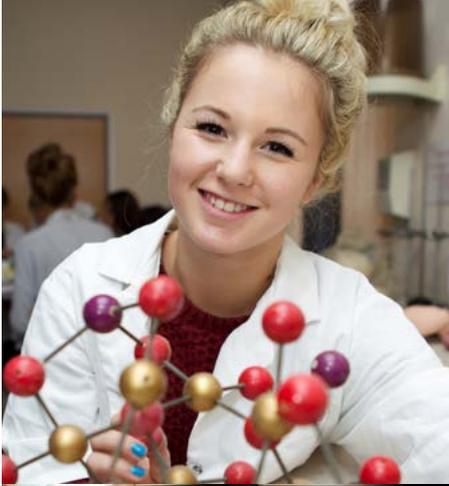


Proposed Merger Consultation Feedback

Dearne Valley College
and RNN Group



Introduction

On behalf of Dearne Valley College and the RNN Group (incorporating Rotherham College and North Notts College), we would like to thank the people that have engaged both formally and informally with the month-long public consultation on our proposal to merge to create a single, combined organisation serving Rotherham, the Dearne Valley and North Nottinghamshire.

All of the comments that we have received during the consultation process will feed into our on-going, detailed planning.

The feedback we received has reaffirmed our ambition to complete the merger in readiness for February 1st 2017 and whilst we have much work to do to ensure the merger is implemented successfully for the benefit of our students, employers, the community and our staff, we believe that this exciting new partnership is the best way to achieve our goals.



Atholl Stott
Chair
RNN Group



Vicky Martin
Chair
Dearne Valley College

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Stott'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Martin'.

Executive Summary

The Corporations of Dearne Valley College and the RNN Group held a joint public consultation from 1st October to 31st October 2016 regarding the proposal to merge the two institutions to create a single organisation to serve the region.

A 24-page consultation document was produced entitled "Proposed Merger - Dearne Valley College and the RNN Group". The consultation document, which was widely circulated, set out the proposal for the merger and outlined the need for change and the benefits of the merger, as viewed by the governing bodies of the existing colleges. It outlined what the merged college would offer and the perceived benefits and impact of the merger. It also highlighted the potential risks associated with the merger and the steps being taken to mitigate the risks to ensure a successful transition into a new, larger single college.

This document outlines and analyses the responses received during the consultation period. It also clarifies and responds to issues raised and sets out the next steps in the process.

It should be read in conjunction with the original consultation document, which is referred to on a number of occasions and can be viewed online at:

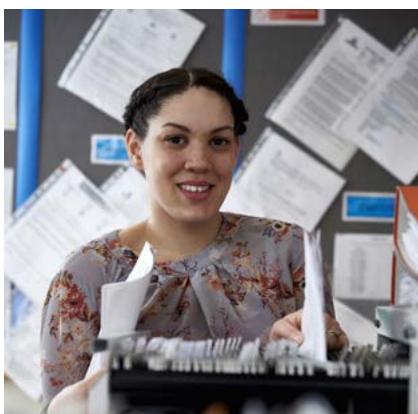
www.dearne-coll.ac.uk/merger and www.rnngroup.co.uk/merger

We received two written responses from individuals and organisations to our merger proposals, either by way of a letter, or by completing a standardised response form in writing. We also met individually with a number of key stakeholders, to understand their views.

We also offered the opportunity to attend a public Stakeholder Consultation Meeting which was held on 18th October at Dearne Valley College.

A majority of those who responded told us:

- **They believe the existing campus should continue to be called Dearne Valley College**
- **They believe the new group will help to widen the range of opportunities for students and expand our employer-focused provision and services**
- **They believe the new group will enable the sharing of good practice to further enhance the quality of learner and customer experience**
- **They support our aim of developing innovation and improving access to learning for the community**



Responses to Consultation Questions

1. Do you support the proposal for the merger of Dearne Valley College and the RNN Group?

1 respondent answered yes, the other respondent did not answer this question.

2. Do you support the proposal that, following the merger, the existing campus should continue to be called “Dearne Valley College”?

Both respondents supported this proposal.

3. The new group will plan to widen the range of opportunities for students and to expand our employer-focused provision and services. Do you support these aims?

1 respondent answered yes, the other respondent did not answer this question.

4. The new group will plan to share good practice across our campuses in order to further enhance the quality of learner and customer experience. Do you support this aim?

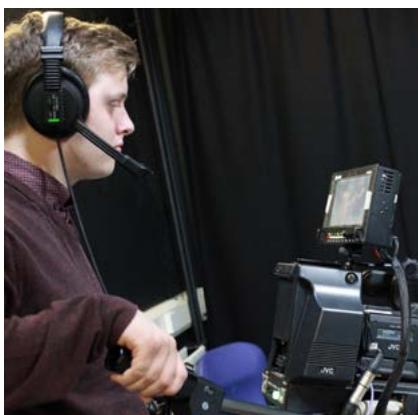
1 respondent answered yes, the other respondent did not answer this question.

5. The new group will focus on innovation, improve access to learning and provide opportunities for communities to come together. Do you support these aims?

1 respondent answered yes, the other respondent did not answer this question.

6. Do you think any group, including students and staff, would be adversely affected by the merger plans?

1 respondent answered no, the other respondent did not answer this question.



Responses to Issues Raised

How would the aim of providing more opportunities be achieved?

Providing more opportunities for students would be achieved by considering the breadth and depth of the curriculum offer alongside the labour market requirements to ensure that access to this improved, and investment is put into those areas that are important for expansion and moving to employment.

Sharing of Good Practice

This would be done throughout the organisation in a very structured approach initially to open up these challenges. The potential sharing across four campuses would be of great benefit but the mechanisms for this would be carefully explored and defined so that formal routes can be put in place which could also provide informal routes in the future.

Development – Management Development

With the increased capacity of a larger group, there is greater potential for Management Development and Leadership programmes to be introduced in the organisation which could assist succession planning as there are potentially more opportunities created for progression.

Teaching Qualifications

With regard to maintaining teaching qualifications for teaching staff the comments are noted. The group policies vary due to the nature of the different businesses within the group and so will be considered very carefully.

A number of other issues were raised which related to staff concerns, particularly in relation to the transfer of employments. These will be addressed through the formal consultation with staff and recognised Trades Unions, following the conclusion of the merger consultation.



The RNN Group



RNN Group Subsidiary Companies

