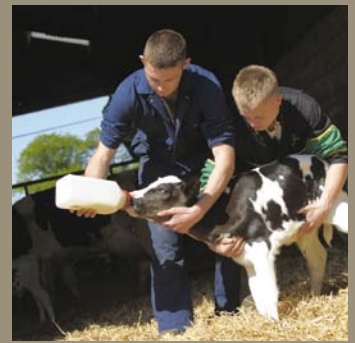


Landex

Land Based Colleges
Aspiring To Excellence



Annual Report 2009



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Chairman's introduction



The Further Education sector, including all our member colleges has experienced a rollercoaster ride during the past year. Many of us excited about our capital investment plans and the possible further development of excellent, industry leading specialist resources and facilities for our staff and students and the continuing increasing investment in further education and training. My how the climate can change in such a short period of time! Now the storm clouds are gathering and colleges facing a significant squeeze on future funding.

Other challenges we face include the implementation of "MoG" and the introduction of a new Common Inspection Framework. One thing that has been consistent during this period is the excellence of the service Landex has provided to its members both in quality enhancement and development under Graham Patrick's lead and in influencing key policymakers.

The Landex Annual General Meeting and Autumn Conference was a prime example of how we work with and influence decision makers. David Willetts, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation Universities and Skills, Jim Fitzpatrick Minister of State for Food Farming and the Environment, Peter Lauener the new Chief Executive of the YPLA and Dr David Collins, Chief Executive of LSIS all addressed the conference and responded to probing and challenging questions.

I would like to thank our Chief Executive Vic Crosson and my fellow Board members for their tremendous work in leading Landex and for their willingness to commit so much time and effort into meetings with MP's, Ministers and civil servants for the benefit of our Colleges and most importantly our learners and the industries we serve.

Meredydd David OBE
Chair of Landex

Our colleges

- Share a passion for delivering land based courses that lead to employment and/or enhanced use of leisure time.
- Use a multi-million pound resource that includes over 12,000 hectares of agricultural land, woodland, water and gardens together with state of the art learning and commercial technology to provide real working environments in which to teach and learn.
- Offer a curriculum stretching from new diplomas for 14 year olds through to post graduate study in a huge range of land-based and other subjects including agriculture, horticulture, food processing, engineering, construction, animal management, countryside management.
- Deliver 85% of publicly funded Further Education and 70% of all Higher Education in land based subjects in England.
- Support rural innovation, business incubation, growth and development as well as managing work based learning and bespoke training and continuous professional development for many businesses and their work forces.
- Provide residential provision for a wide range of learners together with the associated social and support services.
- Meet local, regional, national and international market demands for land-based education and training.
- Engage with schools by supporting all stages of the national curriculum, including commitment to the Think Food and Farming and leading many consortia that are delivering the Environment and Land-based new Diploma.
- Participate in a wide range of commercial and education partnerships and delivery contracts including many with world class companies and leading commercial and voluntary sector organizations.
- Enjoy the support of employers and industry bodies and engage them in a wide range of college activity such as governors on College Boards and course monitoring and development.
- Transfer knowledge, through applied research and field trial activity, to staff, students and businesses.
- Respond to the implications that climate change has upon the land use and management agenda through curriculum design, operational activity and industry partnerships.
- Stage many events and open days for the general public and those aspiring to careers in the land based industries.

Our members

Landex continues to grow.

Thirty-four colleges are full members in England with 8 associate members in the devolved countries.

These are all listed on page 14.

In England, 5 member colleges are in the Higher Education sector, 16 are specialist land based colleges and 13 are General Further Education colleges that have at some stage merged with a specialist land based college.

All aspire to match the clear criteria for membership that underpin the ability of Landex Colleges to deliver high quality learning experiences to learners and services to the industries we serve.



Did you know?

Staff from Landex member colleges are frequently regarded as leaders in their field. For example,

John Collins, Moulton's Director of basket ball, received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Herefordshire College of Technology lecturer Jean Bartley won a STAR award in the 2008 awards as 'Teaching, training and learning practitioner'.

Northumberland college equine lecturer has been nominated for preliminary stages of Olympic selection.



Our core purposes

The Landex mission is to represent member colleges and work with their staff to enhance the quality of teaching and learning, helping them to aspire to excellence in all that they do to meet the needs of learners and land-based industries.

During this third full year of the company, we have stuck to our mission and successfully delivered our core purposes (highlighted below) by:

- **Maintaining and enhancing effective dialogue with industry, government departments, funding bodies and other agencies and organisations including close contacts with:** Lantra: Learning and Skills Council; Learning and Skills Improvement Service, DEFRA, DCFS and DIUS and more recently, BIS; Single Voice for self regulation in FE; National Improvement Partnership Board; Farming and Countryside Education; Royal Agricultural Society of England; National Farmers Union; Institute of Horticulture; Equine Industry Forum, AgriSkills Forum and GreenSpace.
- **Helping others understand the unique set of issues that impact on the ability of members to work effectively together by explaining and promoting the work of member colleges** to all the organisations listed above and by responding to questionnaires and consultations. In particular, we have been proactive in lobbying on matters related to the Machinery of Government changes, discretionary Learner Support Funding and changes to the funding and accreditation of qualifications.
- **Ensuring achievement of defined quality criteria within member colleges** through robust self regulation and support of continuing improvement processes that have included visits to member colleges and continuous professional development events involving member college staff. A review of the Quality Improvement Strategy (QIS) has been undertaken, significant changes, including the concept of "From Grey to Green", were the subject of a consultation process culminating in its adoption in November.
- **Supporting and promoting member colleges individually and collectively in achieving success** through the implementation of the QIS and by increasing the capacity of Landex to provide more and better services to members. In particular, we have appointed two additional Quality Advisers and agreed a contract with GuildHE for the supply of professional services in relation to higher education provision. We have also established a new Finance and Funding Directors Group.



Did you know?

Students from Landex member colleges regularly enter, and win, competitions relevant to their vocation? For example, during the past year:

Moulton College students had success in roof slating and cabinet making in the regional final of 'SkillBuild' and Arboriculture students won the UK Student tree climbing competition.

Landex college students won bronze awards as part of Team UK at the WorldSkills competition at Calgary including a South Staffordshire College student winning for Beauty Therapy, and an Otley student for Landscape Gardening.

A design by part time horticulture students from Newton Rigg, "Pottering in North Cumbria" won a silver medal in the Chelsea Flower show.

Bishop Burton College Apprentices won City and Guilds Medals for Excellence as part of their work in Agriculture and Land-based service engineering.

A Chichester College student won gold in the national final of the BALI landscaping competition.

An Oaklands College Floristry student won the UK skills challenge.

Sparsholt student and staff became the world foot lock record holder at the ISA Tree Climbing Championships.



Key issues and activities

In line with our growth, Landex has increased its capacity and developed its reputation. We have engaged more closely with a greater range of organisations. In particular we have sought to influence the:

- Impact of the machinery of government changes, particularly the re-routing of funding through local authorities. We alerted legislators to the fact that most of our colleges recruit learners from many (often over 100) local authorities because of the specialist nature of their provision. The importance of the principle of funding following the learner was secured.
- Consultation on discretionary Learner Support Funding (dLSF) and the issue of providing, and meeting the costs of, student transport. We facilitated a visit by managers with policy responsibility in this area to Sparsholt College and provided an opportunity for them to talk directly with students who depend on support from dLSF in order to study and to see for themselves the kind of residential and transport arrangements that are typical of most Landex colleges.
- Direction and content of the Agri-Skills Forum strategy, called "Towards a new professionalism" presented to Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Food, Farming and the Environment on 24 November 2009.
- Development of the concept of a professional body for agriculture by working with the Institute of Agricultural Management and others.
- The call from LSIS for provider representative bodies to be more active in supplying quality improvement services to the FE sector and subsequently submitting a successful bid to provide 'SWOT' type visit to colleges that are mid-way between Ofsted inspections. This will entail an application of the principles of peer review that have been central to the Landex model of quality improvement.
- Level of funding for the type of provision that is typical for Landex colleges that is high cost and dependent on expensive resources.

Quality improvement



2009 has been another year of progress towards achieving the goal of good quality being achieved and seen in all member colleges.

Landex has continued to utilise peer review as an effective way of sharing practice and forming shared views of standards required. We are grateful to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) for continued funding to support this activity. The programme of peer review visits in 2008/09 has benefited from increased participation from managers from the different colleges indicating the value placed on the process by members.

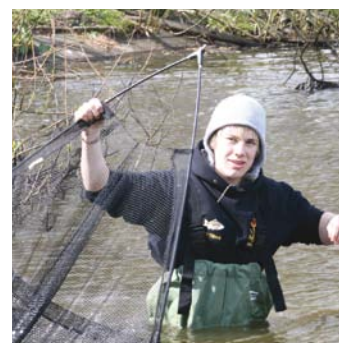
Our programme of continuous professional development has engaged managers, senior managers, governors, wardens of residential provision, staff responsible for both further and higher education work. In all cases, we have focussed on what it means to provide quality to our customers.

More detailed benchmarking data on course success rates has been collected, collated, and shared between members. With more colleges now offering to share their data with the wider membership; this benchmarking data is starting to be used more effectively in member colleges own assessments of their provision.

A particular focus this year, however, has been on our progress in recognising the distance that we need to travel in supporting all members towards our quality goals in "aspiring to excellence".

Landex now has five of its member colleges rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted in its second cycle of inspection. Most have improved their Ofsted inspection position overall in comparison with their previous inspection. Almost all members who have received a review of their higher education provision have received a judgement of confidence in its quality. We have also recognised the challenges of delivering high quality further education in a higher education institution.

However, a few members with further education provision have struggled to achieve Ofsted ratings which they and Landex would wish. This is not a situation unique to Landex colleges and each is now working hard to make improvements using external agencies and Landex, including where appropriate, support directly from other member colleges. This is forming a significant test of our collective capacity for improvement, and while the challenges will not be underestimated, support is beginning to show improvement with one member already having demonstrated improvement on its original inspection ratings.



From grey to green

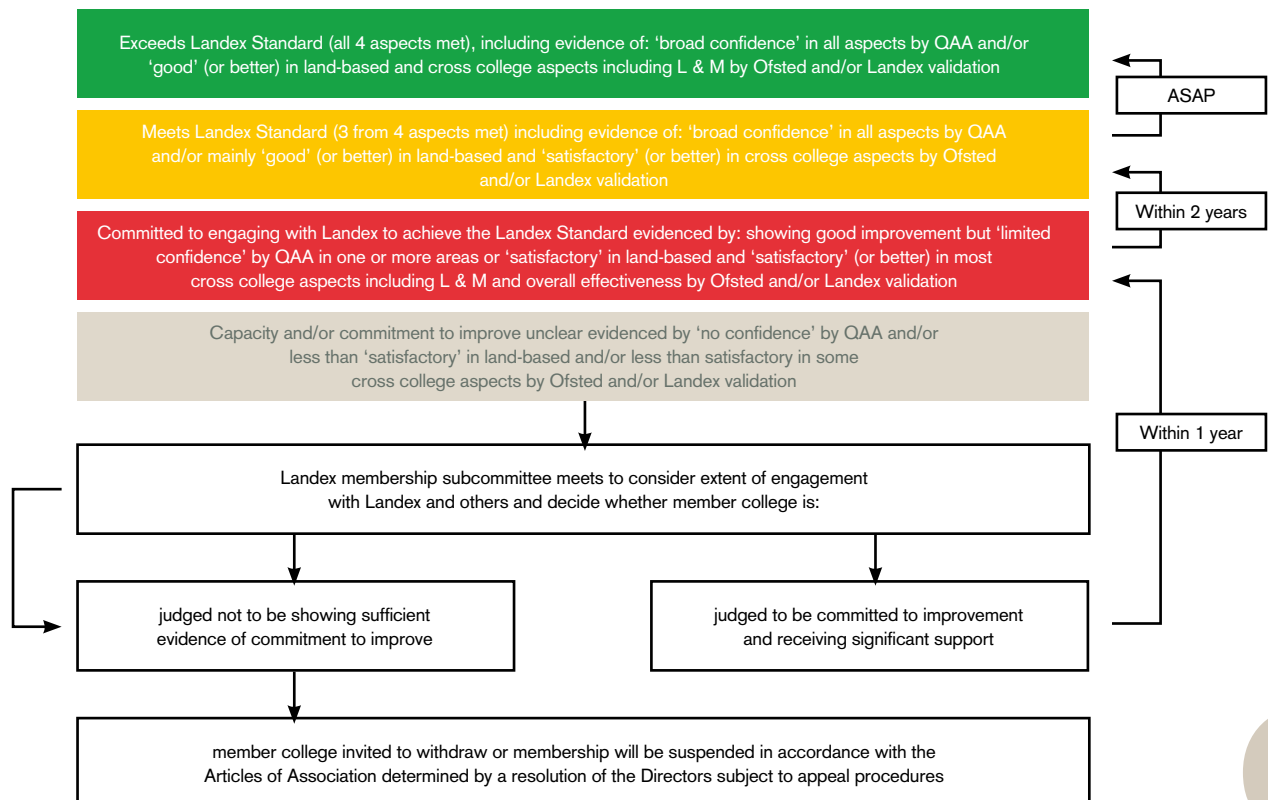
During 2009, discussions, consultations and considered debate took place to move the Landex Quality Improvement Strategy forward and develop it in a way which would accelerate the pace towards a position where colleges entitled to use the Landex logo could be identified with high quality provision in all its manifestations. The ambition is to be increasingly true to our strap-line: Landbased colleges aspiring to excellence.

This suggested a need for greater clarity and rigour in terms of our structures and processes. This Landex debate coincided with two other important debates in the wider world of government and further education. The analysis in the Cabinet Office publication Excellence and Fairness (August 2008) argued that the time was right for a switch from a compliance-based approach to performance management to a more self-motivated and professionalised one. The underlining implication was that whilst the former approach was producing some 'good' results, to become 'great' there is a need to move to the latter position in terms of public service delivery in particular.

This was picked up and explored in detail through a series of Learning and Skills Improvement Service seminars as it looked at Self-regulation – shifting the paradigm during the Spring of 2009.

The Landex response resulted in the development of our own version of moving from good to great called from Grey to Green described in the following diagram. It provides a framework for both greater self-regulation and improvement. It is designed to be used as a tool to enable individual colleges to monitor their own journey in terms of improving the quality of what they do in relation to the criteria which Landex member colleges have collectively agreed are most relevant to them and the services they provide to learners and their industries. It is not intended that this should be used to colour code or rank colleges in terms of their current position on that journey. This information will remain confidential to the College and the small sub-committee of the Landex Board that meets annually to determine the extent to which member colleges are continuing to conform to membership criteria. It is intended that this will indeed accelerate the speed of the journey to excellence for all Landex Colleges.

A self-improvement/regulation model



Climate change

A number of individuals and organisations, including the new Department for Business, Universities and Skills have asked "what are land-based colleges doing about climate change". More specifically, "what is the college contribution to preparing those entering the agricultural industries for climate change?"

Landex has dedicated two of its ongoing series of continuous professional development events to the wider topic of "Sustainability". Our Director of Quality Improvement has routinely collected data about how Landex colleges are responding to the challenges associated with these issues since 2007. A specific call for information and evidence on Landex college activity in response to climate change in June 2009 produced a number of cameos that reflect current activity.

Data collected from that activity are recorded in a briefing paper (available on request). It suggests that although individually colleges are doing a significant amount of work in responding to climate change, there is a great deal more that could be done given additional resources and a stronger steer from government.

A few of the cameos follow:

Hartpury's significant outward-facing climate change responses:

1. ESF funded South West Enabling Environmental Technologies project. Working with Summitskills, the lead SSC on ET, and Awarding Bodies to co-author 12 of 64 units on QCF leading to 6 groups of awards for awareness or technical competence at Level 3 & 4. Delivering accredited and certified awareness and ET competence training to 550 individuals in West of England sub-region by December 2010.

2. Preparing ERDF Business Plan for SWRDA SW FE Knowledge Exchange Pilots with Gloucestershire College for SW & Gloucestershire Low Carbon Economy final stage bid. Focus on business engagement and innovation for built environment, engineering, manufacturing and agrifood sectors.

3. RDPE Innovation Fund for SW Agricultural Resource Management, EoI accepted for on-farm AD and for knowledge transfer activities to cascade best practice on AD and associated on-farm nutrient management.

Andrew M. Callard, Business Development Director, Hartpury College, Gloucestershire.



At Warwickshire College we have a policy regarding Sustainability. The Policy clearly identifies the roles and responsibilities of each member of the College Community with regards to working towards sustainability. Within the Policy we are addressing our environmental performance to reduce our reliance on non-renewable energy and our use of finite resources.

So far we have significantly reduced our energy consumption, we have reduced our waste and increased recycling and we have created sustainable drainage systems to use grey water where ever appropriate to reduce or water consumption. As a land-based College we have also engaged in good environmental practice in the farm and the horse unit regarding the use of agro-chemicals, feed and bedding materials thus reducing further our reliance of non-renewable resources.

Dr Diane Whitehouse, Programme Manager, Agriculture, Countryside & Equine, Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell.

Stop press!

Warwickshire College came first in the colleges and universities category of the Green Gown Awards 23 June 2009. They also received the 'Best in Show' award for the submission that was the best of entries for all categories. See: <http://www.eauc.org.uk/results>

Company information



Directors

Mr Andrew Counsell
Mr Meredydd David OBE
Mrs Jeanette Dawson
Mr Desmond Lambert
Mr Paul Hannan
Professor Wynne Jones OBE (to November 2009)
Dr David Llewellyn (from November 2009)
Mr David Henley
Mr David Lawrence
Mr Christopher Moody OBE (to November 2009)
Mr Malcolm Wharton (from November 2009)
Mr Timothy Jackson
Mrs Ann Turner
Professor David Butcher
Mr Andrew Tyley

Secretary

David Henley

Treasurer

David Lawrence

Company number

5803104

Registered office

Bicton College
East Budleigh
Budleigh Salterton
Devon, EX9 7BY

Accountants

Larking Gowen
King Street House
15 Upper King Street
Norwich
Norfolk, NR3 1RB

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
Leicester Central Group
Leicester, LE87 2BB

Treasurer's report

For the year ending 31 August 2009

It is a pleasure to present the accounts for Landex for the financial year ended 31st August 2009. This year has been strongly focussed on the development of our quality improvement and assurance activity for which we received generous grant support from the Learning and Skills Improvement Service.

This work has absorbed much officer time and budgetary provision was made to increase the paid officer support to the membership in respect of quality improvement work in the form of two part time appointments. These appointments were made late in the financial year and will result in both a significant increase in activity and expense in the next financial year against grant income and reserves.

Landex had a total income of some £246,330 and a total expenditure of £243,612. After corporation tax of £250 the surplus carried forward to reserves was £3,660. Total income increased by some 27% on the previous year with expenses increasing in proportion to the increase in expenditure.

Landex has again performed better than in our original budget for the following reasons:

We have secured more Full and Associate members than forecast.

We have undertaken more CPD events than originally planned with income from these events (and conferences) at £25,215 when compared to a budget of £17,500 for the year. This activity continues to make a modest contribution to the running costs of Landex, generating a margin of £5,137 in comparison to a budgeted margin of £4,500. This margin is considerably lower than the previous year as cost to colleges for CPD events has been kept to recovering the direct costs of events.

Landex are again grateful for the contribution towards its costs from NFU Mutual Insurance.

It should be noted that Landex has exempt status for VAT.

I congratulate our Executive Director and Director of Quality Improvement for the very effective way they have increased Landex activity without undermining its financial security.


The accounts have been reviewed by Larking Gowen and an extract from their report follows.

David Lawrence
Honorary Treasurer

Profit and loss account

For the year ending 31 August 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
Turnover	246,330	193,662
Expenses	(243,612)	(193,662)
Operating profit	2,718	-
Other interest receivable and similar income	1,192	6,236
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	3,910	6,236
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	(250)	(1,256)
Profit for the year	3,660	4,980

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a white lab coat and tan boots, is smiling and petting a white chicken with a red comb. She is in a farm setting with other chickens and a building in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Did you know?

Member colleges are working hard, not just to develop learners subject skills, but also to promote their health and well being. For example:

Several, such as BCA and Pershore, have 'traffic light' indicators in their refectories to help students understand readily how healthy their possible meal options are.

At the Brinsbury Campus of Chichester College, tea and toast is on offer for school pupils on arrival for those who arrive without breakfast.

At Capel Manor, 'Team Capel' encourages volunteering and a heightened sense of responsibility for fellow students and community.

At Wilshire, their 'Community Campus' programme has enabled the college to receive the WCC 'Health College' status.

Member colleges



Askham Bryan College
Berkshire College of Agriculture
Bicton College
Bishop Burton College
Brooksby Melton College
Bridgwater College (Cannington)
Capel Manor College
Chichester College (Brinsbury)
College of West Anglia
Derby College
Duchy College
Easton College
Hadlow College
Harper Adams University College
Hartpury College
Herefordshire College of Technology (Holme Lacy)
Kingston Maurward College
Moulton College
Myerscough College
Northumberland College (Kirkley Hall)
Oaklands College
Otley College
Plumpton College
Reaseheath College
South Staffordshire College
The Royal Agricultural College
Sparsholt College
University of Lincoln
University of Cumbria (Newton Rigg)
Walford and North Shropshire
Warwickshire College (Moreton Morrell & Pershore)
Wiltshire College (Lackham)
Writtle College

www.askham-bryan.ac.uk
www.bca.ac.uk
www.bicton.ac.uk
www.bishopburton.ac.uk
www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk
www.bridgwater.ac.uk
www.capel.ac.uk
www.chichester.ac.uk
www.col-westanglia.ac.uk
www.derby-college.ac.uk
www.duchy.ac.uk
www.easton-college.ac.uk
www.hadlow.ac.uk
www.harper-adams.ac.uk
www.hartpury.ac.uk
www.hct.ac.uk
www.kmc.ac.uk
www.moulton.ac.uk
www.myerscough.ac.uk
www.northland.ac.uk
www.oaklands.ac.uk
www.otleycollege.ac.uk
www.plumpton.ac.uk
www.reaseheath.ac.uk
www.rodbaston.ac.uk
www.royagcol.ac.uk
www.sparsholt.ac.uk
www.lincoln.ac.uk
www.cumbria.ac.uk
www.wnsc.ac.uk
www.warkscol.ac.uk
www.wiltscoll.ac.uk
www.writtle.ac.uk

Associate Colleges

Barony College
Bridgend College (Pencoed)
Coleg Gwent (Usk)
Coleg sir gar
CAFRE (Greenmount, Loughry & Enniskillen)
Llysfasi College
Oatridge College
Welsh College of Horticulture*

www.barony.ac.uk
www.bridgend.ac.uk
www.coleggwent.ac.uk
www.colegsirgar.ac.uk
www.cafre.ac.uk
www.llysfasi.ac.uk
www.oatridge.ac.uk
www.wcoh.ac.uk

Note:

Bedford College (Shuttleworth)
joined Landex November 2009

www.shuttleworth.ac.uk

* now: **Deeside College**

www.deeside.ac.uk

Key contacts

Chairman

Meredydd David OBE
Reaseheath College

Vice Chairman

Paul Hannan
Hadlow College

Company Secretary

David Henley
Bicton College

Treasurer

David Lawrence
Easton College

Chief Executive

Vic Croxson, DL
Tel: 07876 488336
Email: vic.croxson@btinternet.com

Director of Quality Improvement

Graham Patrick
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Associate Consultants

Howard Petch, CBE
Professor Wynne Jones OBE

Website

www.landex.org.uk

Photographs courtesy of

Warwickshire College
Riseholme College
Myerscough College
Capel Manor College
Reaseheath College
Sparsholt College



Did you know?

Students from Landex colleges frequently progress and attain very highly in their chosen careers. For example:

A student from Walford and North Shropshire College who started on an Entry to Employment course, progressed through an apprenticeship, and, now aged 22, has won a Gold Medal at Chelsea Flower show for RHS young Chelsea Florist of the Year.

Derby College encourages current learners by publishing information about previous students and the roles they have gone on to undertake.

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www.landex.org.uk