



West Lothian
Council

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

PROPOSED MERGER OF STEVENSON, TELFORD, AND JEWEL AND ESK COLLEGES INTO A SINGLE INSTITUTION

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the proposal by Stevenson College Edinburgh, Edinburgh's Telford College and Jewel and Esk College to become a single institution. The Scottish Government is providing the opportunity to offer views on this proposal by the 15th June 2012.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council Executive:

1. Notes the proposed merger of the Edinburgh Colleges and recommends that the creation of any merged organisation should be done in a way that maximises consultation with key groups including staff, students and customers and seeks to maintain direct and indirect employment.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs Being honest, open and accountable Making best use of our resources Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)

VII Consideration at PDSP

The consultation timescale did not allow the paper to be considered by a PDSP

VIII Other consultations

Heads of Education

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Following the Scottish Government consultation on the ambitions for higher education to “Build a Smarter Future” in 2011, which was reported to the Council Executive, a number of mergers between Scottish Colleges are now being considered.

Locally this has included the proposed merger of Barony College, Elmwood College, Oatridge College and the Scottish Agricultural College to create one unified body for the land based sector.

The latest consultation from the Scottish Government indicates the intention of Stevenson College Edinburgh, Edinburgh's Telford College and Jewel and Esk College (the Edinburgh Colleges) to become a single institution to be renamed as “Edinburgh College”.

The consultation letter (appendix 1) indicates that no campus closures are planned.

The single institution which will result will become Scotland's second largest college. The consultation letter offers no comment on employment levels or student numbers.

The Edinburgh Colleges, particularly Stevenson College plays an important role in the delivery of Vocational Training accessed by West Lothian students.

E. CONCLUSION

The proposal to merge the Stevenson College Edinburgh, Edinburgh's Telford College and Jewel and Esk College (the Edinburgh Colleges) to become a single institution to be renamed as “Edinburgh College”, aligns to the Following the Scottish Government consultation on the ambitions for higher education to “Build a Smarter Future”.

The Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council should ensure that the new institution is adequately resourced to contribute to addressing the needs of the East Central Scotland labour market.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Appendix One: Letter from Scottish Government.

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Date of meeting: 12 June 2012