

FAO The Efra Select Committee,

Following the evidence that was given by Landex earlier this year we wanted to share some updates on work that has been taking place with the Department of Education and with our Higher Education partners.

Landex had identified a number of priority 'asks' that were shared with the Department of Education:

- Recognise food and environmental security as national priority and in turn land based education as the key to delivering on a range of national targets including green skills priorities and Net Zero.
- Develop a national strategy for Land based Skills Shortages with highly skilled solutions, supporting a clear understanding of the roles of the future and their knowledge, skills and behaviour requirements.
- An ambitious national careers awareness campaign to support the land based careers of the future and challenge perceptions.
- Recognising that Land based education delivers to a national need as well as a local/ regional need. Ensuring that the sum of progress at local and regional level delivers nationally, towards a highly skilled and STEM based workforce delivering on national food security, net zero and green skills priorities
- Increase flexibility in T level content to support regional priority areas, emerging technologies and green skills.
- Continue to recognise land based provision as high cost and continue to recognise this in all provision areas. The increase in funding for 16-18 programmes and the associated increase in PCW was hugely appreciated by the sector.
- Ensure apprenticeships have sufficient funding in high cost provision areas to support delivery. At present the on cost % methodology is resulting in insufficient funding band decisions.
- Ensure that 19 plus full time provision is recognised as being 'at risk' as the majority was delivered via infill in 16-18 provision, with insufficient numbers to be able to deliver stand alone provision.
- Clarity and certainty around sourcing capital funding for land based colleges, including residential provision following reclassification.
- Retaining 10% uplift for T levels, especially for those T levels that are yet to be commenced, as otherwise they will never benefit from this initiative.
- Ensuring that Level 3 qualifications, that are not covered by T level provision, (Equine, habitat management, aquaculture etc) will continue to have current level 3 qualifications funded

Following the raising of the above priorities meetings took place with Robert Halfon MP and a joint strategic narrative was created. This was then shared by Minister Halfon at the Landex Conference in February of this year:

Strategic Narrative for Land-based colleges

Government recognises that the network of land-based colleges has a central role in supporting the delivery of key national priorities:

1. Helping ensure sustainable food security for the nation.
2. Helping land-based industries move towards sustainable businesses and Net Zero.
3. Equipping the national workforce with Green Skills for the future.

National: Land-based colleges do this by:

1. Working with government to develop a national strategy for Land-based skills shortages with highly skilled solutions, supporting a clear understanding of the roles of the future and their knowledge, skills and behaviour requirements.
2. Working together as a network to ensure that the sum of progress at local and regional level delivers nationally, towards a highly skilled workforce delivering on key priorities and growth sectors such as national food security, net zero and green skills.

Local: Land-based colleges are hubs of skills training and technical innovation:

1. Boosting take-up in rural areas of high-quality skills training, across all sectors.
2. Working with LSIPs to ensure high quality, updated technical qualifications are available in each local area (including apprenticeships, T Levels, and Higher Technical Qualifications).
3. Driving change through active participation and research as part of the Institutes of Technology.

Locally, land-based colleges are places of social capital as well as knowledge and skills capital – and vital assets to their local communities:

1. Enabling people of all backgrounds to gain sought-after skills and good jobs, climbing the ladder of opportunity.
2. Supporting positive physical and mental health, amongst learners and wider rural communities.
3. Supporting rural business sustainability, resilience & productivity to drive a thriving rural economy, of opportunity, successful careers and entrepreneurship.

A separate Higher Education Manifesto has been created in partnership with Guild HE, drawing on the themes and priority asks:

<https://guildhe.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/GuildHE-Landex-Land-Based-Education-Manifesto.pdf>

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If you have any queries or we can support further please do get in touch,

Yours sincerely,

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