

005. 22/7/04



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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GAUL,
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AUDREY.
F. 26/7/04.

(FOUND BY)
JAMES T O.
TOP OF
MICROWAVE!

15 July 2004

Merger of the Funding Councils Team
Enterprise Transport and Lifelong Learning Department
2nd Floor, Europa Building
450 Argyle Street
Glasgow
G2 8LG

LJM/CN

Dear Sir/Madam,

The ministerial foreword sets the proposal to merge the current Funding Councils, in the context of the Executive's commitment to lifelong learning. Anniesland College welcomes this proposed merger and hopes that it will not just be a 'technical exercise' but rather an opportunity to develop a new council that can act strategically in developing lifelong learning. To achieve all that is set out in 'Life through Learning: Learning through Life' the new body should be encouraged not to micro manage this 'joined up' tertiary education sector. They should have no time or resource for this if they are to develop joint working and strategic dialogue with both sectors.

The document speaks of a new broader body than that which currently exists for further education. The proposed name for the joint body, Scottish Tertiary Funding Council, is too narrow concentrating only on the distribution of funding to the sector. An opportunity exists to name the new body to reflect fully the minister's intentions for lifelong learning.

The new body must have mechanisms to deal with rapid changes at a local level that are often not reflected in national or even regional labour market statistics. SFEFC did have this capacity and demonstrated it very effectively e.g. in response to student support issues and asylum refugee learner funding issues. A larger, more complex, body might not recognise their role in this, as might not a new Council. This must not be allowed to happen, for tertiary education in Scotland would be less responsive to local need.

Colleges do have a unique community focus; they have championed the role of the non-traditional learner in their system. The new council should have some experience in this. Meeting the needs of non-traditional learners have allowed colleges to innovate and reach further into the social inclusion agenda and engage with communities that have currently little benefit from the positive economic/social effects of higher education.

At Anniesland our expectation of the new body is high, the opportunities for tertiary education are immense. It is important that the new body works in partnership with universities and colleges to deliver lifelong learning that Scotland needs.

Yours sincerely,

Linda J. McTavish
Principal

Principal: Linda J McTavish CBE

ANNEX A RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name: *Linda J McTavish*

Postal Address: *Annisland College Hatfield Drive Glasgow G12 0YE*

Consultation title:

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

- (a) an individual (go to 2a/b)
(b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation (go to 2c)

2a. INDIVIDUALS:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
No, not at all

2b. Where **confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

2c ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

Your name and address as respondents **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

- Yes
No

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

3. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

- Yes
No

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