



Landex

Land Based Colleges
Aspiring To Excellence

ANNUAL REPORT

2007

Introduction



Welcome to the first annual report of Landex – Land Based Colleges Aspiring to Excellence. Landex was established as a company limited by guarantee in May 2006. The members of the company have formed an association of Further and Higher Education Institutions with specialist provision in land based and related subjects. In its first year, the Company has exceeded its membership target and started to make a real impact.

Our Spring Conference attracted first class speakers and was an inspiring occasion reflecting the positive approach to change which has become a Landex hallmark.

Among our key successes have been asserting effective influence upon the changes to residential bursaries and to the funding of specialist colleges. Links with Lantra,

the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land-based industries, are stronger than ever and further work is planned to build on the better understanding that now exists. I thank the officers and directors for their efforts, and all the members for their support.

I particularly want to thank our retiring Chief Executive, Howard Petch. The tremendous, better than anticipated, initial performance of Landex is due largely to his outstanding leadership and dedicated service. We wish him well in his retirement as Landex continues to address the substantial challenges that lie ahead by building upon the strong foundations that he has established.

Chris Moody
Chairman



The Membership

This currently comprises 30 colleges in England with 8 associate members in the devolved countries. To varying extents members serve local, regional, national and international markets. Of the England member colleges 3 are in the HE sector, 16 are specialist land based colleges and 11 are General FE colleges having at some stage merged with a specialist land based college but continuing to meet the level of quality and quantity of provision agreed with Landex. Several of these colleges are also members of the 157 Group or the ELITE Consortium.

Member colleges:

- Have a passion for delivering land based provision
- Meet minimum quantitative and qualitative membership criteria
- Have a multi million pound collective resource that includes over 12000 hectares of agricultural land, woodland, water and gardens together with state of the art learning and commercial technology
- Offer a curriculum stretching from pre-entry through to post graduate study in a huge range of land based and related subjects
- Deliver very high proportions of land based Further Education and almost 60% of all Higher Education in land based subjects
- Deliver substantial proportions of work based learning for the sector as well as bespoke training for many businesses and their work forces. This includes support for rural innovation, business incubation, growth and development
- Operate residential provision for a wide range of learners together with the associated social and support services
- Service to varying extents local, regional, national and international markets
- Engage with schools by supporting all stages of the national curriculum, including commitment to the Education Year of Food & Farming
- Engage 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.
- Engage with employers and industry bodies through all aspects of provision and college activity
- Deliver research and field trial activity to compliment the learning process
- Respond to the implications that climate change has upon the land use and management agenda through curriculum design, operational activity and industry partnerships
- Staged many events and open days for the general public and those aspiring to careers in the land based industries

The Purpose of Landex

Landex is a member funded company that seeks to add value for member colleges and consequently enhance the collective quality of service and provision to learners and land based industries. It endeavours to achieve this through:

- **Communication:** to ensure effective dialogue with industry, government departments, funding bodies and a range of other agencies and organizations.
- **Representation:** to help others understand the unique set of issues that impact on the ability of members to work effectively.
- **Quality Assurance:** to ensure achievement of defined quality criteria within member colleges through robust self regulation and support of the continuing improvement process
- **Reputation and Credibility:** to support and promote member colleges individually and collectively in achieving success

Key Issues in 2007

Strategic and operational issues addressed during the last year include:

- Implications of changes to the LSC funding methodology
- Procedures for the introduction of residential bursary entitlement
- Consultation on the development of the Environment and Land Based Diploma
- Active participation in the Sector Skills Council (Lantra) Sector Learning Partnership
- Strategic discussions with Lantra on issues relating to collection and monitoring of data and effective engagement with providers
- Representation on a wide range of industry and curriculum groups
- Active representation on the HEFCE Land Based Studies Review Management Group
- Establishing the Landex HE Forum
- Consideration of a wide range of FE curriculum issues
- Active participation on the preparation and launch of the Education Year of Food and Farming
- Participation through QIA in the Peer Referencing Pilot project
- Membership of the QIA National Improvement Partnership Board and active participation in the Support for Excellence programme
- Consulted on LSC regional reviews of land based provision
- Engagement with the Self Regulation Implementation Group as a partner representative body
- Promotional activity including a press launch at the AoC conference, a sponsor of the annual NFU conference and staging a joint careers exhibit with Lantra at the Royal Show





Supporting Improvement

Landex has embarked on an ambitious programme of continual quality improvement and self regulation. During the first year in support of this aspiration Landex has:

- Recruited a Director of Quality Improvement
- Formulated and agreed a Quality Improvement Strategy (QIS)
- Established standards with a view to ensuring that ultimately all colleges displaying the Landex logo are providing at least good quality provision
- Agreed a two tier validation process for member colleges incorporating a 'lighter touch' for those with existing 'good' or better ratings from external inspection. This already includes just over half the membership.
- Agreed initial criteria for Higher Education Institutions in membership, where most provision attracts at least a 'broadly confident' rating from QAA review teams
- Introduced a system of peer review and development of provision within the membership
- Provided in house support for member colleges including preparation for inspection
- Delivered a programme of Continual Professional Development for member colleges (see side panel)
- Established enhanced communications between members through e mail networks for particular roles and interest groups
- Started to implement the Quality Improvement Strategy
- Started a process that seeks to recognize quality in all aspects of college activity beyond that covered by external inspection.
- Started to collect information and data that will enhance capacity to 'benchmark' performance within the membership

Professional Development

In support of the improvement process Landex has staged:

- **Enhancing the Residential Experience:** A programme for senior wardens
- **Agenda for Success: Quality Assurance issues for principals and senior personnel**
- **Improving Work Based Learning: WBL Managers**
- **Sustainable Colleges: Challenge of sustainability in the curriculum and operational management**
- **Monitoring Teaching & Learning: Achieving consistent standards in the class room**
- **Annual Spring Conference: Inputs from industry and education leaders**

Recent Quality Grades

Table 1

Average grades awarded in cycle one Ofsted inspections (2001-2005) for land based provision.

1=Outstanding

3=Satisfactory

5=Poor

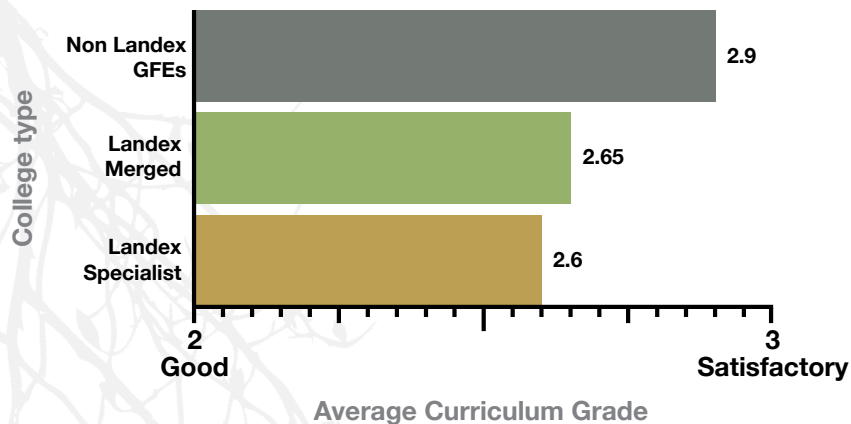


Table 2

Average grades awarded to colleges where land based provision was inspected in cycle one Ofsted inspections for Leadership and Management.

1=Outstanding

3=Satisfactory

5= Poor

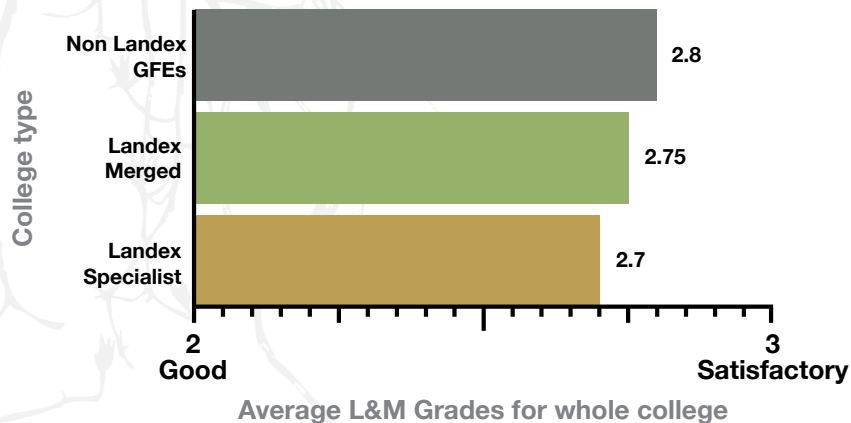


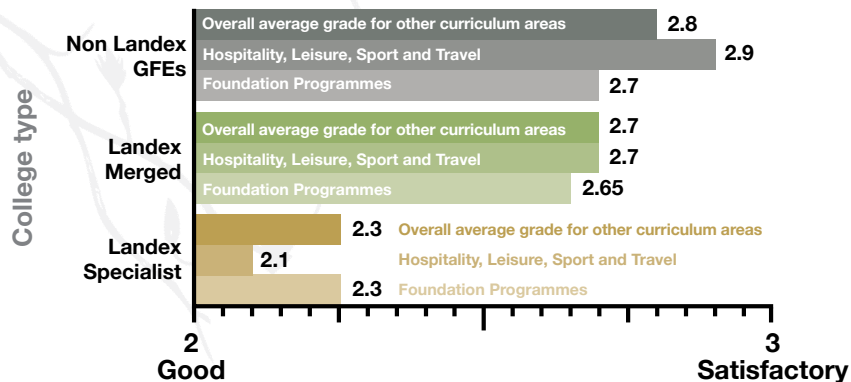
Table 3

Average grades awarded during cycle one Ofsted inspections for other curriculum grades in colleges where land based was inspected.

1=Outstanding

3=Satisfactory

5=Poor



NOTE: THE LANDEX COLLEGE TYPE ALSO INCLUDES FORMER NAPAE0 MEMBER COLLEGES

Immediate Challenges.

For such a young company there is bound to be much still to achieve. In terms of quality Landex will work towards:

- Ensuring quality grades for land based and cross college aspects of members work are at least good
- Further improvement in the quality of work based learning in land based subjects
- Greater rigour and consistency in member self assessment and other quality assurance processes
- Continual review of membership criteria to reflect the aspirations for Landex members
- Work with associate members in devolved countries to ensure Landex membership has a consistent quality implication.

Treasurer's Report

FOR PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2007

It is a pleasure to be able to present accounts for the initial period of operation.

This year marks a significant departure from earlier years with the funding of both the Chief Executive and the Director of Quality Improvement.

Landex has a total income of some £200,417 (excluding a balance of £92,230 transferred from NAPAE0) and total expenses of £170,549. After corporation tax of £567, the surplus carried forward to reserves was £122,531.

Landex has performed better than our initial budget for this first period primarily for the following reasons.

- We have secured more members than we anticipated in our original forecast.
- We have undertaken a great deal more Conference/CFD Event work than carried out previously or

budgeted for. This has created a net contribution of £11,224.

- Staff costs for the Director of Quality Improvement were lower than forecast due to a later start date than anticipated in the budget.

It should be noted that Landex gained exempt status for VAT from Revenue and Customs before the operation of the new company and therefore all VAT was accounted for in the final year of NAPAE0's operation.

I congratulate both Howard and Graham for the effective way they have handled the many CPD activities, both in terms of the financial contribution these have made, but more importantly the vast increased level of CPD activity available to members.

The accounts have been reviewed as in the past by Larking Gowen.

Detailed trading and profit and loss account

FOR PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2007

	Period ended 31 August 2007 £
Turnover	
Subscriptions - Members	142,798
Subscriptions - Associates	3,800
Other contributions (NFU)	5,000
AoC subscriptions	6,809
Conferences and events	39,111

	197,518
Administrative expenses	(170,549)

	26,969
Other operating income	
Balance transferred from NAPAE0	93,230

Operating profit	120,199
Other interest receivable and similar income	
Bank interest received	2,899

Profit before taxation	123,098

Member Colleges

Askham Bryan College

www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

Berkshire College of Agriculture

www.bca.ac.uk

Bicton College

www.bicton.ac.uk

Bishop Burton College

www.bishopburton.ac.uk

Brooksby Melton College

www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk

Capel Manor College

www.capel.ac.uk

Chichester (Brinsbury) College

www.chichester.ac.uk/general/brinsbury.htm

College of West Anglia

www.col-westanglia.ac.uk

Derby College

www.derby-college.ac.uk

Duchy College

www.duchy.ac.uk

Easton College

www.easton-college.ac.uk

Hadlow College

www.hadlow.ac.uk

Harper Adams University College

www.harper-adams.ac.uk

Hartpury College

www.hartpury.ac.uk

Herefordshire College of Technology

(Holme Lacy)
www.hct.ac.uk

Kingston Maurward College

www.kmc.ac.uk

Moulton College

www.moulton.ac.uk

Myerscough College

www.myerscough.ac.uk

Northumberland College (Kirkley Hall)

www.northland.ac.uk

Oaklands College

www.oaklands.ac.uk

Otley College

www.otleycollege.ac.uk

Warwickshire (Pershore Campus)

www.warkscol.ac.uk

Plumpton College

www.plumpton.ac.uk

Reaseheath College

www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Rodbaston College

www.rodbaston.ac.uk

Sparsholt College

www.sparsholt.ac.uk

University of Lincoln

www.lincoln.ac.uk

Walford and North Shropshire

www.wnsc.ac.uk

Warwickshire (Moreton Morrell) College

www.warkscol.ac.uk

Wiltshire (Lackham) College

www.wiltscoll.ac.uk

Writtle College

www.writtle.ac.uk

Associate Colleges

Barony College

www.barony.ac.uk

Coleg Gwent (Usk)

www.coleggwent.ac.uk

Coleg sir gar

www.colegsirgar.ac.uk

DARNI (3 Colleges)

www.cafre.ac.uk

Llysfasi College

www.llysfasi.ac.uk

Oatridge College

www.oatridge.ac.uk

Pencoed College

www.bridgend.ac.uk

Welsh College of Horticulture

www.wcoh.ac.uk

Key Contacts

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Moulton College

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Meredydd David

Reaseheath College

COMPANY SECRETARY

David Henley

Kingston Maurward College

TREASURER

David Lawrence

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