in 2006 commended the College's Capacity to Improve.

In 2005/06, pass rates for long courses rose at most levels. For 16-18 year old students, pass rates rose by 3 percentage points and exceeded national averages. Twelve A2 subjects achieved a 100% pass rate, with 23 achieving a 90% pass rate and above. On the ALPS added value system, 15 AS subjects and 13 A2 are graded with Good to Outstanding performance scores.

In Work-Based Learning, the achievement of full Apprenticeship Framework more than doubled compared to the previous year.

In 2006/07, 'Student Voices' events revealed that students enjoy their studies and feel safe on both campuses.

B.19 The College's enrolments were strong in 2005/06 and 2006/07, with growth in 16-18 academic and vocational provision and Work-Based Learning. The College:

- Is active in 14-16 partnerships with local schools,
- offers 24 subjects at 'A' level and 5 subjects at GCSE to approximately 550 full time and 285 part time students,
- is Surrey's largest Work-Based Learning provider,
- offers a significant Skills for Life curriculum based in both the College and the community,
- is growing its Higher Education provision (800 HE students), as part of the Surrey consortium, with eleven new programmes provided in 2006/07 in conjunction with a range of universities,
- provides a range of courses for International students from over one hundred countries,
- works with a large number of local employers on E2E and Work -Based Learning.

B.20 The College's merger with Merrist Wood College in 2003 successfully achieved its merger objective to retain and enhance the distinctive brand and character of Merrist Wood as a landscaped campus whilst becoming a viable and sustainable part of Guildford College. Guildford College has invested in the campus's teaching and learning environment and has expanded the

vocational curriculum offer to further meet the vocational learning needs of individuals and employers. Merrist Wood has an international reputation, with its staff and students winning many national awards.

Strategic Vision of the New College

B. 21 The strategic vision for the merged college has been produced in response to the LSC Surrey's priorities for the local area.

There is no intention to significantly expand A-level provision. The vision is to preserve the high quality AS / A2 level curriculum offer currently delivered at Farnham College.

The vision is to offer a targeted range of skills-based programmes in a Skills Academy style development. The Skills Academy will operate alongside Farnham College's well established academic curriculum offer. The introduction of a skills-based curriculum is designed to provide increased choice, progression and accessibility in Farnham to vocational learners at 14-16 and 16-18, those taking Apprenticeships or employers with workforce-development needs.

B.22 Strong partnerships with local schools are to be further strengthened and / or created in order to jointly develop a cohesive skills-based range of courses (including specialist diplomas) for 14-19 year olds.

State-of-the-art buildings and facilities will be created at Farnham College to deliver the skills-based and academic curriculum.

The strengths of both Colleges will be combined to enable the merged College to deliver high quality education and training in Farnham.

B.23 Farnham College will benefit from Guildford College's good track record in employer engagement and responsiveness, enabling more local employers to have their workforce-development needs met.

B.24 From the Farnham community's perspective, the vision is for a new Farnham College to enjoy 21st Century buildings.

Benefits of the Merger Proposal

B.26 The Colleges have made use of the LSC's analysis of the area in developing their proposals and identifying the benefits of merger.

Learner Benefits

B.27 There will be considerable educational benefits to the potential merger, particularly in terms of access and choice. Such benefits include:

- A new-skills based curriculum to be offered alongside an academic portfolio.

- the incremental development of the AS and A2 curriculum offer to ensure that the needs of 16-18 year olds are met explicitly,
- increased opportunities to widen and add to participation at levels 1, 2 and 3 for 16-18 year olds and Apprentices,
- increased opportunity to improve the number of 17 year olds progressing to a second year of education and/or training, by offering easy access to a range of skills-based programmes delivered in Farnham,
- increased opportunities to meet the learning needs of adults and other hard-to-reach groups, leading in particular to an increased uptake in skills for life and provision at levels 2 and 3,
- increased access and progression opportunities for adults to receive skills based training at level 4, having studied at levels 1,2 and 3,
- the further development of a comprehensive and integrated learner support service to be delivered at Farnham College and at Guildford College to respond to local need,
- the opportunity to share teaching and learning practices across all campuses to ensure an integrated curriculum is meeting the individualised needs of learners,
- the provision of a clear range of progression opportunities for learning at Farnham which could facilitate more learners progressing to higher education locally, either at Guildford College or in nearby universities,
- the provision of Work-Based Learning (Apprenticeships) in Farnham,
- the opportunity to expand the options available to students with learning difficulties and disabilities in a range of skills based curriculum areas in addition to the current AS and A2 portfolio,
- the ability to manage capital resources and expand the resource base for teaching and learning in an efficient and effective manner,
- ensuring that learners resident in Farnham town and the surrounding area are served by their own financially viable college offering excellence in skills based training and academic studies,
- improved infrastructure and 21st century learning facilities. The newly merged college will integrate Farnham into Guildford College's current build programme.
- the opportunity to implement quality improvements through the sharing of best practice, leading to improved levels of retention, achievement, success and participation across all campuses.

Key Partner and Stakeholder Benefits

B.28 There will be potential for developing collaboration to the advantage of all local learners. In particular the merger will:

- Provide a greater opportunity for Head Teachers to work in close partnership with the merged College in order to develop a coherent response to the Government's agenda on 14-19 education and training for Farnham,
- strengthen the partnership between the merged College and schools in Farnham, promote collaborative provision at Key Stage 4 in line with Government initiatives to raise achievement and widen participation,
- assist LSC Surrey to deliver priority targets for 14-19 year olds, apprentices, adults and employers.
- assist LSC Surrey and Surrey County Council's Education Authority to deliver their shared 14-19 strategy,
- engage employers in the training and development of their workforces and consequently contribute to the economic development of Farnham and the region,
- provide a revised vision and mission that is focused on the development and delivery of skills-based education and training, as well as A-levels, to meet the local learning needs.

Staff Benefits

B.29 There will be enhanced opportunities for career and professional development and support for all staff in the enlarged Institution. For staff in particular, the merger will:

- Provide staff at Farnham and Guildford Colleges with opportunity to share their ideas of how to develop a skills-based and academic curriculum at Farnham,
- provide greater opportunities for career development and progression for teaching, administrative and support staff, in a stable institution with a large and dynamic workforce,
- provide opportunities for staff to broaden their experience through the improved use of the knowledge and expertise of specialists,
- enhance resources and facilities for the teaching and support of learners,

- provide the opportunity for teachers from both colleges to share their specialist knowledge, expertise and best practice in teaching and learning throughout the curriculum,
- provide opportunities to contribute to the development of centres of excellence at Farnham,
- underpin effectiveness and quality through the provision of comprehensive staff development and human resource support services,
- pool skills, expertise and physical resources available to the newly-merged College to make possible the provision of a greater range of staff development opportunities, consistent with “*Success for All*”,

Other Benefits

B.29 Stable finances and ongoing investment in Farnham will enable the merged College to combine strengths and provide an environment of security. This will create a larger, financially secure Farnham College that is able to cope with potential or unforeseeable variations in levels of public funding.

Section C

Profile of the New College

Vision

C.1 The strategic vision for the merged College is to retain and create quality academic and vocational provision and provide more choice, which will appeal to a wider range of learners. This means sustaining and enhancing the existing A-Level provision at Farnham College, whilst at the same time gradually introducing a vocational and skill-based learning offer which reflects the needs of local individuals and employers. The vision in the medium/long term is for a new and different Farnham College, revitalised and offering more choice to a wider range of learners.

Curriculum and Quality

C.2 The academic curriculum provision across the two colleges is broadly complementary. The main areas for future development are 14-19 academic and skills-based provision and 19+ skills training and Work-Based Learning. Initial research commissioned by Surrey LSC has reviewed existing supply and indicated potential curriculum areas for development. Further research is being commissioned by both Colleges to identify in more detail areas of demand which will inform business and curriculum planning.

C.3 Farnham College's current curriculum offer reflects a more limited mission to Guildford College which means that the College currently operates alongside other neighbouring 6th Form providers for A/AS Level students. The LSC-commissioned research suggested that the local market for A/AS Level is nearing saturation point and concludes that a broader more diverse skills based curriculum offer is needed for Farnham. A new curriculum offer should be developed, based on emerging local demand across a range of academic and vocational areas, with potential for development for 14-19 and some adults.

If the merger goes ahead the intention is for the curriculum teams of both Colleges to work together to develop an enhanced and more diverse curriculum offer which will be incorporated into the overall curriculum strategy for the merged College.

C.4 The bringing together of academic and skills-based provision in the Farnham area under one Institution will provide clarity of offer and responsiveness as well as improved curriculum choice for learners and employers.

The vision is that the existing strengths of both colleges will be maintained and further developed with best practice, shared across both colleges to

deliver consistent quality and service. A key focus of teaching and learning will be the further raising of standards, retention and achievement.

C.5 The vision is for the campus in Farnham to retain the name Farnham College. The intention is to maintain and strengthen the current Farnham College brand while drawing on the experience, leadership and resources of Guildford College.

Governance and Management Arrangements

C.6 **Planning for Students:** Planning for the new College will ensure that there will be minimum disruption for students. The Governors and Senior Management of both Colleges are already in discussions about plans to manage 'business as usual' for continuing and new learners at the Farnham College site. Both Colleges will work together to ensure that, regardless of the merger, a stable learning environment is provided, including new learning opportunities from September 2007.

C.7 **Planning for Governance:** Both colleges are incorporated. However most of Farnham College's land and buildings are owned and leased to the college by a Foundation Trust. This Trust has a long history of supporting grammar school provision in Farnham and is keen to see the high quality sixth form academic ethos retained at the core of Farnham College. The intention is for this ethos to be incorporated into the strategy and vision of the merged College and for the Guildford College Corporation to include representatives from the Farnham College Corporation and its Trust. Further discussion is underway, both within the two colleges and with the Charity Commissioners, to formulate an agreed approach, particularly in relation to new arrangements which will be needed to be put in place for the Foundation Trust.

C.8 **Planning for Staffing:** The Corporations of both Colleges recognise the need for sensitivity in addressing human resources issues. Guildford College Corporation will ensure that the legal stipulations with regards to TUPE are adhered to for existing Farnham College staff transferring into the merged College. With one or two exceptions, where posts need to be clarified from the outset, a definitive management and staffing structure is likely to evolve over time in response to the emerging skills-based and academic offer, enabling expertise to be shared across both colleges. A particular emphasis will be placed on listening to colleagues at Farnham College. It is not the intention to de-stabilise the local market or the organisation. Post-merger harmonisation would need to ensure that the staffing on the Farnham site reflects the needs of the broader curriculum, and the new College will continue to have a need for a well-qualified and experienced workforce to achieve the vision for the future of the Farnham College Campus.

Finance and Business Planning

C.9 The key rationale for the potential merger is to improve educational provision, rather than to make financial savings. Nevertheless, provision needs to be viable and the expectation is that, when planning for the new

College, cost savings and efficiencies will be considered, alongside growth in revenue.

C.10 The Colleges are currently conducting both legal and financial Due Diligence studies. The results of these studies will feed into a detailed business plan for the merger. The Colleges are also commissioning further research to assess the local need for sustainable curriculum growth to ensure that a clear business case exists for the merged College.

C.11 The Colleges are primarily funded by the LSC, with additional income from other Government agencies, fees and Higher Education provision. The financial arrangements operated by the Colleges are broadly similar and these arrangements will be harmonised at the point of merger. Financial forecasting to reflect any increase in learner numbers will be produced as part of the full merger proposal, due to be considered by LSC Surrey in March/April 2007. Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Management Information Systems and other staff teams from both Colleges will work together to ensure harmonised systems and approaches to service delivery and business planning in the merged College.

Property and Accommodation

C.12 The long term vision for the Farnham campus, as part of the merged College, includes providing a high quality, fit-for-purpose learning environment. The need for any significant property developments on the Farnham College site post-merger will be guided by curriculum developments and learner demand, the relevant town planning regulations and in dialogue with the Foundation Trust, which owns most of the land and buildings.

Concluding Statement

C.13 The two colleges have presented an Initial Outline Proposal to the Learning and Skills Council Surrey and a Full Proposal is due to be considered in late March/April 2007.

C.14 The Colleges consider that by combining forces, they would be likely to:

- **Extend participation, learning and training** by widening learner choice through the introduction of a new curriculum offer, including vocational provision which meets local needs, provides progression routes and retains more learners within the local community.
- **Raise learner achievement** by maintaining and enhancing Farnham College's existing high quality 16-18 provision and building on the existing partnership work with local schools to extend and develop preparation for the introduction of the new 14-19 Vocational Diplomas.
- **Raise standards of education and training delivered** by: sharing good practice in both academic and vocational provision; combining Guildford College's experience of managing Work-Based Learning and other

vocational provision with Farnham College's sixth-form ethos, good quality and high value-added A-level provision; and by improving the facilities on the Farnham College campus.

- **Address under-provision in the area** by: gradually redressing the under-provision of vocational opportunities in the Farnham area; stimulating demand for training 19+ in the largest local business sectors; offering opportunities to re-train and train a replacement workforce; and extending Apprenticeships and developing pre-Apprenticeship programmes.
- **Be financially viable, affordable, cost effective and successfully managed** by: building on the strengths of both Colleges; capitalising on Guildford College's experience of managing in multi-site and outreach operations; and emulating Guildford's success in preserving and enhancing the distinct brand and ethos of its Merrist Wood campus since its merger in 2003.

Section D

The Consultation Process

Internal Consultation

D.1 Staff at both colleges have been kept informed as the merger proposal has developed and this will continue. The two Principals, the Governing Bodies and Senior Management of both colleges are working together in developing proposals for the merger.

D.2 Staff at both Colleges will be consulted with, and recognised trade unions will continue to be fully involved in the consultation process if the merger goes ahead.

External Consultation

D.3 The LSC, DfES and Governing Bodies of both Colleges believe that all external stakeholders should have the opportunity to comment on the potential merger. This document is central to that process and is being distributed to individuals and organisations that may be regarded as stakeholders. Copies of the document will also be circulated to public libraries and details advertised in the local press.

(Please note: Details of the individuals and organisations to whom the document is being sent are set out at Appendix 4 to this document).

How to Respond

D.4 The Learning and Skills Council Surrey asks you to make your views on the merger known by submitting them to us in writing.

D.5 If you are able to reference your comments to particular sections or paragraphs within the document this would be much appreciated, as it will assist the process of replying and analysing the responses.

D.6 Responses should be made using the enclosed form and received by 3rd March, 2007, to:

Rachel Whittington,
Farnham/Guildford Merger
Learning and Skills Council Surrey,
48 – 54 Goldsworth Road,
Woking,
Surrey,
GU21 6LE
Email: Rachel.whittington@lsc.gov.uk

D.7 If you require further information about either College please contact:

Sally Francis
Farnham/Guildford merger
Principal, Farnham College
Morley Road,
Farnham,
Surrey GU9 8LU

Clive Cooke
Farnham/Guildford merger
Principal, Guildford College
Stoke Park Campus,
Guildford,
Surrey GU1 1EZ

APPENDIX 1

The Learning and Skills Council's Criteria for Provider Reorganisations

CRITERIA

The Learning and Skills Council will consider the proposal in the light of criteria shown below:

the proposal is likely to extend participation, learning and training;

the proposal is likely to result in raised learner achievement;

the proposal is likely to result in raised standards of education and training delivered;

the proposal is likely to address any issues of over- and under-provision in an area;

adequate consultation has been undertaken and proper consideration has been given to alternative options;

the proposal is likely to be financially viable, affordable, cost-effective and successfully managed; and

the proposal is consistent with any area-wide inspection report published.

6. Comments on any structural changes that should be considered alongside the merger proposal.

7. Comments on any potential impact of the merger proposal on other providers of education and training in the area.

8. Any other comments.

Name: _____

Link: _____
(eg student, school governor, College staff)

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Signed: _____

Please return to:

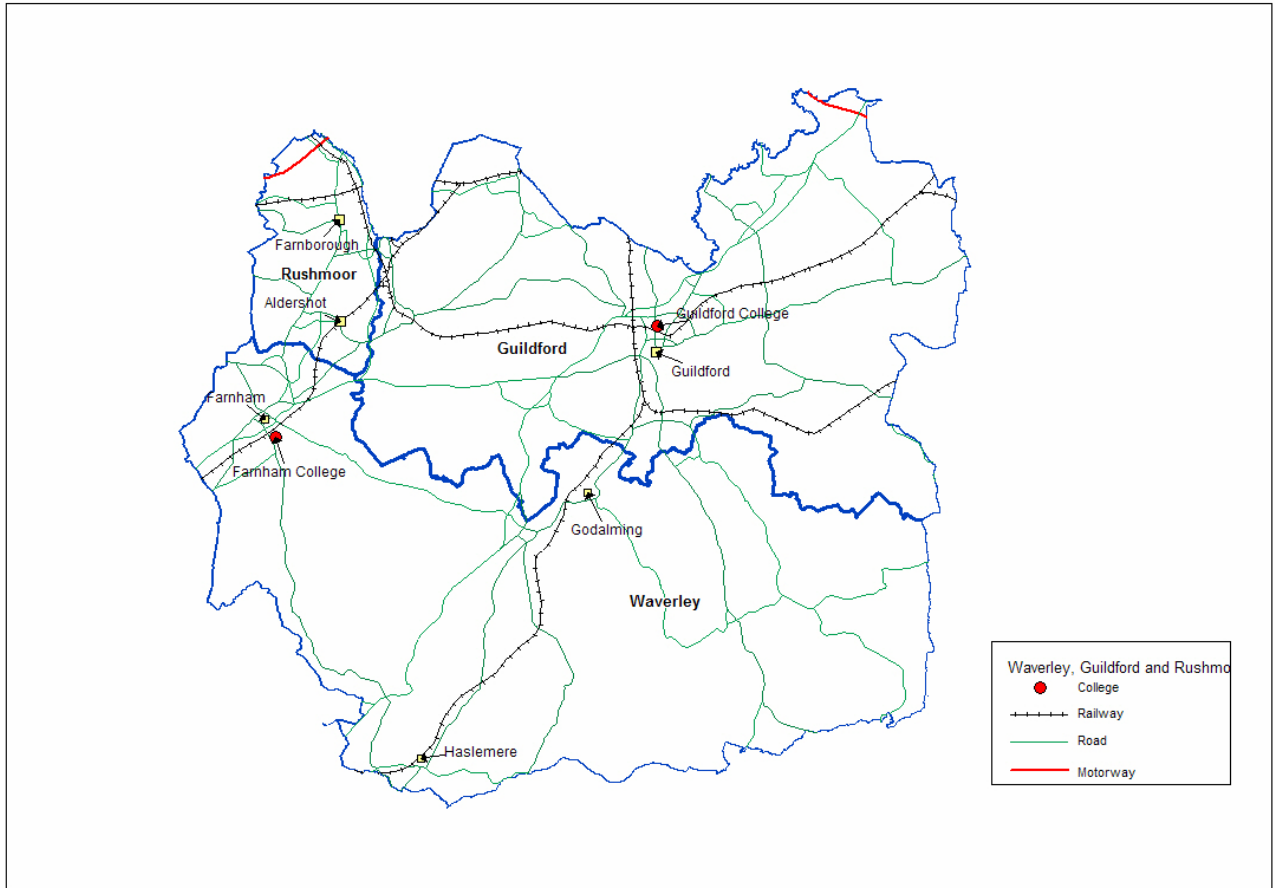
**Rachel Whittington (PLEASE MARK YOUR ENVELOPE "Farnham/Guildford Merger")
Learning and Skills Council
Surrey
48-54 Goldsworth Road
Woking
Surrey
GU21 6LE**

NOTE. RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY: 3rd March 2007

APPENDIX 3

Potential merger of Farnham College and Guildford College

AREA MAP



APPENDIX 4

Consultation Circulation List

Schools

All Hallows Catholic School
Amery Hill School
Ash Manor School
Calthorpe School
Christ's College Guildford
Collingwood College
Court Manor School
Cove School
Eggers School
Farnham Heath End School
Fernhill School of Language College
Frogmore Community College
Fullbrook School
George Abbot School
Gordon's School
Guildford County School
King College of Arts and Technology
Kings International School
Oak Farm Community School
Robert May's School
St John the Baptist School
St Peter's Catholic School
The Abbey School
The Connaught School
The Howard of Effingham
The Ridgeway School
The Wavell School
Tomlinscote School
Weydon School
Yateley School

FE Providers

Alton College
East Surrey College
Esher College
Farnborough College of Technology
Farnborough Sixth Form College
Godalming College
NESCOT College
Reigate College
Strode's College
Surrey Hills Onward Learning
University College for the Creative Arts
Woking College

Professional Associations/Unions

National Union of Teachers
NASUWT
GMB
SCCTU
NAHT
AOSEC
UNISON

MPs

Andrew Lloyd MP
Andrew Mackay MP
Anne Bott MP
Anne Milton MP
David Williams MP
Gerald Howarth MP
Humphrey Malins MP
Jeremy Hunt MP
Michael Gove MP
Michael Mates MP
Ray Morgan MP
Tim Williams MP

Regional/ Local Agencies

Business Link
Connexions
Government Office for the South East
SEEDA
Surrey Chamber of Commerce
Surrey Economic Partnership
The Surrey Care Trust

Libraries

Surrey County Council Library Service

Local Authorities

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Elmbridge Borough Council
Farnham Town Council
Guildford Borough Council
Hampshire County Council
Rushmoor Borough Council
Surrey County Council
Surrey Heath Borough Council
Waverley Borough Council