

PRESS RELEASE

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Michael Portillo to highlight the importance of workforce training to Cambridgeshire employers

The Right Honorable Michael Portillo will join forces with employers from Cambridgeshire to discuss the necessity of businesses maintaining a skilled workforce in order to compete in a global economy.

Employers across all sectors in Cambridgeshire are invited to book a place at a seminar and consultation event on Thursday 29 May where Mr Portillo will be the guest speaker. The former MP and Secretary of State for Employment will focus on the benefits that employee training can bring to a company and how a skilled workforce can help businesses in Cambridgeshire remain successful in increasingly competitive markets.

The Success in Cambridgeshire seminar will take place at the Huntingdon Marriott Hotel between 9.30am and 2pm. Organised as part of the Learning and Skills Council's Train to Gain initiative, the event has been set up to help businesses understand how training can help increase performance, productivity and profitability.

The seminar will provide employers with an overview about the current and future labour market needs in a global economy. Presentations will be held to advise on different aspects of company based training and to provide information about the

funding and support available to employers who are interested in improving the skills of their workforce.

Dr Jon Nay, Area Director of Cambridgeshire Learning and Skills Council, said: “This is a fantastic opportunity for employers in Cambridgeshire to come together and discuss how training and improving skills can help increase the success of businesses in the county. Employers will not only be able to find out more about the training options, support and funding available to them, they will also be able to collaborate with senior decision makers to help shape future provision.

“Many people may not realise that, as well as being a former cabinet minister, Mr Portillo also has a vast amount of experience on the board of BAE Systems plc and Kerr McGee Corporation. He has a great deal of knowledge to impart about business dynamics and strategy and is keen to emphasis how crucial it is for businesses to compete on skills in a global economy, particularly if they are unable to compete on labour costs.”

Employers will have a chance to have lunch and network with other Cambridgeshire based employers before the event concludes.

To find out more information about the seminar or to book a place visit: www.alivecom.co.uk/events, call the events team on 01234 341200 or email ali@alivecom.co.uk

For more information about Train to Gain visit www.traintogain.gov.uk or call 0800 387326.

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Notes to editors

Train to Gain

1. Train to Gain was launched nationally in September 2006 with the vision that by 2010, young people and adults in England will have the knowledge and skills that match the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce.
2. It is currently being rolled out across the East of England, including Bedfordshire & Luton, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.
3. The service is administered by The Learning and Skills Council and delivered by The East of England Brokerage Consortium and The Consultancy Home Counties Ltd.

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