

Ian Lowrie  
Chair of Governors  
Northbrook College  
Littlehampton Road  
Worthing  
BN12 6NUBN

Julie Nerney  
Chair of Governors  
City College Brighton  
Pelham Street  
Brighton  
BN1 4FA

### **A response from the joint Chairs of Designate Board to the consultation on merger**

We are delighted with the response rate to our recent consultation on the merger between City College Brighton and Northbrook College Sussex. The interest in our proposals confirms the importance of the role that both organisations play within their communities, both now and in the future.

As with any consultation, respondents have raised a wide range of views reflecting the wide variety of interests and individuals with a stake in Further Education in our region. There are however a number of themes that we can draw from the responses and this open letter seeks to describe these and to set out how the Colleges will respond to them in the coming weeks and months.

Firstly, we are pleased with the number of respondents who supported the proposal for merger. That support, which includes the Local Enterprise Partnership, Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council, the emergency services and a majority of educational providers provides a strong foundation on which to move ahead with the merger.

We recognise however, that we need to work with some groups from some locations to ensure that their concerns are addressed within the planning and implementation stages of the merger. To that end we have recently appointed a number of designate posts (Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer and Principal) who are developing plans for further engagement with students, staff and other stakeholders.

The other primary theme to emerge from the responses was that only limited support for the proposed name *The Metropolitan College* was expressed by respondents to the consultation.

Respondents however, were very helpful in identifying those characteristics they do want to see in the name of the new College. Geography and location are important and local people are proud of their region and the towns and cities within it. Respondents in Worthing were also explicit in wanting to preserve existing identities where they have strong local or sector recognition.

On the basis of that feedback we have decided to revise our proposals. We have agreed that the term 'Northbrook' will be retained and used at the Shoreham and Worthing Campuses in order to protect existing identities.

At the same time we have agreed that the new College will be called *Greater Brighton Metropolitan College* in order to build a sense of place and reflect the geography of our whole region. In addition, we are exploring how different campuses might combine the name of specific locations within the overarching naming structure.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the respondents to the consultation and to reiterate our commitment to working with all of our communities as we take the next steps in this exciting process.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Lowrie



Julie Nerney