

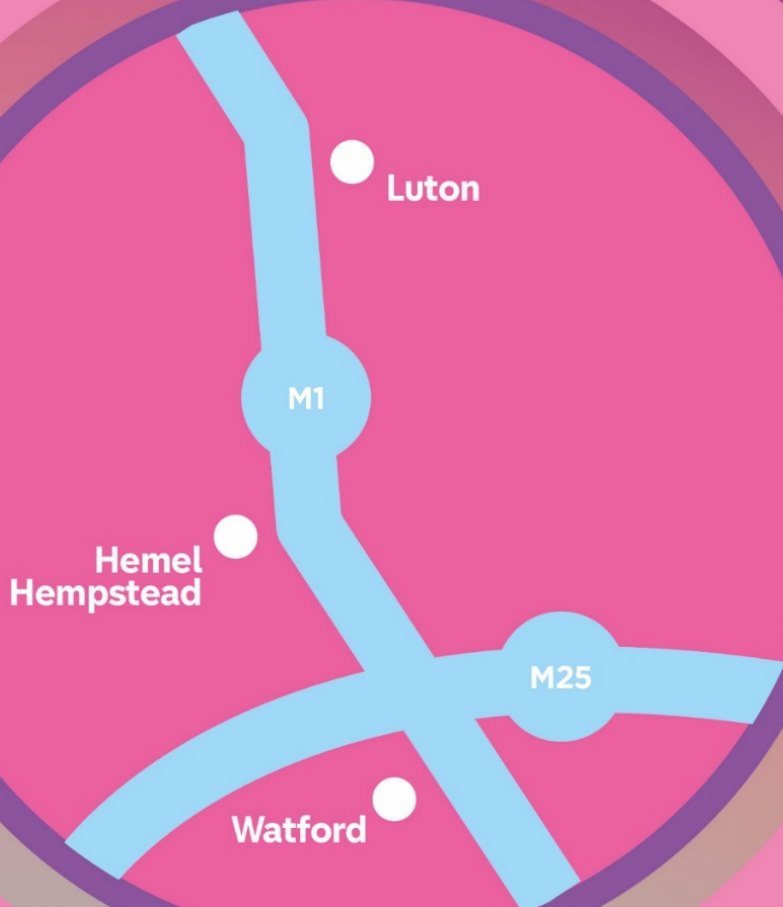
# Shaping our future

Insights and information for  
prospective Board Members

Opportunities to join the  
Board of a new college  
created by the merger of  
Barnfield and West Herts

**Barnfield College:**  
Luton

**West Herts College:**  
Hemel Hempstead  
Watford



# Welcome to a new college created by the merger of Barnfield College and West Herts College

We want to play a leading role in transforming life chances – inspiring success and innovation in ways which stimulate:

- A competitive edge in our students
- A spirit of enterprise and innovation
- Growth our communities and economy

We will do this in close collaboration with local employers. It's this belief in the power of partnerships that has brought Barnfield and West Herts together.

As a new, merged organisation we can combine the scope and perspectives of both colleges – delivering cohesive services tailored to local communities in Luton, Hemel Hempstead and Watford.

- For **Barnfield** (in Luton) it's an opportunity to modernise – developing new services in sync with Luton's communities and economy.
- For **West Herts** (in Hemel Hempstead and Watford) it's the next step in a strategy to reach more people and employers by growing into a regional college.

Together we can serve three major towns in the M1 Growth Corridor, a dynamic economic region connecting the Midlands and London.

## The new College has:

### Funding income worth

- £45m

### Total student numbers

- Full-time: 6,000
- Part-time: 6,000

### Campuses

- Luton
- Hemel Hempstead
- Watford

### An apprenticeship subsidiary

- Together Training Ltd

## **Barnfield College in Luton**

From 1 February 2019 Luton will have a new college, one that merges Barnfield with West Herts. It's an exciting time – especially in Luton, where the plan is to expand the services available to local communities and employers.

## **West Herts College in Hemel Hempstead and Watford**

For West Herts the motivation to merge is twofold.

As a merged college we can build on our achievements in Hemel Hempstead and Watford, where our new campuses and modern curriculum are valued for the contribution they make to local lives and business productivity.

With Barnfield as our partner we can innovate and grow in a one of the region's largest towns – a place where employers and local communities have a genuine need for modern further education.

*NB Phase 2 of our redevelopment of Hemel Hempstead campus is scheduled for completion in early 2020, at which point provision at a third, smaller campus at Kings Langley will move into this additional space.*

## **Join us at the start as a member of our expanded Board**

Driving this innovation will be a management team reporting to an expanded Board of Governors. It's a new Board for a new college. We have a strong core of existing members but we want to grow this in line with our new focus on Luton.

Join now and you'll be with us from the start – as we grow our influence and continue to innovate.

## **At the heart of it**

A Board with the right mix of skills and insights is essential for our success. Also important to us is a membership around the table which represents our local communities.

Board members contribute to strategic planning and the scrutiny of performance – applying their collective expertise across:

### **Curriculum development and delivery**

- Quality-management of teaching and learning
- Student-wellbeing and statutory safeguarding

### **Business management**

- Financial management and reporting
- Property development and planning

### **Community and economic priorities**

- Stakeholder relationships
- College alignment to local and regional priorities

## **Drive and ambition**

Overseeing statutory compliance is a key aspect of members' collective responsibility but the reach of the Board goes well beyond this. Innovation will always be key to our success, especially in Luton where we have ambitions for:

- Curriculum innovation
- Campus redevelopment
- Partnership building

Board members are expected to operate as critical friends, providing oversight by applying their professional expertise to strategy and outcomes.

<p>One of our first opportunities is to develop a brand identity for the new College – so additional experience at Board level in strategic management is welcome.</p>
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## How we work

### Board structure:

- Chair
- Deputy Chair

### Plus, sub-committee chairs for:

- Audit Committee
- Search Committee

In terms of commitment, the following outlines the time that typically applies to the role:

Forum	Frequency	Time commitment
<b>Board Meetings</b> Wednesday evenings from 5pm	9 per year Monthly apart from January, August, September	Typically 2.5 hours Advance review of papers: 2-4 hours of reading time

With opportunities to expand your involvement by joining:

Forum	Frequency	Time commitment
<b>Audit Committee</b>	3 per year	Typically up to 2 hours Advance review of papers: 1-2 hours of reading time
<b>Search Committee</b>	As required	Typically up to 2 hours Advance review of papers: 1-2 hours of reading time

## Together we can...

To help us achieve our ambitions we're looking for Members with expertise across a range of professional skills, plus a Board which represents the communities we serve.

### Board Member **Job Description**

- Contribute to the collective responsibility of the Board, operating as a critical friend to the College by applying professional expertise and relevant personal experience to strategic-level decisions.
- Contribute to shaping College strategic planning and special projects as they arise (such as property development and growth opportunities).
- Review and scrutinise College performance against strategic KPIs.
- Oversee College performance against all areas of statutory compliance.
- Abide by the Board's Code of Conduct: attending all main meetings regularly; plus sub-groups if appointed to them (such as Audit, Search); fulfilling any individual roles undertaken (such as Board Representative for Safeguarding).

### Board Member **Person Spec**

- Professional experience of operating at a strategic level – in your own career or through voluntary roles.
- Direct professional experience of one or more of the following:
  - Business management
  - Education and skills
  - Financial
  - Legal
  - Property
- Interest and empathy in young people and the importance of creating opportunities for future generations.
- Understanding and interest in education, skills and employment – the systems, challenges and opportunities.

## Next steps

Thanks for your interest, if you'd like to find out more let's start with an informal chat. In the first instance, please contact Chris Pearson: 07919 111734 or email him at [chris.pearson@westherts.ac.uk](mailto:chris.pearson@westherts.ac.uk)  
Chris will be happy to discuss opportunities and provide more information to you.