

LEADING THE SKILLS REVOLUTION

LSC launches recruitment campaign to new East of England Regional Councils

Date of issue	Tuesday 4 th March
Publication number	212
Embargoed until	No embargo

The LSC, the organisation responsible for ensuring the delivery of high quality education and training for young people and adults, is today launching a recruitment drive to encourage applications for key positions on the new regional council for the East of England.

The East of England Regional Council will be one of nine new Regional Councils to be established in the country. The Councils – established as part of the Further Education and Training Act 2007 - will inform the LSC's decision making at a regional level, guide progress and make sure the Government's strategy for education and skills works on the ground.

The Act streamlines the LSC's "non-executive tier" replacing 47 Local Councils with 9 Regional Councils, resulting in a more simplified, less bureaucratic, structure, as well as being aligned to the organisation of the LSC executive team. In this way, the new Councils will reflect both the local and regional needs of learners and employers.

Chris Banks, LSC Chair, said:

"Regional Councils will provide challenge, support, and leadership to the LSC's work; and in doing so will shape a world class education and skills system for each region.

In this way, Regional Council members will have the opportunity to make a real and positive difference to the lives of thousands of individuals and to the success of businesses in the region”.

The LSC has six teams in the eastern region which are based in Bedfordshire and Luton, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. These teams are responsible for investing in, and working with, training providers and employers in order to give young people and adults the skills they need for sustainable employment, and so that employers can recruit individuals with the skills needed for business success. The LSC achieves this by:

- Ensuring that the skills and training needs of employers and learners are met through the delivery of high quality provision, whilst ensuring effective use of public money
- Managing the delivery of key programmes and services for individuals and employers such as Train to Gain, Apprenticeships, Skills for Life, Education and Maintenance Allowances for young people, and Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS)
- Forging strong and effective partnerships with regional stakeholders and partners to strengthen links between jobs, training and skills and to drive forward the regional economic regeneration strategy

The LSC is a non-departmental body and is funded entirely by the Government through the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). Over £900 million will be invested in education and training in the eastern region by the LSC in 2007/8. **

Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Bill Rammell, said: “Improving the skills of the nation has never been more important. Skills are the key to building a cohesive society and to enabling the UK to compete in an increasingly competitive global economy.

“Over the next 2-3 yrs, the LSC has a huge job to do, overseeing the investment of £11.6bn in 2008-09, £12bn in 2009-10 and £12.6bn in 2010-11 – including large sums of capital investment – for the benefit of young people, adults and employers. The new Regional Councils will have a key role in ensuring that this investment is spent in the right way”.

The LSC is looking for applications from people with a strong commitment to learning and skills. Regional Chairs will have senior level experience in business and Regional Council Members will have senior level experience in fields including business, further and higher education, schools, the voluntary sector, local government and trade unions. We are also keen to receive applications from individual learners - or organisations that can present the views of learners.

As always, the LSC particularly welcomes applicants from people with disabilities, members of ethnic minority groups and women.

The closing date for applications is Friday 28th March, 2008.

For further information/ to apply please go www.regionalcouncil.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

For more information please contact Dawn Humphreys or Donna Barker at Tribe on 01603 417722 or email dawn@tribepr.com

