



PROPOSED MERGER:

Telford College of Arts
and Technology and
New College Telford

CONSULTATION: Your Views are Warmly Welcomed

Why your views are important

Telford College

This document outlines the proposal for the merger of Telford College of Arts and Technology (TCAT) and New College Telford (NCT).

It explains what we want to achieve and how we plan to achieve it. We want to consult you on this because colleges provide a vital service to their communities and it is important that all our customers and stakeholders have a say in their future.

The colleges believe that a merger allows us to create one college for Telford and Wrekin with a broad based academic and vocational curriculum offer. The academic strength and sixth form ethos of New College Telford, coupled with the broad vocational offering of Telford College of Arts and Technology will ensure that learners, employers and communities will benefit from one further education and skills provider. The merged college will develop a strong reputation, with high quality and a student focus at its heart. It will be an institution of which the communities of Telford and Wrekin can be proud.

As expectations of the further education sector change and funding pressures increase, it is important that colleges find innovative ways to make their resources stretch further and increase efficiency whilst still delivering an excellent service. As part of the government-led Area

Review of Further Education in the Marches and Worcestershire, both colleges took the opportunity to review what they do and evaluate options for creating an ambitious, sustainable college of the future. As a result of a comprehensive review of the strengths and opportunities at each college and extensive due diligence, we are proposing a merger under the banner of Telford College. This will see the Corporation of New College Telford dissolve and all its staff, assets and liabilities transfer to Telford College of Arts and Technology. Our aim is to safeguard the financial future of further education in the locality so that we are better placed to contribute to the local economy and be the first choice for students, apprentices, employers, staff and schools. The board of governors at each college considers that this course of action will provide the best means of securing high quality post 16 education and training for the communities of Telford and Wrekin in the future.

We invite you to complete and return our questionnaire, either by post or online (see page 7). We thank you for your time and interest.



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Telford College of Arts and Technology
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Background and Context

Further education plays a vital role in helping to develop the knowledge and skills needed for our communities.

The Area Based Review of Further Education provision in the Marches and Worcestershire area recommended that New College Telford and Telford College of Arts and Technology were merged to form a stronger institution.

Working in partnership with local authorities, schools, universities, employers, and the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), TCAT and NCT will seek to provide the education and opportunities which the local economy requires. The merged college will be responsive to regional ambitions for economic growth and will deliver a high quality education and training offer.

Existing students will continue their course at their current location in 2017/18. It is intended that there will be substantial capital investment into the TCAT site to create purpose built Sixth Form accommodation ready for occupation in 2018/19. All students will have access to extensive support and purpose built facilities on the newly developed campus. Both colleges are well aligned in terms of student cohorts, curriculum and community presence and share cultural values that will help with the practicalities of working together.

TCAT

TCAT is a medium sized General FE college, based in Wellington. It had a turnover of £21m in 2015/16 by offering a range of academic and vocational programmes from Entry to Level 3, together with a range of HE courses for progression, and a sizeable apprenticeship offer.

In 2015/16 there were 9,695 FE students attending TCAT (1,080 full-time and 8,615 part-time). In addition to this the College had 2,326 Apprentices and 353 HE students.

£21m

Turnover
2015/16

1,080

Full Time FE
Students

NCT

NCT is a Sixth Form College based in Wellington on the outskirts of Telford. It had a turnover of £5.9m in 2015/16 by offering a range of academic and vocational programmes, the majority of which were at Level 3.

In 2015/16 there were 986 students attending NCT (968 full-time and 18 part-time). In addition to this the College had 357 Apprentices and 19 HE students.

£5.9m

Turnover
2015/16

968

Full Time FE
Students

Our Vision

Our vision for the merged college is to be a successful and good sub-regional college by 2020/21 and then by 2025/26, a regional player that wins national contracts. We want to provide the learners, businesses and communities of Telford and Wrekin with high quality education, skills and training.

With a distinct focus on progression into careers, and high quality, relevant higher education and improving the skills of the local workforce, Telford College will be a significant contributor to the economic development and regeneration of the area; a trusted partner that responds to the employment and economic needs of business.

The planned merger will ensure the financial security of the larger merged college enabling continued investment in the first-class facilities and highly skilled staff necessary to provide the greatest breadth of opportunity for every learner.

In their commitment to merge, both colleges share the vision to be the local college of first choice for post-16 education and training by offering:

- The opportunities and the first rate independent information, advice and guidance to enable students to fulfil their potential and to progress to higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.
- High quality student experience, excellent outcomes and progression opportunities into work or further study.
- Strong partnerships with local schools to secure the best opportunities for young people.
- Top teaching and training, which is delivered in first class facilities.
- A comprehensive and diverse curriculum for 16-18 year olds, increased advanced and higher level provision, growth in apprenticeships and with strong focus on employer needs and local and regional priorities.
- A breadth, depth and range of robust vocational qualifications and employability skills across a wide range of employment sectors.
- A full range of apprenticeships in line with government ambitions and local and regional industry needs.
- Strong support for LEP and government priorities, providing employers with training and skills that contribute to growth in the local and regional economy.
- A wide choice of higher education programmes in line with employment demands and student interests.
- A safe and inclusive environment which fosters mutual respect, democracy and tolerance.
- Accessible and effective provision for those needing to further develop their English, maths, IT and employability skills.



- Outstanding support for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Clear local accountability and responsiveness based on actively seeking the views of students, parents, guardians, carers, employers, community and other stakeholders.
- A financially viable and resilient college which is fit for the future and responsive to future policy and economic challenges.
- Close working partnerships with key stakeholders to ensure that the merged college continues to innovate and make a significant contribution to the Telford and Wrekin economy.



Benefits

The planned merger will streamline services and deliver economies of scale which can be reinvested in students, staff and facilities and provide better value for money for taxpayers.

Students and Apprentices

- Increased investment in equipment and learning technologies and innovation to enhance student experience
- Improved teaching quality through shared good practice among staff
- Enhanced links to business through wider engagement with employers
- A comprehensive range of high quality qualifications and apprenticeships
- Access to independent information, advice and guidance on choices and progression
- Provision of a well-designed pastoral curriculum and enrichment programme at each college to broaden students' experiences and aspirations
- Continuity of programmes for existing students over the transition period
- A merged college with strong performance and high quality teaching at its heart where students enjoy learning and actively contribute to college life

Employers

- A single point of contact, providing a high quality service to employers, consistency and responsiveness to training needs and alignment to the Marches LEP priorities
- A breadth and depth of robust vocational qualifications and employability skills across a wide range of employment sectors
- Commitment to building long-term sustainable relationships with employers to support business growth and prosperity
- Work-ready students from one source within the Telford and Wrekin area
- A broad range of apprenticeship and training frameworks

- Development of bespoke training solutions for businesses, industries and sectors
- A strategic partner that is ambitious and invests in new technologies and facilities to provide cutting edge training, including the planned new advanced manufacturing centre

Staff

- More opportunity for professional development and peer support
- Pride in working for a dynamic, innovative and ambitious further education college
- Improved networking and good practice sharing
- Enhanced career or specialism opportunities
- Improved financial strength
- Strong, experienced leadership from an accountable senior management team with students, staff and employers as its focus

Community

- Relevant and accessible learning opportunities
- Enhanced college facilities
- Increased capacity to work with local communities and celebrate success
- Ensuring that the newly developed merged college is able to serve the needs of its local community
- Strong relationships with local schools ensuring the best opportunities for young people in the area

Strategic Partners/Stakeholder

- The merged college will be a significant skills partner to support economic development and regeneration
- A curriculum aligned to strategic local, regional and national priorities
- Effective collaboration with the Marches LEP, schools, colleges and universities and other local stakeholders

How to respond?

21 March 2017
Consultation Starts

21 April 2017
Consultation Ends

07 June 2017
Consultation Response

01 August 2017
Proposed Merger

The formal consultation will be held between 21 March 2017 and 21 April 2017 when we engage in events and meetings to seek feedback.

We will then publish the feedback and response by 07 June 2017 with a view to the proposed merger taking place on 01 August 2017

You may respond in one of these ways:

1. Complete the form included in the back of this consultation document
2. Complete the form online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mergerconsult>
3. Send a response headed "Consultation Response" by email to publicconsultation@tcat.ac.uk or letter to

Consultation Response

Clerk to the Corporation
Telford College of Arts and Technology
Haybridge Road, Wellington, Telford. TF1 1NP

Who will be consulted?

We welcome the views from the following stakeholders who will be formally invited to respond:

- › FE and Sixth Form Colleges
- › Schools and Academies
- › Telford & Wrekin Council
- › Members of Parliament
- › The Secretary of State
- › Skills Funding Agency
- › Education Funding Agency
- › The Marches LEP
- › Telford Business Board
- › Shropshire Business Board
- › University of Wolverhampton

As part of the consultation process we would also welcome views from any of the following:

- › Students
- › Staff
- › Parents and Carers
- › Employers
- › Employer representative groups
- › Sixth Form College Association
- › Association of Colleges
- › Shropshire Chamber of Commerce
- › Higher Education Funding Council for England
- › Quality Assurance Agency
- › Ofsted
- › Third Sector Organisations
- › UNISON
- › Universities
- › University and Colleges Admissions Service
- › University and College Union
- › National Union of Teachers
- › National Association of School Teachers and Union of Women Teachers
- › Association of Teachers and Lecturers
- › Local Authorities

We also welcome the views of any other parties who may have an interest.

Your Response

Governors of both colleges would be very grateful if you would read our consultation and respond to the questions below.

If you would like a copy of the feedback and response, please supply your contact details

Name:

Email/postal address:

Please select the category that best describes you:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learner | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/carer | <input type="checkbox"/> Government body |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Local community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FE or 6th form college | <input type="checkbox"/> Union |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HE institution | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

1. Do you support the proposed merger of Telford College of Arts & Technology and New College Telford?

- Yes No Unsure

Comments:

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2. Do you support Telford College as the proposed name of the merged college?

- Yes No Unsure

Comments:

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3. As Telford College, we plan to invest in student opportunities and provide employers with training and skills that contribute to growth in the local and regional economy. Do you support these aims?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:
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4. As Telford College, we plan to share good practice on one campus (TCAT), after capital investment and modifications, in order to further enhance the quality of learner and customer experiences.

Do you support these aims?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:
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5. As Telford College, we will focus on innovation, access to quality learning and being a source of pride for our local communities. Do you support these aims?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:
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6. Do you think anybody, including students or staff, will be adversely affected by the merger plans?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:
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Thank you.

The results will be published on the colleges' websites and will be available on request.

Privacy statement: Your data will only be used in relation to the merger consultation process and will not be used for any other purpose. All responses will be anonymous in the consultation results documentation.

This document is available in accessible formats and community languages on request.

Statutory Notice

Further and Higher Education Act 1992

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Corporation of New College Telford, in accordance with the Further Education Corporations (Publication of Proposals) (England) Regulations 2012, SI 2012 No. 1157, of the proposal for the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities to the Corporation of Telford College of Arts and Technology and the subsequent dissolution of the Further Education Corporation of New College Telford.

Dissolution of the Corporation of New College Telford is proposed in order that it may merge with Telford College of Arts and Technology. The merger will create a strong institution delivering high quality education and skills training for learners and employers.

The Corporation of Telford College of Arts and Technology is separately proposing to the Secretary of State a change of name for the Corporation to Telford College on 1 August 2017. All students at New College Telford who have not completed their courses of study by the date of the proposed dissolution will continue with and complete their studies in their current locations under the auspices of Telford College.

The proposed name of the merged college is Telford College. The date proposed for the dissolution of the Corporation of New College Telford is 31 July 2017. A copy of the consultation document on the proposed merger is available free of charge and can be found at www.tcat.ac.uk/merger

You may respond in one of these ways:

1. Complete the form included in the back of this consultation document
2. Complete the form online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mergerconsult>
3. Send a response headed "Consultation Response" by email to publicconsultation@tcat.ac.uk or letter to

Consultation Response

Clerk to the Corporation
Telford College of Arts and Technology
Haybridge Road, Wellington, Telford. TF1 2NP

The consultation period runs from 21 March 2017 to 21 April 2017. All responses and representations must be received by the closing date. A summary of the consultation and its outcome will be published within two months beginning on the date after the end of the consultation period and the summary will be available free of charge.



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