

# Merger Proposal for Stroud College and Filton College

Consultation Document June 2011



## Contents

### In brief

	Foreward from the Chairs of Stroud and Filton Colleges	3
1	The proposed merger of Filton and Stroud Colleges	4
2	Why should the Filton and Stroud Colleges join forces?	4
3	Will the spread and availability of courses and training programmes change?	5
4	Will the quality of the courses and training programmes improve?	5
5	Does joining the two colleges make good business sense?	6
6	Tell us what you think	6

### In detail    Annexes

A	The background of the colleges	8
B	Leadership, governance, management and staffing	9
C	Equality, diversity and social inclusion	9
D	The sites and potential impact on other providers	10
E	The potential risks of these proposals	10
F	Preliminary implementation plan	10
G	Feedback from key stakeholders	11
H	Proposed name and address of new Corporation	13
I	Government Merger Criteria	13
J	Statutory Notices	14

## Foreword

We propose the merger of Filton College and Stroud College, to form a new college serving the areas currently covered by our two colleges separately. This proposed merger is central to realising our shared ambition to both extend and protect the offer to learners, employers and local stakeholders and one that enables the merged college to better serve the whole community both urban and rural. Both Colleges are currently successful independently, but we believe that a merged institution would secure a sound future whilst responding to the implications of the national environment over the next few years.

Our colleges have recognised that there are major benefits to be gained by joining together with a strong emphasis on meeting local learner and employer needs.

As two governing bodies, we are committed to providing the best possible environment for learners, building on the complementary strengths of our two existing colleges. Our two colleges are very similar in terms of curriculum offer and performance, and this is also true in terms of our culture and ethos. This is a merger from a position of strength and the new college can be expected to maintain and improve performance whilst reducing costs and increasing participation. We would encourage you to comment on the proposal in this document. We believe this supports a vision for learning in our communities for the future, which is shared by a wide range of key stakeholders.

This document sets out in more detail the benefits we think would be gained from a merger.

The proposal is subject to a statutory requirement for a public consultation period lasting one month. The Skills Funding Agency will then consider the results of this consultation along with other factors and information before making a decision on whether to forward the final merger proposal to the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills. If approval from the Secretary of State is received, we anticipate the merger would take place in January 2012.

Your views on this merger proposal are welcomed. Please respond by 20 July 2011.

Further information and where you can make a response can be found at [www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/allthelatest/consultations](http://www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/allthelatest/consultations).



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## In brief

### The proposed merger of Filton and Stroud Colleges

1.1 In future years, the 2010s will surely be looked back on as the decade of austerity – a generation of belt-tightening. With seemingly every local and national news story amplifying cuts, reductions or cancellations, it's sometimes hard to feel positive about what the future holds. But when any climate changes, new opportunities present themselves, and the proposed merger of Filton and Stroud Colleges is one such opportunity.



1.2 One word that could sum up the further education (FE)

A new platform for excellence in a new financial climate

sector over the last two decades is *competition*. Whilst competition can be very healthy and a

very effective incentive for improving the quality of your services, it's not always without its difficulties.

1.3 Could collaboration offer more benefits? Only when the Filton and Stroud college leadership teams began exploring the possibilities of collaboration did the true scale of the benefits begin to emerge. Far from being the austerity agenda of 'cuts, reductions and cancellations', what emerged was a vision of stability, access, quality and growth: a new platform for excellence in a new financial climate.

1.4 In this short consultation document, we will set out our big-picture ideas. As we add colour to our vision, so the benefits for all are becoming clearer. And by adding to our melting pot the ideas, aspirations and ideals of the communities we serve – our learners, their families, and the employers who rely on us – so together, we could secure bright futures for all.

## A new platform for excellence in a new financial climate

### Why should the Filton and Stroud Colleges join forces?

2.1 We propose that the Filton and Stroud Colleges merge to form a district-wide, multi-centred provider of education and training serving the area north of Filton and south of Stroud. But unlike most mergers in which long-standing histories and identities are lost to make way for the new branding of a new organisation, we want to continue to celebrate our respective reputations. We intend to do this by retaining our current names and branding in the north and south of our localities and by developing a new centre with new provision in the vacuum between the two.

2.2 Let's stand back for a moment and consider the big picture: the economic prosperity of our whole area. Arguably, the building blocks of our area's economic agility and effectiveness are well-trained people with the skills to meet the demands of current employers whilst attracting the attention of the new. But without any doubt, as a single organisation we could play an even greater role in developing our region's full potential.



2.3 External Ofsted scrutiny has assured us (and those we serve) that our two colleges are high-performing. Our good and outstanding grades are the result of hard work by dedicated staff, and leadership teams who are constantly looking ahead at the challenges and opportunities that await. And on our radar today, are three significant issues to be resolved:

- the substantial reduction in government funding for FE;
- the lack of participation in education or training by those in our rural and marginalised communities – many of which are among the most economically deprived in England; and
- access right across our region to high-quality education and training in *all* subject areas.

## Will the spread and availability of courses and training programmes change?

3.1 A key part of our merger proposal is that we improve access for all local communities to more subjects, in more academic and vocational areas, and at a greater breadth of levels.

3.2 Let's look firstly at our rural communities to the north of Filton and the south of Stroud. This area's high level of deprivation and higher than average level of unemployment, teamed with limited access to affordable public transport means that too many of the community can't, won't or don't take part in education or training.

3.3 To help remove these barriers to our work, we intend to establish a new mid-area centre as part of the new merged college. Following careful consultation with key stakeholders and residents in this part of the region, we will offer the right courses and the right training opportunities to best meet their needs.

3.4 In Stroud too, there will be significant changes. At Filton College, students can choose from a healthy range of academic and vocational courses in all of the 15 subject areas. But at Stroud, the option list extends to just nine vocational subject areas. A key part of the merger, then, will be to share Filton's expertise in engineering and manufacturing, sport and leisure, and the land-based and animal care subject areas with the Stroud campus.



And as part of this we will create a new centre for Engineering in Stroud. This harvesting of the best will also see Stroud's expertise in the creative arts, construction and provision for 14 to 19 year olds fuelling the quality improvement journey at Filton.

3.5 The emphasis, then, is on growth: growth in our capacity and capability to deliver, and growth in the number of students accessing our provision right across the area. But we also want to increase the breadth of our offer across our estate, particularly for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

## Will the quality of the courses and training programmes improve?

4.1 A key Ofsted judgement on a college's leadership is the extent to which it raises standards, aspirations and the success of all. The sharing of good practice across an organisation is an important part of this judgement. To this end, Stroud's acknowledged expertise in financial management, equality and diversity, and particularly quality improvement will be used to help the whole of the new organisation on its exciting journey to outstanding in all areas.

4.2 Clearly, there will be great opportunities to harmonise and rationalise the new college's functions, resulting in efficiency gains and increasing its overall value for money, but the real benefits lie elsewhere.

4.3 Colleges are in business to provide high quality *learning journeys* for all. But for a learner's journey to be transformational, it needs to start and finish at the right level, in the right subject and on the right academic/vocational track. As we extend our provision for 14 to 16 year olds across the area, our work with schools, special schools and the voluntary sector, and increase the range of taster, access and full-time courses, so we stand a much better chance of getting the *start* right for every student. But next comes *progression*. Exciting a student to an engineering apprenticeship, for instance, will serve no purpose if we cannot fulfil their new



aspiration. So our intention is to work very closely with the employers across our area to create many more real apprentice opportunities at level 2 and advanced, and in a wider range of subject areas. We will complete current plans to create an Apprenticeship Training Centre to coordinate this work centrally and support employers and apprentices with the development of vital work-based skills. It will be no surprise that these developments clearly align with the county's regional priorities and the needs of employers. We will thereby be building social inclusion, helping lower unemployment, and increasing the economic vitality of the region. But there's still more to say on progression.

A new centre of  
engineering in  
Stroud

## Tell us what you think

4.4 We are at the dawn of a new higher education (HE) system. Recent policy changes are seldom out of the headlines, and at the time of writing, it seems that most of the English universities will elect to charge the full tuition fees of £9000 per year. On top of ever-increasing accommodation and living costs, there is no doubt that a significant barrier to high-level skill development is emerging. So a key part of our learner journey strategy, made possible by the economies of scale of a large organisation, is the continued development of accessible, affordable, local HE. In tandem with our business community, this will be a key weapon in our region's economic recovery, vital to mitigate the public funding cuts ahead.

### Does joining the two colleges make good business sense?

5.1 From our initial planning, it is clear that the new merged college will be able to deliver year-on-year efficiency savings over its first four years. But it's important to note that this is not a marriage of necessity with one college in financial straits – both of our colleges are currently financially strong.

5.2 These merger proposals aim to maintain our financial security in a climate of reducing funding and to capitalise on our current opportunity to grow now for the benefit of our communities

Accessible,  
affordable, local HE

tomorrow. Now is the time to invest in our staff, their research work and their innovation. And now is the time to invest in our learning resources and our learning environments to safeguard our future learners' opportunities.



6.1 The principles presented in this consultation document already have popular support from key stakeholders,

including local MPs and the local and district authorities. It is clear from the feedback so far that maintaining the local identities of

both institutions is important to the local communities – a key element of this Type A merger, (where both Colleges are dissolved and a new merged College is formed), would bring significant benefits to the organisations and the communities they serve. This local presence and identity is fundamental to the proposals for the new merged College. To this end, the names of both Filton and Stroud College will continue to be used under the banner of a new corporation. The joint Merger Steering Group propose that the name of the new corporation is 'South Gloucestershire and Cotswold College' to signal a 'new' College. The proposed address of the new corporation is given at Annex H.

Now is the time to invest in our learning resources and our learning environments to safeguard our future learners' opportunities

6.2 Our plans for Filton and Stroud colleges will become increasingly clear as more views are given and more colour is added by the public and our stakeholders.

This is the time to tell us what you think of our plans and help us meet the needs of your local communities. We welcome your views about a number of aspects, for example:

- Tell us what you think about our proposal to extend provision to meet the needs of learners and local communities across a wider area
- Do you support our plans for developing the curriculum?

- Do you think any group(s) of students would be adversely affected by the merger?

The Skills Funding Agency is running a consultation on our plans between **15 June** and **20 July 2011**.

The Agency will publish a report on the results within a couple of weeks of the closing date so we can take them into account when we formally propose the merger to the Agency and the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills later in the year. The criteria against which the final merger proposal will be considered are at Annex I. The Statutory Notices at Annex J are being used to notify people.

The main way to tell us what you think is by completing an online survey. This consultation document and a link to the survey are available on the Skills Funding Agency website at: [www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/allthelatest/consultations](http://www.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/allthelatest/consultations). You'll also find the document and a link to survey on our own College websites. You can also tell us what you think in a letter to:

Geoff Russell  
 Chief Executive  
 Skills Funding Agency  
 Cheylesmore House  
 Quinton Road  
 Coventry  
 CV1 2WT

Or Email:

[providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk)

6.3 We are forging ahead in the knowledge that our governors, MPs, Council members, school heads and key stakeholders (see annex G for comments) are all on board and looking forward to us providing more detail. Please help us with that detail by sending us your thoughts, ideas and support.

6.4 If you require this document in a different language, or in a different format, please email Beri Hare, Principal of Stroud college – [berihare@stroudcol.ac.uk](mailto:berihare@stroudcol.ac.uk) or Kevin Hamblin, Principal of Filton College - [Kevin.Hamblin@filton.ac.uk](mailto:Kevin.Hamblin@filton.ac.uk)

Thank you.



## In detail

### Annex A: The background of the colleges

#### Filton College

7.1 Filton is a general further education college offering provision in all 15 subject areas with a budget of £23m. It enrolls 3707 fulltime students and 4913 part time students each year, of which 3273 are aged between 16 and 18, this figure includes apprentices. Courses are offered on two main sites and the college recruits students from: north and central Bristol, Yate/Chipping Sodbury and Thornbury. The college is five miles from the centre of Bristol

7.2 The college recruits students from a diverse range of backgrounds. It is effective in serving its minority ethnic communities, from which it attracts 11% of its students; a higher proportion than the local population. It also draws students from some of the most deprived wards in the country. Using the value-added measure, (an indication of how much students improve over the duration of their course), the college is consistently judged the best in the area.

7.3 A substantial academic offer, includes 10 GCSEs and 24 subjects at AS and A2 level. Staff work in collaboration with seven local schools to offer a further six subjects at AS and A2. The wide range of vocational and skills-based provision can be studied at foundation level, level 2 and advanced. Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of vocations at levels 1 to 3, and there is a comprehensive range of programmes for disengaged learners.

7.4 The college is part of the University of West of England Partnership and offers two foundation degrees in Creative Practices and Integrated Wildlife Conservation, and HND's in Sport and Exercise, Performing Arts and Business.



#### Stroud College

7.5 Stroud is also a general further education college offering provision in nine subject areas with a budget of £9m. It provides vocational education and training to over 1161 fulltime and 3639 part time students each year, of which 1224 are aged between 16 and 18, this figure includes apprentices. Situated within walking distance of a non-selective and two selective post-16 schools, it is the only further education college in Stroud.

7.6 It recruits mainly from Stroud and the surrounding towns and villages, and offers most of its courses on one site within easy reach of Stroud town centre in a high-specification building opened in 2007.

7.7 As with Filton College, Stroud attracts a higher proportion of minority ethnic learners than in the local population. The south of the county is largely rural with pockets of higher than average unemployment and deprivation. Transport routes to the college, especially from the south, are poor: infrequent, expensive and lengthy.

7.8 The college focuses on providing Skills for Life and vocational education and training programmes and does not offer GCSEs or A-Levels. Apprenticeships are mainly in health and social care, construction, and business administration as well as Train to Gain provision in health and social care. Success rates and value added data are very high putting the college in the top 10% nationally.

7.9 Stroud College also has a contract with Gloucestershire County Council to provide adult and community learning courses. Around 830 learners take courses at over 20 outreach locations in the Stroud district. Many of these courses are aimed at disadvantaged learners.

7.10 Over 160 pupils from 8 partner schools study vocational qualifications at the college for one or two days each week. The college was judged to be outstanding at its last inspection for its provision for learners aged 14 to 16.



## Annex B: Leadership, governance, management and staffing

### New organisation structure

8.1 In light of the reducing financial climate, both colleges reviewed their options for collaboration as part of their 2010 strategic planning reviews. The two Corporations concluded that a full, Type A Merger, where both Colleges are dissolved and a new merged College is formed would bring significant benefits to the organisations and communities they serve. And so in January 2011, the formal approval process was initiated.

8.2 The two principals and their senior management teams developed a climate of trust and openness as they worked closely to assess the risks and opportunities of the proposed merger. Governors from both corporations have formed a merger steering group to develop governance, leadership and curriculum structures for the new college. It is proposed that each campus will have a curriculum and community lead at vice principal level, responsible for the quality of provision and the delivery of a balanced curriculum. Notwithstanding new provision at Stroud, there will be no major change to curriculum-level management for 14-19 provision as this will remain responsive to the needs of each centre's local communities. However, it is proposed that the teams responsible for 19+ apprenticeships, employer-responsive provision and full-cost courses will combine to form one coherent unit to better meet employers' needs.

8.3 The cross-college functional areas common to both organisations will be reviewed. These include: management information, registry, exams, finance, human resource management, quality and IT systems. It is anticipated that there will be a single lead for each of these functions with a staffing presence on each campus.

### Legal Considerations and Staffing

8.4 Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations will ensure that the move of all staff to the new organisation is legally protected. A new Joint Consultative Committee and a positive, progressive relationship with unions will play a key role in harmonising the currently very different terms and conditions.

8.5 A key aim of the merger is to grow provision across the area north of Filton and south of Stroud. However, there will be a rationalisation of some areas of work over a

period of time. In all cases staff will be treated with the utmost dignity and respect.

## Annex C: Equality, diversity and social inclusion

9.1 As the colleges reviewed the option to merge, they carried out an assessment of its potential impact on equality and diversity in their work. The assessment shows a positive outcome across all of the

At the heart of any outstanding equality and diversity practice in education is the success of all its learners

indicators, including:

- a coordinated infrastructure to address and support social inclusion in disadvantaged areas;
- increased recruitment of learners from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups;
- better access to provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities;
- increased capacity to break gender-biased recruitment patterns;
- improved effectiveness in researching and providing for employers' needs;
- the transformational sharing of good practice in embedding equality and diversity in lessons;
- the wider involvement of disparate communities in forums and activities; and
- better access to coherent and coordinated education progression routes, from entry level to HE.

9.2 The culture of the merged college will be supported by building on the range of active and effective initiatives at Stroud, including: the work of the Equality and Diversity Committee, the Disability and Equality Committee, and the Fairness Team. The Equality and Diversity Committee, chaired by the principal, includes students, governors and staff from local specialist colleges. This diverse team has the expertise to guide, promote and improve equality and diversity throughout the new college.

9.3 At the heart of any outstanding equality and diversity practice is the success of all its learners. So the merged college will adopt the Olympic Challenge programme from Filton. Put simply, this is a plan to consistently deliver outstanding student experiences and outstanding success rates. At its heart, is an unrelenting focus on learners' progress and achievement – a central influence on the college's planning for learning.

## Annex D: The sites and potential impact on other providers

10.1 The merged college will balance provision in the locality, complementing the work of the other providers such as Gloucestershire College to the north of Stroud, the City of Bristol College to the south, and Hartpury College to the north west. It is not intended that service sharing between Stroud and Cirencester Colleges and the joint employer engagement project between Filton, Stroud and City of Bath Colleges will be affected by these proposals.

10.2 Analysis of current recruitment patterns confirms that Filton and Stroud colleges do not compete with each other for their learners. Public transport for Filton students is adequate, but transport to Stroud for some of its catchment communities is poor, infrequent, lengthy and costly.

10.3 The merger of the two colleges and a proposed mid-area investment in a new centre will provide the infrastructure and research base to even out the access to provision for all. The dispersed nature of the population in this area and the challenges this presents can be seen in the 2009 estimates from the Office for National Statistics. The Bristol unitary authority had a population density of more than 2500 people per square kilometre. In South Gloucestershire, this was between 1000 and 2500. In Stroud, the estimated number of people per square kilometre was just 250 to 500.

10.4 Stroud College's main site is in the centre of Stroud. The new high specification building, opened in April 2007, is equipped with the latest educational resources, workshops and conference facilities. As part of the sharing of excellence across the new organisation, a new home in Stroud will be built for engineering, sport and land-based subjects.

10.5 Filton College has two main sites in South Gloucestershire: the Filton Avenue centre, on the A38 in Filton, and the West of England Institute of Specialist Education (WISE) in Stoke Gifford. The WISE centre, completed in September 2005, offers world-class sports and arts facilities.

10.6 The 60-year-old Filton Avenue building was extended and upgraded in 2001, but the merged college would plan to replace it in the medium term. Additional sites include: The Bristol Zoo Education Centre, Royal West of England Academy of Art in central Bristol, the Beeches Hotel and Conference Centre in Brislington. However, the lease on these last two buildings will end in 2013 and will not be renewed.

10.7 The Colleges have agreed a remit for a joint, independent review of estates to establish how best to meet the needs of the area.





## Annex E: The potential risks of these proposals

11.1 A central element of managing any improvement journey is the robust management of risk. Both colleges have excellent track records in this area and receive clean audit reports from their external auditors.

11.2 A member of the new senior management team, with overall responsibility for risk management, will create a new single risk register. This will bring together all current risks and those posed by the merger.

11.3 Contingency plans have been developed to mitigate a wide range of possibilities, including:

- rejection of the merger by the secretary of state;
- failure to complete the merger in the agreed timescale;
- adverse consultation feedback;
- failure to implement all legal requirements;
- reduction in the level of service for employers and college users during the harmonisation of systems;
- loss of key staff with responsibility for carrying out the merger;
- reduction in the morale of teaching staff;
- failure to achieve the planned efficiencies;
- failure to integrate systems;
- failure to harmonise staff terms and conditions;
- failure to harmonise cultures.

## Annex F: Preliminary implementation plan

12.1 Following a successful consultation, it is anticipated that the merger would be completed for the start of the spring term in January 2012.

### Draft timetable of events

#### 2011

January	Initiation of formal approval process
March	Initial submission to Skills Funding Agency Stakeholder consultation
June/July	Public consultation Review consultation feedback Reassess the way forward Feedback back on the consultation Final submission to the Skills Funding Agency
Sept	Decision by Secretary of state
Oct	Constitution of the new corporation
Nov	Dissolution of the existing colleges

#### 2012

January	Anticipated launch of the new college
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12.2 Both colleges will take great care to consult and communicate with their staff, student, community and employer representatives in the formation of the final proposal document. This consultation and a detailed communication plan will involve and inform all key stakeholders, including: parents, businesses and employers, community groups, training providers, schools and colleges, local politicians and officers in the local authority.

## Annex G: Feedback from key stakeholders

*"The potential merger of Filton and Stroud Colleges will be of benefit to both the local communities and pupils. I support the aim of creating a college that can respond effectively to the many challenges colleges face today, and one that would be better placed to create new opportunities for education and training in both areas, whilst not compromising, or withdrawing from the great work that both Colleges undertake in their local communities, but instead benefit them by sharing services and expertise."*

**Jack Lopresti, MP for Filton & Bradley Stoke**

*"I welcome the efforts of Stroud and Filton Colleges to work more closely together to serve the rural communities which lie between the two institutions. I am sure local firms and young people would also benefit from better coordination of apprenticeships and partnerships with local businesses."*

**Steven Webb, MP for Thornbury & Yate**

*"I am, in principle, very supportive of measures that will reduce administrative overhead costs and help maintain the excellent education provision of the Colleges."*

**Charlotte Leslie, MP for Bristol North West**

*"This is a great opportunity for Stroud and the south of the County which should be grasped quickly. A new larger college will be well placed to serve the needs of all the local communities in this area, the businesses that employ them, and organisations that support them."*

**Neil Carmichael, MP for Stroud, Governor of Stroud College**

*"South Gloucestershire Council welcomes the opportunities that a larger college can bring for the more rural areas in the north of the district and for ensuring the long-term sustainability of further education provision in South Gloucestershire. We are pleased to see the reassurances given about the preservation and enhancement of Filton College's existing offer within South Gloucestershire. We are particularly supportive of plans to develop better provision at levels 1 and 2 for students with learning difficulties and for apprenticeships."*

**Therese Gillespie, Director for Children and Young People, South Gloucestershire**

*"Gloucestershire County Council understands the reason for the proposed merger of Stroud College and Filton College and welcomes the opportunities that a larger college can bring, especially in reaching out to communities along the M5 corridor in the south of the county. Full support for the merger will be conditional on*

*assurances that the new college has management and governance arrangements that adequately protect the interests of students and employers in Gloucestershire."*

**Peter Holmes, Head of 14-19 Commissioning, Children & Young People's Directorate, Gloucestershire County Council**

*"We fully support the proposed merger as a way of ensuring that Stroud College continues to serve the needs of the community, whilst also developing new provision in the District."*

**David Hagg, Chief Executive, Stroud District Council**

*"The proposed merger of Stroud College and Filton College represents an excellent opportunity to ensure that the needs of businesses and the economy in the Stroud District and beyond are served well. Both Colleges share an excellent reputation for quality, a drive to proactively engage with employers, and a portfolio of programmes that support many of the priority sectors of the Gloucestershire economy."*

*The increased offer that the merger will bring to the area is welcomed. The role of further education in growing our economy and ensuring the ready supply of talent to our businesses will be vital, as we seek to compete in an ever increasing global market place. The continuation of the economies of scale that will be enjoyed, along with the retention of local diversity, presents a model that should ensure the continued success of both colleges."*

**Chas Fellows, Chair, Cabinet Member for Economy and Environment, Gloucestershire County Council**

*"Connexions have worked closely with Stroud and Filton Colleges over a number of years. We have always valued the provision you offer to the young people in the area and have confidence in the systems in place to ensure quality of provision. We support you in your endeavours to now find ways that enable you to move forward and continue to build on this good practice which as a partnership I am sure will benefit the young people we work with."*

**Christopher Cross, Executive Manager, Learning Partnership West.**

*"I am delighted to write on behalf of the Concorde Partnership in support of Filton College's proposed merger with Stroud College. I have discussed in detail the significance of shared learning and the benefits of economies of scale of organisations working together; your commitment to the Concorde Partnership has been instrumental in establishing a broader range of opportunities for young people in the local area. Your vision for shared staffing and*

*infrastructural support for collaborative learning have been hugely significant for those of us who have worked closely with Filton College and leave me convinced that your proposed merger with Stroud College will be a resounding success leading to increased benefits for both organisations. I will be pleased to support in whatever way I can."*

**Dave Baker, Chair of Concorde Partnership and Headteacher, Bradley Stoke Community School.**

*"Stroud Chamber of Commerce fully supports the proposed merger of Stroud and Filton Colleges which, we believe, will result in more choices for young people and an enhanced service for local employers."*

**Carole Garfield, Chair Stroud Chamber of Commerce, Governor of Stroud College**

*"Stroud's Local Strategic Partnership brings together a range of organisations representing the private, public and not-for-profit sectors across the district to share information and good practice. We would welcome the proposed merger of Stroud College and Filton College as it would bring opportunity for greater prospects for those who live in the district."*

**Terry Parker, Vice Chair, Stroud Local Strategic Partnership**

## Annex H: Proposed name and address of new Corporation

The names of both Filton and Stroud College will continue to be used under the banner of a new corporation. It is proposed the address of the new corporation will be:

South Gloucestershire and Cotswold College  
Stratford Road  
Stroud  
Gloucestershire  
GL5 4AH

## Annex I: Government's Merger Criteria

These are the current criteria against which merger proposals are assessed.

- Likely to address the needs of learners and employers
- Likely to increase opportunity for the learner to exercise choice and encourage diversity in the education and training available
- Likely to increase local participation rates and result in improved quality and success
- Likely to develop innovation and improve access to learning for the community
- Ensures the embedding of all aspects of equality and diversity
- Likely to promote effective community cohesion through community presence and representation within governance structures
- Likely to provide better value for money.



**Statutory Notice - Further and Higher Education Act 1992**

The Chief Executive of Skills Funding hereby gives notice, in accordance with the provisions of section 51 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (the Act) as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, of the draft proposal that the Secretary of State under section 27 of that Act should by order provide for the dissolution of the further education corporation of **Stroud College** and the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities of that corporation to a newly established further education corporation.

Dissolution of the corporation is proposed, at the request of the corporation of **Stroud College** in order that the college may be part of a new further education corporation with **Filton College**.

The date proposed for the dissolution is **1 January 2012**.

Provision will be made for all students at **Stroud College** who have not yet completed their courses of study by the date of the proposed dissolution to complete their studies at the new further education corporation.

A copy of the draft proposal is available free of charge from me and will be sent to any person who requests it.

In accordance with the provisions of section 51 of the Act, representations may be made to me by **20 July 2011**. Representations can be made at

<http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/allthelatest/consultations/> or to

[providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) or in writing to:

**Geoff Russell, Chief Executive of Skills Funding  
Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road,  
Coventry CV1 2WT**

Date: 15 June 2011

Signed:



**Skills Funding Agency  
Cheylesmore House Quinton Road  
Coventry CV1 2WT**

**[www.bis.gov.uk/skillsfundingagency](http://www.bis.gov.uk/skillsfundingagency)  
An agency of the Department for  
Business, Innovation & Skills**

## Statutory Notice - Further and Higher Education Act 1992

The Chief Executive of Skills Funding hereby gives notice, in accordance with the provisions of section 51 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (the Act) as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, of the draft proposal that the Secretary of State under section 27 of that Act should by order provide for the dissolution of the further education corporation of **Filton College** and the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities of that corporation to a newly established further education corporation.

Dissolution of the corporation is proposed, at the request of the corporation of **Filton College** in order that the college may be part of a new further education corporation with **Stroud College**.

The date proposed for the dissolution is **1 January 2012**.

Provision will be made for all students at **Filton College** who have not yet completed their courses of study by the date of the proposed dissolution to complete their studies at the newly established further education corporation.

A copy of the draft proposal is available free of charge from me and will be sent to any person who requests it.

In accordance with the provisions of section 51 of the Act, representations may be made to me by **20 July 2011**. Representations can be made at


<http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/allthelatest/consultations/> or in writing to

[providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) or to:

**Geoff Russell, Chief Executive of Skills Funding**  
**Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road,**  
**Coventry CV1 2WT**

Date: 15 June 2011

Signed:



**Skills Funding Agency**  
**Cheylesmore House Quinton Road**  
**Coventry CV1 2WT**

**[www.bis.gov.uk/skillsfundingagency](http://www.bis.gov.uk/skillsfundingagency)**  
**An agency of the Department for**  
**Business, Innovation & Skills**

## Statutory Notice - Further and Higher Education Act 1992

The Chief Executive of Skills Funding (the Chief Executive) hereby gives notice in accordance with the provisions of section 51 of the *Further and Higher Education Act 1992* (the Act) as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills Children and Learning Act 2009, of the draft proposal that the Secretary of State under section 16 of the Act should by order provide for the establishment of a body corporate to establish and conduct a new institution.

The establishment of the body corporate is proposed in order that **Stroud College** may merge with **Filton College** and that the respective further education corporations may be dissolved. It is proposed that the property, rights and liabilities of both corporations should be transferred to the proposed new corporation.

The date proposed for the establishment of the corporation is **24 October 2011**

Provision will be made for all students at **Stroud College** and **Filton College** who have not completed their courses of study by the date of the proposed dissolutions to complete their studies at the new corporation.

A copy of the draft proposal is available free of charge from me and will be sent to any person who requests it.

In accordance with the provisions of section 51 of the Act, representations may be made to me by **20 July 2011**. Representations can be made at

<http://skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/providers/allthelatest/consultations/> or to

[providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk](mailto:providerreorganisations@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk) or in writing to:

**Geoff Russell, Chief Executive of  
Skills Funding  
Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road,  
Coventry CV1 2WT**

Date: 15 June 2011

Signed:



**Skills Funding Agency  
Cheylesmore House Quinton Road  
Coventry CV1 2WT**

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An agency of the Department for  
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