

## **Chief Executive's Annual Report 2016/17**

The last year has been yet another period of great uncertainty. A 'snap' General Election, a change in Minister of State for Skills and Apprenticeships, the transfer of adult and higher education together with apprenticeships from BIS to the DfE, the formation of the Education and Skills Funding Agency, a change in leadership at Ofsted, a delay in the implementation of T Levels, and a review of the approved apprenticeship standards have all clouded the landscape and made the issues faced by Landex members more complex.

### **1. Landex Board**

At the 2016 AGM held in November, Ann Turner and Meredydd David OBE were re-elected as joint Chairs, and Andrew Counsell was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

Angela Joyce and Amanda Burnside were elected to the Board to replace Jackie Doodson and Mike Johnson respectively, and Marcus Clinton was elected to fill the vacancy in Yorkshire and the North East.

#### National Directors

Tim Jackson, Principal, Sparsholt College.  
Amanda Burnside, Principal, Wiltshire College.  
Gillian May, Principal, Berkshire College of Agriculture.  
David Llewellyn, Vice-Chancellor, Harper Adams University.  
Russell Marchant, Principal, Hartpury College.  
Ann Turner, Principal, Myerscough College.  
Steve Waite, Vice-Chancellor, Writtle University College.

#### Regional Directors

South West: Andrew Counsell, Principal, Duchy College.  
London & South East: Paul Hannan, Principal, Hadlow College.  
North West: Meredydd David OBE, Principal, Reaseheath College.  
West Midlands: Angela Joyce, Principal, Warwickshire College Group.  
East & East Midlands: David Henley, Principal, Easton & Otley College.  
North & North East: Marcus Clinton, Principal, Northumberland College.

#### N.Ireland, Scotland and Wales

David Jones OBE, Principal, Coleg Cambria

Three Directors resigned during the year, David Henley and Steve Waite retiring from their College posts, and Gillian May resigning due to pressure of work. We are grateful to them all for their work on behalf of Landex members, and we wish David and Steve every success in the future.

### **2. Landex Committees**

The Landex Board continued to be supported by a committee structure:

- Higher Education Committee chaired by David Llewellyn, Vice Chancellor of Harper Adams University.
- Further Education Curriculum and Quality Committee chaired by Tim Jackson, Principal Sparsholt College.
- Finance and Funding Committee chaired by Ann Turner, Principal of Myerscough College.
- Learning Materials and Technology Committee chaired by Andrew Counsell, Principal of Duchy College.
- Membership Committee chaired by Ann Turner, Joint Chair of Landex.

We are grateful to the chairs and their convenors, for the work that they undertake in managing the committees.

### **3. Landex Finance and Administration**

During 2016/17, the Landex human resource function continued to be managed by Hadlow College, who provided payroll services and access for Landex staff to the LGPS and TPA pension schemes: we are most grateful for their continued support.

KilbyFox provided the accounting services, including the annual accounts for Landex Ltd., for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017: these will be presented for approval at the November AGM. The financial performance was considerably better than anticipated, and reflected the amount of work carried out under contract to the Education and Training Foundation (ETF), the Department for Education (DfE) and the Association of Colleges (AoC).

During the year a further £120,228 of the agreed contribution of £250,000 was donated to the National Land Based College (NLBC), the balance of £76,941 will be donated during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018. However, the final contribution will be subject to finalising a Memorandum of Agreement between the organisations, and receiving assurance that NLBC has a sustainable future.

The trading subsidiary Landex Commercial and Education Services Ltd. remained dormant during 2016/17.

### **4. Land Based Learning Ltd.**

Land Based Learning Ltd.(LBL), a joint venture company between Landex and the University of Northampton, continued to convert its paper based teaching and learning materials into interactive format. Upon the resignation of the business manager, Alec Turnbull, the decision was taken that the company would not employ its own staff in the future, but would be managed through Landex and would procure materials development and site maintenance services through sub-contracts. We are grateful to Alec for his contribution to the company's development and wish him well in the future.

Towards the end of the year, The University of Northampton decided that it was no longer making a productive contribution to Land Based Learning, and offered to pass its shares in the company to Landex without charge. This took place on 31<sup>st</sup> July and the company is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Landex. We are grateful to the University and its nominated directors for their work for LBL over the last 4 years.

The affairs of the company are now managed centrally on a day to day basis, by the Landex Director of Development.

### **5. Membership**

During the year, an affiliate member from Wales left membership and at year-end Landex had 36 full, and 2 associate members. The Board has now decided that affiliate membership will no longer be offered.

There had been several enquiries from colleges wishing to join Landex during the year, and it is likely that some of these with the appropriate specialist physical and human resources will come into membership during 2018.

### **6. Landex Staffing**

In August, Director of Quality Enhancement, Lynn Hart who had led the quality improvement team since 2013/14, left Landex to take up an appointment with Capel Manor College. In July, Helen Gonzalez also left Landex, having secured full-time employment. We thank them both for their contribution to Landex and wish them well in the future.

During the year Kim Hunte (Residential Care Standards and Safeguarding), Liz Halford (Higher Education) and Sue Double (Teaching, Learning and Assessment), joined Rob Pheasant (English

and Maths) as Associate Quality Advisers, extending the range of specialist support that Landex is able to provide to its members.

Oliver Symons, who joined Landex in 2016 as a full-time Quality Advisor, was appointed Director of Quality Enhancement, and Steven Porter joined the team as Director of Development. More recently Zoe Lee has been appointed as full-time Secretary / Administrator.

We expect to appoint a full-time Quality Adviser to support Oliver early in 2018.

## **7. Annual Subscriptions**

For the last five years, the subscription methodology reflected a joint membership agreement with the Association of Colleges (AoC), whereby Landex undertook some of the functions that would otherwise have fallen to the AoC. This ensured that the Landex subscription, for those in joint membership, remained relatively modest at £4,500/annum. As part of this arrangement for a modest administration fee, Landex invoiced subscriptions on behalf of AoC, but carried the risk should it be unable to collect those subscriptions.

In a change to previous years, it was agreed that from 2017/18 onwards, AoC will invoice colleges directly for the full AoC membership fee, and then allocate a proportion of this to Landex for the specialist services it provides to AoC and Landex members. Landex now invoices its members directly for its own membership fee, providing a discount for those in joint membership of both organisations.

AoC and Landex have committed to working closely together, to ensure that Landex members receive the highest level of support as specialist designated land-based colleges, and work has commenced on a new joint memorandum of understanding. AoC and Landex identified a number of areas to work closely on over the next year, this included joint campaigning and informing respective consultation responses; policy work on apprenticeships and T Levels; data, benchmarking and support for colleges leading up to inspection; senior leadership CPD support and recruitment; and will explore opportunities for closer working with AoC Create and AoC Sport.

The success of this approach will be reviewed during 2017/18.

We are grateful to Meredydd David OBE for representing Landex members on the AoC Board, and to Jeff Beer OBE for representing members of the Governors' Council.

## **8. Specialist Land Based Status and Funding**

Work with government departments, to secure and maintain appropriate funding for the delivery of specialist land based programmes, remained a significant part of Landex's activity during the year.

The planned increase to 1.75 in the specialist (G) weighting for 16-19 learners was implemented as planned: this represented a significant increase in funding for specialist land based providers.

However, there was less positive news in relation to apprenticeships. The reduction in funding for 16-18 frameworks was so severe, that despite a temporary increase of 40% and a £1000 payment to providers, the financial viability of delivering high quality land based frameworks became very questionable. Similarly, the funding band to which some land based standards had been allocated was unsatisfactory.

The consultation on the proposed withdrawal of frameworks in 2018, included no land based apprenticeships and reflected the slow pace, at which standards are being developed and approved. This will at least provide some time for providers to assess the position, before moving from framework to standards.

## **9. Quality Improvement**

Quality improvement continues to be an important aspect of Landex activity. It is this work that continues to set Landex aside from other membership organisations, and has undoubtedly played a large part in our ability to engage effectively with funding and quality assurance agencies.

Each member continues to be offered 4 days of on-site officer support each year, as part of their membership entitlement. Further days were available on a cost-recovery basis.

The primary vehicle for improvement, continued to be the 2-day peer review process linked to quality improvement plans (QIPs), the review was carried out by a senior member of staff from another member institution, supported by a Landex Quality Adviser. The review process was strengthened by more careful selection of peer reviewers from institutions, and we are grateful to member institutions for making their senior staff available as peer reviewers, for without them the process would not be possible.

The remaining 2 days may be selected from a menu of activities, which is updated annually to reflect priorities identified by members.

A further 79 improvement activities were delivered for 28 members involving:

- Validated or Joint Observations of Teaching, Learning & Assessment.
- Stretch and Challenge Workshop.
- Maths and English Strategy Review.
- Preparation for Higher Education Review.
- Towards Outstanding in Teaching, Learning & Assessment.
- SAR Validation (where separate to the Peer Review).
- Observation Training for Internal Observation Teams.
- Residential Services Review.
- Practical Instructor Training.
- Tutorial Workshop.

It was particularly pleasing that the volume of support activity delivered, was limited by the availability of Landex staff rather than demand, and increased requests for bespoke training activities reflected the value placed by members upon the quality team's services

## **10. Data Analysis**

In order to assist members in analysing their comparative performance, both in delivering specialist land based programmes and overall analysis of a range of published data is provided on the Landex website, this includes:

- Qualification Achievement Rates.
- Financial Accounts.
- Apprenticeship Achievement Rates.
- Tech Level and Applied General Outcomes.
- Maths and English Outcomes.
- Ofsted Further Education & Skills Outcomes.
- Ofsted Care Standards Inspection Outcomes.
- Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Outcomes.
- National Student Survey.
- Health and Safety Accident benchmarking.
- Geographical recruitment analysis / Market intelligence reporting.
- Farm Managers Remuneration and benefits survey.

## **11. Ofsted Inspection Profile**

10 member colleges received FE and skills inspections (3 short / 7 full) during 2016/17 - The Ofsted grade profile for the 33 English member institutions, subject to inspection, now shows 79% (26 institutions) are graded good or better.

	<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>Grade 2</b>	<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>Grade 4</b>
<b>No. of Institutions</b>	3 (9%)	23 (70%)	6 (18%)	1 (3%)

Upon analysis of the weaker inspection outcomes, it was clear that the institutions concerned had been slow to embrace and address the weaknesses identified during peer review - and in particular, to take full advantage of the improvement activities on offer.

Landex continues to work closely with any members identified as requiring improvement, to secure this as rapidly as possible, in line with the college's Post Inspection Action Plan.

## **12. Estyn and ETI Inspection Profile**

Member colleges from Wales and Ireland are currently judged as 'Excellent' and 'Very Good' by Estyn and The Education Inspectorate (ETI) respectively.

## **13. Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)**

The TEF is a new scheme for recognising excellent teaching, in addition to existing national quality requirements for universities, colleges and other higher education providers. It provides information to help prospective students choose where to study. The TEF was developed by the Department for Education in England and is voluntary with each higher education provider deciding whether or not they wish to take part.

The ratings are described by the Department for Education as:

- *Gold*: "provision is consistently outstanding and of the highest quality found in the UK Higher Education sector"
- *Silver*: "provision is of high quality, and significantly and consistently exceeds the baseline quality threshold, expected of UK Higher Education"
- *Bronze*: "provision is of satisfactory quality"

Institutions that do not enter the TEF or that do not meet the minimum quality threshold, will not receive an award. Institutions with insufficient data for a full assessment, but which meet the quality standards, can receive an unrated *provisional* award.

During 2016/17, 23 out a possible 26 members in England made the decision to take part, and the outcomes were:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Submissions</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Provisional</b>
Landex Members	23	5 (22%)	8 (35%)	10 (43%)	0 (0%)

This was a very strong profile reflecting the significant volumes and high quality of specialist higher education delivered both by Landex colleges and universities.

## **14. Continuous Professional Development (CPD)**

The CPD programme reflects demand, identified during the previous year's peer review visits, and an increased range of activities was offered during 2016/17.

Whilst the primary purpose was to assist staff in improving their own performances, the benefits gained from interaction with colleagues performing a similar function in their own institutions, was itself valued and found of real benefit.

16 CPD activities were delivered to 306 delegates representing 35 members, with an average of 19 delegates per event. Demand for some of the events was so high that repeat activities were necessary.

- Animal Management
- Residential Services
- Quality Directors
- Equestrian lecturers
- Farm Management & Agriculture
- Maths & English

- Land Based Engineering
- Health & Safety Managers
- Ofsted Nominee Training (x2)
- Livestock Lecturers
- Arboriculture, Forestry & Countryside Lecturers
- Advanced Teaching Practitioners
- Residential Wardens Ofsted Inspection Framework update
- Mental Health First Aid (x2)

Staff development events were enhanced by working closely with other organisations. For example, the event for Land Based Engineering lecturers, organised jointly with LE-TEC and hosted by CNH Industrial, was oversubscribed and received very positive feedback.

### **15. Annual Landex Conference**

The highly successful 2-day conference was once again held at Sedgebrook Hall in Northamptonshire on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. It attracted a wide range of speakers, representing Ofsted, AoC, GuildHE, ETF, AHDB, and the FE Commissioner - in addition to a wide range of presentations and case studies provided by members.

88 delegates from member colleges and universities, plus guests attended the event, with the Education & Training Foundation and Green Nation Solar energy as the sponsors.

### **16. Relationship with DEFRA**

Working closely with DEFRA continues to be an important objective for Landex. Participation in the Biosecurity and BovineTB groups continues, and the contract to develop on-line BovineTB education materials was completed during the year. It is anticipated that further work to update the materials will be commissioned during 2017/18.

Sean Ryan, had been a very supportive contact at DEFRA for a number of years, but following the 2017 election he moved to the Department of Transport. His immediate successor as Head of Workforce Strategy (Apprenticeships, Skills, Careers Advice) is Jonathan Back, who will be an equally important contact for Landex, as Food Production and Productivity assumes increased importance in the lead up to Brexit.

Landex meets with Jonathan and Louisa Bagshaw, Head of Farming Productivity (Knowledge Exchange and Skills) on a regular basis – and these regular meetings will alternate in future between London and a member College or University, to ensure that officials are fully conversant with the range of services and resources that Landex members provide for the sector and its employers. These regular visits to member institutions also offer the opportunity for other DEFRA and DfE staff to join the visits and observe first-hand the outstanding work undertaken.

### **17. Partnership with GuildHE**

Landex members continue to benefit from a very cost-effective annual agreement with GuildHE; the advice provided by the GuildHE team is invaluable, and members respond positively to the access that this arrangement provides to GuildHE publications. The availability of high quality meeting space for Landex meetings, within the GuildHE offices in Tavistock Square, is an additional benefit of the partnership. The Chief Executive, Gordon McKenzie continues to be supportive of both the organisation and individual members, as well as being an important contributor to the annual Landex Conference.

## **18. Sector Representation**

Landex has established and maintained a regular dialogue and attendance at meetings, with a wide range of organisations during the year to represent the interests of members, these included:

- AgriSkills Forum – Agriculture Industry Professional Development Schemes.
- AgriSkills Trailblazer/Apprenticeship Group.
- Agrifood Charities Partnership (AFCP) Board & Trust.
- AoC Outstanding Teaching and Learning steering Group.
- AoC Governors Council.
- AoC Board.
- Defra – Biosecurity Group.
- Defra/RHS – Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable and Employment Working Group.
- DfE/BIS – Area Review Advisory Group.
- ESFA - Post-16 School & FE Funding Group.
- ESFA/Lantra - 'G' weighting and specialist college status Group.
- Environmental Studies Higher Education Forum (CHES).
- Farm Safety Partnership – 'College contributions to improving H&S in agriculture'.
- Further Education Trust for Leadership (FETL) – Grants Panel.
- HSE - Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC).
- ETF – Professional Standards Committee.
- ETF – Advanced Teacher Status Committee.
- LEAF – Linking Environment & Farming.
- LE-TEC – 'Land based Engineering Partnership'.
- Ofsted – Inspection issues related to specialist land based provision.
- PPC – Principals' Profession Council.

A wide range of staff from member Colleges and Universities, have represented Landex members on other industry and education groups.

We are grateful to them all for the work that they carry out on behalf of the sector.

## **19. Consultation Responses**

During the year, Landex responded to the following consultations on behalf of members:

- August 2016 BIS – “Maintenance Loans Consultation”.
- August 2016 – Ofsted – *“Future of Social Care Inspection”*.
- September 2016 – DfE – *“Apprenticeship Funding Survey”*.
- April 2017 - BEIS – “Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper”.
- April 2017 – HESA – “NewDLHE: The future of graduate outcomes data”.
- June 2-017 – DfE – “Funding of T-levels”.

## **20. Apprenticeships**

Concerns remained over the content and structure of several of the land based apprenticeship standards that had been approved, or were in a stage of development. Funding indications for some of the frameworks and future standards, particularly at level 2, were inadequate.

From a delivery perspective, an important apprenticeship funding rule requires that every apprentice spends at least 20% of his or her time on off-the-job training, this cannot include time spent on English and maths, or on training to acquire skills, knowledge and behaviours that are not required in the standard or framework. In practice, most apprentices will need more than 20% off-the-job training if they need English and maths, and it is up to employers to decide how all the off-the-job training is delivered e.g. regular day release, block release or special training days/workshops. This will make apprenticeships very costly, for providers to deliver and make the need for appropriate funding all the more important.

Agriculture Minister, George Eustice MP was particularly helpful in raising the issue with the DfE, and Landex prepared a detailed case for presentation to the FE & Skills Minister, to help justify an increase in funding for the most affected frameworks and standards.

Landex also provided evidence of delivery costs to support appeals by individual development groups, but the outcome is still awaited in most cases.

We are grateful to members who provided detailed evidence on the cost of delivering apprenticeships, to help support the case.

Members raised concerns about some of the proposed apprenticeship standards, particularly those in agriculture and horticulture, which did not include a formal qualification and unless amended at an early stage, could make it difficult to achieve the target number of starts, and may limit progression and future employment prospects for successful apprentices.

As a consequence, in addition to responding to the apprenticeship consultation and 2016 survey, Landex made representations to both the relevant ministers and departmental/funding agency officers. Although appeared to have achieved modest impact, the concerns were acknowledged and they will be reinforced whenever appropriate to do so.

## **21. Apprenticeship End Point Assessment**

End Point Assessment (EPA) remained a very significant area of concern for many apprenticeship providers. It may consume up to 20% of the available funding; and 20% of the available funding will be retained by the IfA, pending successful completion of the EPA by each apprentice.

Potential EPA assessment organisations may only apply to assess a standard once the assessment plan has been approved and published. As most plans have not yet been approved for land based apprenticeships, few EPA applications have been made to date.

A group of Landex members registered a new company 'Land Based Assessment Ltd.' (LBAL) which will work with Lantra, to deliver End Point assessments. It will take the form of a joint venture with any set up cost being funded by the participating members, and operating surpluses being distributed to those participating. This company, is not a Landex venture, but its development will be managed under contract by the Landex Director of Development.

## **22. STEM Status for Land Based Subjects**

Land based apprenticeships in common all other land based further education, are not currently defined as STEM: Landex members believe this is inappropriate. Many land based subjects [agriculture, horticulture, veterinary nursing, equine, related animal occupations and land based engineering in particular] involve considerable knowledge and understanding of science and technology topics, Landex believes that they should be correctly identified as STEM subjects and therefore eligible for the STEM uplift. This view is reinforced by the fact that the Government's Agri-tech Strategy is regarded as STEM activity, and land based subjects at level 5 and above are recognised as STEM subjects by HEFCE and are funded as such.

The DfE did not accept the initial case made by Landex, and it is important that in further presenting evidence, STEM status is not confused with specialist land based funding, as this could prove detrimental to the sector. Landex developed a paper to, once again, make the case for STEM status and will discuss this with the Skills and Apprenticeship Minister later in the year.

## **23. Post -16 Skills Plan and Sainsbury Review**

As the Skills Bill progressed through Parliament, the future of both apprenticeships and technical qualifications became clearer.

The announcement in the budget that the taught hours for technical qualifications would increase to 900 hours/year and the associated funding by £500million/year was welcomed.

The DfE commenced detailed work on the development of 'route maps' for each of the 15 vocational routes. This work was undertaken by the Gatsby Foundation, and its proposals will be considered further by the route panels, once convened. Landex was closely involved with development of the Route map for the 'Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care'.

The DfE also started developing the funding methodology and guidance for the new technical qualifications. Landex was involved in the relevant Stakeholder meetings, and submitted a detailed response to the DfE's confidential consultation questions. Current thinking is that the increase in taught hours will probably consist of 150 'taught hours' plus 150 hours of work placement in each year; work placement being significantly different from current expectations of work experience.

The allocation of funds, to support the development of Work Placements in preparation for the introduction of T-levels was positive news, and some Landex members will have the opportunity to receive over £400,000 from April 2018.

#### **24. Residential Care Standards**

A revised Common Inspection Framework (CIF), was put in place from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and the first inspections under this framework took place in May.

In January 2017, Landex was commissioned by the DfE to revise the Minimum Residential Care Standards for Further Education Providers (last revised by the Department of Health in 2002), and 11 Landex members were involved in the iterative development process. Landex recommended that the number of standards be reduced from 47 to 20, and that the revised standards become similar in scope, but differentiated to take account of the differences in context and age group, to the Minimum Residential Care Standards for Boarding Schools. This would reflect the approach taken by Ofsted in developing its CIFs.

The proposed standards will be subject to wider consultation in November 2017.

#### **25. Land Based Residential Bursaries**

Early in 2017, the ESFA raised a number of issues with Landex, in relation to the use of residential bursaries, with the intention that we be given the opportunity to address these collectively, rather than them requiring action by the agency, particularly important as such action might prove detrimental to all current recipients of bursary allocations. As a consequence, Landex updated and re-issued its guidance to members, and stressed the importance of reacting to the funding agency request by following the guidance as closely as possible.

#### **26. DfE/ETF Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) project**

In June 2016, the Education and Training Foundation (ETF), submitted a successful tender to the DfE for a project to "provide support to the post-16 sector in England in (SEND)".

The bid, was submitted on behalf of a consortium comprising:

- Education and Training Foundation(ETF)
- Learning South West (ACETT)
- Adult Learning Improvement Network (ALIN)
- Success North
- Landex

The work to be undertaken by Landex included:

- Development of an on-line self-assessment tool
- Development and publishing of a self-assessment tool guide, an Organisation effectiveness guide and a Practitioner effectiveness guide
- Delivery of 6 collaborative practice CPD events.

A project team comprised representatives from Myerscough College, Reaseheath College, Warwickshire College and Wiltshire College, to reflect the Independent and GFE specialist membership of Landex. The project was led by Lynn Hart and a range of other members were invited to engage with delivery of the project at the collaborative practice stage.

The first phase of the project was delivered successfully and Landex was awarded an extension project, part of which involved an action research-based case study in 3 FE Colleges, using an organisational development model to show the benefits that can be accrued when a senior leader – led approach is taken. The case studies included films of leaders, staff and learners talking about the change and benefits to this approach. Chichester College, Derby College and Myerscough College were the subjects of this case study which was successfully completed, with the films being first shown at the 2017 Landex conference.

### **27. Applied Research and Knowledge Exchange Prospectus**

Completion of the first phase of the project was marked by the publication of printed and web versions of the prospectus. This was well received and did much to raise awareness of the research capacity and work currently undertaken by Landex Colleges and Universities.

The range of published materials will be extended considerably, when the second phase of submissions complete the peer review process and are published on-line through the Landex website later this year.

### **28. Rural Services Network and SPARSE - Rural**

Landex continues to belong to this organisation, which as a consequence offers free membership to all Landex members.

### **29. AgriFood Charities Partnership (AFCP)**

AFCP's overall aim is to promote education and research in agriculture and food production, by supporting charities that are working in the discipline, to make better use of their funds. Charities that fund research or education are not always as well informed, of the wide range of initiatives that exist to support agriculture & food production as they could be. Hence AFCP believes that charities can achieve greater effectiveness by appropriate collaborations, either with other charities or other organisations e.g. universities, colleges, research organizations. Landex works with AFCP to promote knowledge and understanding of the capability and capacity of its members by funding charities.

From 2018, Landex's membership of this organization will entitle all Landex Colleges and Universities to free membership of AFCP.

### **30. National Land Based College**

NLBC continued to work with City & Guilds (C&G), to produce a range of technical qualifications at levels 2 & 3, and has been supported in this task by a wide range of staff from Landex member institutions.

We hope that as many members as possible will eventually adopt these qualifications. Landex produced a paper for NLBC and C&G, outlining the criteria that Colleges are likely to consider, when deciding if they will adopt the qualifications and C&G have now addressed each of the issues to help remove the barrier to adoption of the qualifications.

Following the resignation of Chief Executive, Leigh Morris, a detailed review of NLBC is taking place and this is likely to be complete by early 2018. We wish Leigh well with the next stage of his career.

### **31. Institutes of Technology (IoT)**

This Government Initiative seeks to create IoTs, that will have employers at the heart of their leadership and governance, and in the design and delivery of curriculum. IoTs will strengthen and

grow provision, to fill gaps in the market; they will focus particularly on technical (eg Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics) skills at levels 4 and 5, but will extend to degree level and above (level 6+) to strengthen routes into higher levels of technical education, as well as directly into employment.

In creating high quality IoTs, it is looking for innovative collaborations between employers and FE and HE providers, that capitalise on their different strengths, leveraging their assets, resources and relationships, to produce a new learning offer that meets the demand for higher technical skills today and in readiness for future technological change.

The initiative seeks to establish 'place-based' or local rather than 'National' Institutes. However, this approach is not necessarily appropriate for an industry which already enjoys a national network of specialist colleges and universities. As a consequence, Landex submitted an expression of interest on behalf of the sector by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, to allow time for further discussion by the Board, before the official prospectus is published, and applications are invited later this year.

### **32. Aq Careers Live**

This Farmers' Weekly event took place on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry. The publication intended to make this an annual event.

Landex agreed on behalf of its members, and without financial commitment, to support the event. The 2016 event proved successful and transport to Coventry by groups of students received a subsidy from Farmers' Weekly.

In 2017, the event moves to Telford and it remains to be seen whether support can be maintained in that location.

In conclusion, my sincere thanks to the Landex chairs, directors and staff, who together with our member organisations contribute so much to the work of Landex – without their tireless efforts, the degree of success that the organisation achieves would not be possible.

**Chris Moody**  
Chief Executive, Landex  
October 2017