

## Shadow Board – Shetland Merger Project

<b>Committee</b>	Shadow Board
<b>Subject</b>	Update on Consultation and consideration of response
<b>Action requested</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> For information only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Special Resolution
<b>Brief summary of the paper</b>	Summary of consultation activities thus far. Preliminary sight of some high level results from the questionnaire. Request board consider recommending a process for reconsidering the name of the new college.
<b>Resource implications</b> [if yes, please provide detail]	No  Click here to enter text.
<b>Risk implications</b> [if yes, please provide detail]	No
<b>Date paper prepared</b>	07-Jul-20
<b>Date of committee meeting</b>	15-Jul-20
<b>Author</b>	Principal Designate
<b>Equality and diversity</b>	No
<b>Status</b>	Non-confidential
<b>Freedom of Information</b>  Can this paper be included in 'open' business?*	Yes

**Consultation Update for Shadow Board**

Key Dates 20<sup>th</sup> May (consultation opened) – 12th August (return to SFC)

Both Colleges were instructed to consult and Shadow Board approved recommendation for single consultation to take place with some groups. Oversight was kept from the merger working group.

From 29<sup>th</sup> May invites to respond went out to staff students and stakeholders.

Questionnaire closed 3<sup>rd</sup> July to allow preparation and review of report. Meetings were held with staff and external stakeholders to encourage responses for consideration.

Reports are being prepared to go to an EJCC and JCC and an SIC meeting to consider the SIC response to the questionnaire. A report for the colleges (which will include the SIC material) will be produced which will go to the college board and NAFC board prior to coming to the Transition Board on the 5<sup>th</sup> August to allow preparation of final report to go to SFC.

**High Level Outcomes**

152 responses received to online questionnaire:

Local business / employer	12.5%
Public sector	8.6%
3 <sup>rd</sup> sector	5.3%
Schools	7.9%
Parent	1.3%
Individual	15.1%
Staff	28.9%
Student	12.5%
Apprentice	1.3%
Other	6.6%

**Responses to direct questions:**

Has the proposal made clear the rationale for merger?

Yes 90.5%; No 9.5%

Do you support our plans to bring tertiary education in Shetland together in one organisation?

Yes 77.6%; No 7.2%; Unsure 15.1%

The proposed name for the new College is Shetland Institute UHI, are you content with this or if not what would be your suggested name?

I am content with the name: 38%

I don't like it and have no other suggestions: 24%

I don't like it and have another suggestion: 38%

59 gave suggestions of alternative names, of those that appeared more than once:

Shetland College UHI 19

Shetland UHI 12

New College Shetland 5

UHI Shetland 3

Shetland Colleges 3

North Atlantic College 2

Shetland Islands College 2

### **Discussion Point**

Some don't believe the name of the new institution is something we should get hung up on and certainly not waste time on. However, only just over a third of respondents were content with the new name. In staff meetings it is clear the term 'institute' has many negative connotations both locally and more generally and many staff passionately dislike it. The board could consider the following options:

1. We could ignore this feedback and continue with the proposed name providing a robust justification for doing so.
2. We could undertake a further focussed process to determine an alternative (see suggestion below).
3. We could choose one of the suggestions above to take forward.

Possible process to determine new name:

1. Select a short list from the suggestions above
2. At the start of term and by electronic means consult with staff and students to determine their preferred choice
3. Results of consultation to go to Transition Board for deliberation and decision