

Transcription for Ingredients for change –

Hi my name Paul Towers I'm an Education Developer at the University of Wolverhampton

Since 1996 we had our own in-house built Virtual Learning environment called WOLF. It was one of the first ones in the country. It was ingrained in everything that we did within the institution but it came apparent that it weren't just being used for learning and teaching. It was being used for things like validation, document management even minutes to meetings. It became obvious to us that our virtual learning environment was no longer sustainable or appropriate for our institution. So how do you change a virtual learning environment when it's ingrained and integrated with everything that we do within an institution?

Due to the previous history and some failed attempts of actually replacing WOLF we didn't want to replace the system with a brand new sparkly new virtual learning environment. What want to do is effect deep cultural change within the institution. Just like this ice change can be seen at different levels so at the top surface change you have things like IT systems and services, business processes, ownership and structure integration but it's at the bottom where deep change lies with people and culture. So we realized if we wanted to focus on this level of cultural change we needed to be transparent inclusive and we need to collaborate with all our stakeholders across the university. In 2013 we did a number of focus group sessions that went out and found out what our academics, support staff and students wanted for the VLE.

After a large requirement gathering exercise we then went out to tender in December 2015 we were then very fortunate to have the evaluation process that involve over 60 of our academics, support staff and students right across the university. Once that evaluation process was concluded we awarded to Canvas which is made by Instructure. We've had wonderful success in the transitional from wolf to canvas but how do you go about doing it? Well it was actually easy as baking a cake but like all good cakes you need the right ingredients. So the ingredients for change was that we had a strong vision that focus on the pedagogy rather than the technology. Skilled staff we had a small project team but we were all very passionate and dedicated and had a true belief that the change we were deploying would benefit the university.

We had a plan which had clear governance structure that was agreed by all our stakeholders. We had clear benefits and we tried to understand our stakeholders and communicate with them the benefits of the project. We had time to allow us to do an early adopter process which included 24 courses 140 modules and around a 1000 students and 90 academics before we rolled out across the university.

This gave is a wonderful breadth and experience and what we wanted to do And lastly we had stakeholder engagement. We pretty much had an open-door policy and we met we every stakeholder. We presented to faculty away days, course meetings no meeting was too small for the VLE project. We even had a stall at a student fresher's fairs where we gave our Canvas bags, pens, lanyards canvas water bottles and these little guys as well little Canvas pandas So what's next for the University?

Well we want to build on the success that we've had a VLE project by engaging in a wider Canvas community, as well as the wider HE sector with the lessons that we've learned and the experiences that we've gathered. We also want to continue to put pedagogy at the heart and VLE rather than it being a just a simple platform. We also want to create more dynamic content and deliver that within

our learning and teaching. Lastly we want to share our experiences with projects inside the university so they can benefit from our experiences. This is already taking place in some examples across the institution. I hope you've enjoyed this video thank you very much for watching.