

Autumn Update

Autumn 2016

Introduction and Welcome

Dear All,




This update has been produced for staff members of Landex Colleges/Universities who are Members/Guarantors of the new National Land Based College (NLBC). We are keen to inform you on the progress and development of the new organisation that you are supporting and intend to establish regular communications with you. We would also like you to know that NLBC will be a collaborator and an advocate for all of its Guarantors/Members.

We are coming to the end of the initial 'set-up phase' and beyond the actual logistics of setting up the NLBC, the initial six months have been focused on wider networking across land based industries and two key initial work objectives that will hopefully benefit all of our Landex members; 1) working with City & Guilds to ensure that the new Technical Qualifications are 'fit for purpose' and; 2) drawing up plans for a Land Based Registration Scheme, which will provide a mechanism to connect all those in the land based sector.

The vision is that NLBC will be the hub that drives synergies, collaboration and strengthens links with our component industries. To help enable this, Landex and City & Guilds have both provided significant initial investment, the latter via the NPTC Charitable Trust Fund. Individual Landex member colleges have also provided further subscription funding, which we are very grateful for. On an ongoing basis NLBC will receive a % of all income from C&G land based qualifications delivered.

If you have any questions relating to any of the topics discussed in this issue or if you have any feedback you would like to provide in relation to this newsletter please email enquiries@nlbc.uk.

Cheers,



Leigh Morris
Chief Executive

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Logistics and Set-Up

Our CEO, Leigh Morris, started in post on April 4th, based with Landex at the University of Northampton. The initial focus was organising the NLBC launch event, which was held at the House of Lords on May 10th. 130 people attended, including George Eustice, Minister of State, Defra, who formally opened NLBC.

We aim to be an 'employer led organisation' and so the intention has always been to base NLBC in the heart of the land based industries network at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire, alongside organisations such as, AHDB, BALI, Lantra, NFU and others. We moved into our new serviced offices at the Rural Innovation Centre (RIC) at the start of September.

Another key objective was the recruitment of core staff. Jo Cummins commenced her role as Personal Assistant to Leigh and NLBC Administrator on September 5th and Sarah Purdell has been appointed as Programme Development Manager, joining the NLBC team on November 7th. The next planned recruitment will be to appointment a Digital Manager later in 2016.



A photo taken at the NLBC launch event. From the left, Chris Moody (CEO, Landex), Leigh Morris (CEO, NLBC), Minister of State George Eustice, Kirstie Donnelly (CEO City & Guilds) and Lord Curry of Kirkharle.



RIC Stoneleigh Park.

Digital Communications

NLBC has been established as a 'virtual college'. On-line learning and digital communication, in all its forms, will be extremely important for us. [RedPaint Multimedia](#) produced our initial www.nlbc.uk website and are currently developing the full site for launch later in 2016.

The vision is that the NLBC website will become the 'one stop shop for information on training, education and land based careers'. As an NLBC guarantor institution, we are aiming to give your organisation a high profile on the new NLBC website and also our social media channels.

Our wider digital communications are expanding through Twitter, LinkedIn and our website blog. We are extremely keen that you link, share and also promote NLBC via your own digital communication channels. We have developed our [NLBC Brand Guidelines](#) to help facilitate this.

Wider Networking



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Our CEO, Leigh Morris, has visited a number of Landex members already and NLBC are keen to meet you all over the coming months to answer your queries and see how we can work with and better support your institutions. In our 'hub and spoke' model, we are excited about the potential to link with Landex members as hosts for NLBC co-branded training and education programmes.

Positive discussions have already taken place with a number of organisations, there is much enthusiasm from industry and NLBC have already been invited to join some important industry groups, including; AgriSkills Forum, AHDB Skills Group, Horticulture Trailblazer Apprenticeships Steering Group, Forestry Learning & Development Working Group and the Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable Employment Working Group. We see these links being mission critical for NLBC in creating the qualifications the sector needs.

City & Guilds Partnership



In 2015 NLBC's development Board tendered for an awarding body partner to work with us, City & Guilds (C&G) were appointed and a Joint Services Agreement (JSA) was signed earlier this year. We are delighted to be working with C&G who, through NPTC, have very strong and proud historical links with the land based industry.

We are excited at the potential of our partnership, particularly the ability to utilise the excellent C&G digital tools and wider vocational training expertise. We share a common vision of championing skills through a diverse range of high quality courses and qualifications designed to benefit a host of career paths and together we aim to deliver a suite of superior qualifications for use in the existing independent and merged land based colleges, which meet the NLBC Centre Awarding Criteria (full details to be made available by end of 2016).

In recent months, NLBC has been working with C&G and representatives from Landex member institutions on the final development of the new Level 2 and Level 3 Technical Qualifications. There has been much discussion around the proposed assessment methodology and following additional meetings the format was agreed. Submission of the new Level 2 Technical Qualifications has been extended until December to enable the development of the agreed assessment approach and a meeting to review the assessment of the new Level 3 Technical Qualifications is scheduled for October 2016.

Going forward, it is a role of NLBC to ensure that the right people from Landex members and industry are involved in strategic planning, qualification writing and industry liaison. In simple terms NLBC will aim to ensure that the right people are around the right tables to create the qualifications and delivery tools required. Landex members support will be needed at all levels to achieve this and NLBC will liaise with, and is keen to hear from, colleges/universities who are keen to be involved in the process going forward. A Strategic Partnership Group (SPG) has been formed within our JSA to identify the priorities and approaches, which includes NLBC Vice-Chair, Tim Jackson (Principal of Sparsholt College and Chair of the Landex Further Education Quality and Curriculum Committee) to ensure the strongest linkage to Landex members.

NLBC page on C&G website: <http://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/land-based-services/nlbc>



Land Based Registration Scheme

A goal of the NLBC is: *'to establish a register of college and university graduates in each discipline, to encourage participation in professional engagement and development activities throughout their careers'*. The ambition is to set-up a Land Based Registration Scheme (LBRS), administered by the NLBC, which connects to people at all stages of their land based career, from school, through college/university/apprenticeships and into employment. The aim is that the LBRS will collectively guide, inform, educate, develop and reward people along their life-long land based career journey.

The proposal is to imbed LBRS into a much wider digital offer, intrinsically linked to existing land based sector initiatives, on-line learning, digital credentialing and, importantly, the Proposed AgriSkills Careers & Training Framework (ACTF), with people potentially having to register on LBRS (for free) in order to access the Framework. Over the coming months we will be seeking Landex colleges/universities to help pilot this in early 2017.

NLBC on the Web

Forum	Hyperlink
BBC Radio Four Farming Today, Broadcast on Monday 19/9/16.	http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07vjx08 Please note: This is only available on iPlayer until 17/10/16. The broadcast is at the start of this episode.)
Horticulture Week	http://www.hortweek.com/national-land-based-college-sets-agenda/careers-and-workplace/article/1392642?bulletin=breakfast-briefing&utm_medium=EMAIL&utm_campaign=eNews%20Bulletin&utm_source=20160427&utm_content=www_hortweek_com_article_2
Farming Futures	http://www.farmingfutures.org.uk/blog/national-land-based-college-launched-unite-industry-and-education
Farmers Weekly	http://www.fwi.co.uk/news/national-college-launched-for-land-based-sector.htm
Farmers Guardian:	https://www.fginsight.com/news/news/new-national-college-will-bring-together-best-in-agricultural-expertise-12151
Reaseheath College	http://www.reaseheath.ac.uk/reaseheath-plays-key-role-launch-uks-first-national-land-based-college/
Arboriculture Association	https://www.trees.org.uk/News-Blog/News/UK%E2%80%99s-first-national-college-for-land-based-sector
Machinery Service Dealer	http://landpower.newsweaver.co.uk/servicedealer/dfyy06pd8v1?a=1&p=50301778&t=17711314
Pro-Landscaper	http://prolandscapermagazine.com/national-land-based-college-launches-today/
The Florist	http://theflorist.co.uk/the-florist-magazine-news/1890-land-based-industry-education-hub-launched-by-nlbc
Hartpury College	http://www.hartpury.ac.uk/news/june-2016/hartpury-at-heart-of-new-initiative-aimed-at-giving-britain-a-brighter-farming-future/
Writtle University College Graduation	http://writtle.ac.uk/pge_PressRelease.cfm?ID=21346
Landscape Show 2016	http://www.landscapeshow.co.uk/Content/New-Starters-Conference



A delightful team meeting with our Board Chair Lord Curry of Kirkharle held at the House of Lords in September.

From the left, Leigh Morris, Jo Cummins, Sarah Purdell and Lord Curry of Kirkharle.



NLBC in association with

