### 1. Specific Decision Required by Committee

For information only

### 2. Relevance to University Strategy

**Building Excellence**
- *Raising standards and aspirations*: “our focus will be on…… a high quality student experience”.
- *Growing capacity and influence*: “we will listen to our students……to ensure that our academic provision develops in line with their requirements”.

### 3. Executive Summary

In January the Centre for Academic Practice reported it was looking to pilot the TESTA methodology at Loughborough University ([LTC14-P108](#)). The main aim of TESTA is to enhance the student learning experience from assessment by providing evidence to programme teams about assessment and feedback patterns and to help teams to identify ways of improving assessment design in the interests of better learning outcomes.

Several Schools volunteered to participate in the pilot; due to resourcing issues only two programmes could be selected to participate in the pilot. The Design School and Civil and Building Engineering were selected. These Schools have selected specific programmes within their Schools to undertake the TESTA research. These Schools recognised there may be an issue with over assessment on their programmes and thus they were keen to participate in the pilot so they could identify if this was the case.

In April, an external consultant came to Loughborough University to deliver the TESTA training to some of the CAP team and four postgraduate research assistants (recruited to help deliver the project). To date, much of the data collection and research has been completed within these Schools and CAP will have final reports ready by the end of June to discuss with programme teams. It is hoped the reports will identify areas for potential improvement in assessment practices, which will lead to an improved student learning experience.

Once the pilot is completed CAP hopes to cascade TESTA to a wider University audience and will look to identify other programmes/Schools that wish to undertake the TESTA approach.

### 4. Essential Background Information


### 5. Risks, Risk Mitigation and Governance/

Ethical issues and storage of data – The research procedure was
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Accountability</strong></th>
<th>submitted to Ethics Approvals (Human Participants) Sub-Committee for ethical clearance. No risks related to participation have been identified. Data will be stored and destroyed by the Centre for Academic Practice in compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998</th>
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| **6. Implications for other activities** | Curriculum Review  
Programme Review/Validation |
| **7. Resource and Cost** | CAP funded – part of ongoing practice to support staff and student academic practice development. |
| **8. Alternative Options considered** | |
| **9. Other Groups/Individuals consulted.** | Morag Bell, Nick Allsopp and Carol Robinson, TESTA consultants, University of Birmingham |
| **10. Future Actions, Timescales & Frequency of Review by this Committee.** | The second stage of the project is to begin in September 2015, where CAP will look to identify further Schools, who wish to apply the TESTA methodology to their programmes. ADTs are asked to consider the adoption of TESTA. If interested then please contact Dr Hardeep Basra at the Centre for Academic Practice to discuss further. |
| **11. Success Criteria (KPIs)** | |