

Shetland College Board**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick****Tuesday 4 August 2020 at 10.00am****Present:**

P Campbell M Lyall
A Priest G Smith
T Smith

Apologies:

E Macdonald

In attendance (Officers):

C Ferguson, Director of Corporate Services
J Manson, Executive Manager - Finance
J Birnie, Projects Officer – Change Programme
K Adam, Solicitor
A Anderson, Lecturer, Shetland College
A Cogle, Team Leader – Administrative Services
L Malcolmson, Committee Officer

Chair

Mr Campbell, Chair of the Board, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

3/20 College Merger – Local Stakeholder Consultation

The Board considered a report by the Director - Corporate Services (CRP-21-F) that presented the results of the College Merger – Local stakeholder consultation process.

The Director of Corporate Services introduced the report and provided a brief summary of the merger process that involves the Shetland College, Train Shetland and the North Atlantic Fisheries College (NAFC). She said that local stakeholder consultation was now complete which would be followed by evaluation by the Shetland Funding Council (SFC), and then a further period of consultation would be led by the Scottish Government. She advised on the different methods used to undertake the consultation and said that the information was compiled and presented to the EJCC and College Lecturer's JCC whose comments were included in the report to the Council before now being presented in this final report. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Consultation Response Report had been prepared by Prof. Jane Lewis, Principal of the Shetland College, Dr Ian Napier, NAFC and Jaqui Birnie, Projects Officer. The Board were advised that Prof. Lewis was not

present but that the Projects Officer would provide information on the process followed to date.

The Projects Officer provide an overview of the feedback received from staff, students, and local employers, during the consultation process, that included broadening opportunities for learning as well as attracting more students. She said that central to the vision for Shetland is to attract people to work, study and invest in the economy of Shetland and the Colleges were central to that vision. She explained that further comments from Stakeholders were around strategic planning and joint working. The Projects Officer advised that whilst there was disagreement on the proposed name, the College would run a follow up survey to reach a decision on a name to put forward. In concluding her overview she reiterated the importance of the student voice which had been central to the merger process.

During consideration of the report the Chair suggested the following amendments to Appendix 1:

- Page 5, last paragraph - where development opportunities are listed. The Chair suggested that given its place in the Islands Deal, the list should include the ultra-deep water quay.
- Paragraph 4.2.8 “Assets”, fourth line - change the word “building” to “buildings”.
- Page 6 second paragraph, final word – the Chair said that the word “fun” trivialises the learning experience and suggested this be changed to “enjoyment”.

There followed some discussion, and the amount of work undertaken to bring the responses together was acknowledged. Comment was made that the process had reached a critical point where it was now over to the SFC and the Scottish Government to consider the MMBC (Ministerial Merger Business Case) and undertake the next consultation. It was suggested that the volume of the information gathered needed to be cross referenced and evidenced with the business case, in order to provide good practical, real life examples. It was noted that the MMBC will be scrutinised and the responses need to satisfy the SFC that the MMBC can withstand scrutiny.

There being no debate Mr Priest moved that the Board approve the recommendations contained in the report. Mrs Lyall seconded.

Decision:

The Shetland College Board:

- CONSIDERED and APPROVED “A New College for Shetland – Consultation Report” (the Consultation Report), attached as Appendix 1; and
- NOTED that the College Merger Transition Board will be asked to note the findings of the consultation and formulate a response to the Consultation Report prior to the Consultation Report being submitted to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) via UHI.

The meeting concluded at 10.20am.

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Chair