

## **LSC backs new strategy to boost adult skills in London**

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New plans were revealed today to reduce unemployment and boost adult skills in London. The proposals were outlined by Mayor Ken Livingstone in the London Skills and Employment Board's (LSEB's) first strategy which will now go out for public consultation. The LSC has been working with the LSEB since its inception to develop the proposals that will determine how its £560 million adult skills budget in London will be allocated in future.

The strategy sets some challenging targets including increasing London's employment rate to 72 per cent by 2013, reducing the proportion of Londoners with no qualifications to 11 per cent by 2013 and increasing participation in training of those in work to 15 per cent over the same period.

The strategy proposes that better careers advice and support services are put in place to help Londoners gain the confidence, motivation and skills needed to get a decent job.

An ambitious new Employer programme should work to better meet employer's recruitment and skills development needs. Colleges and learning providers will be encouraged to work more closely with employers to ensure that they are providing the skills employers need.

Finally, the strategy recommends that funding and delivery agencies work more closely together so that employment and skills services become more integrated. The aim is to integrate skills and employment further so that employers can recruit Londoners with the right skills, which will in turn enhance London's globally competitive labour market.

David Hughes, Regional Director for London LSC said:

“London has a unique set of challenges, which combined lead to high levels of unemployment. There are massive opportunities ahead with the regeneration of large parts of the city as a result of London hosting the 2012 Games. Having the Mayor, employers and public sector agencies working in partnership behind this strategy is a powerful force for change. Now more than ever, we have the momentum and support to really tackle skills needs in the Capital.

“The LSC will carry forward this exciting strategy, delivering a co-ordinated and comprehensive programme to boost skills for people and business in London. We will shortly be publishing our priorities which will outline in more detail how the £560 million adult budget will be allocated in London”.

The Mayor Ken Livingstone said:

“London is one of the world’s most exciting, dynamic and diverse cities with a thriving economy that is growing at an unprecedented rate. Significant new employment opportunities are emerging linked to major developments including Crossrail and the 2012 Games. However whilst London employees are considerably more productive than the rest of the UK, Londoners experience some of the highest levels of worklessness in the country with particular inequalities in Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities as well as amongst women and people with disabilities.

“We must ensure that all our citizens have the opportunities to contribute to and benefit from London’s success. This draft strategy starts an important debate about how we make best use of all our resources to draw on the talents of all Londoners.”

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## Notes to Editors

### **LSC**

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.

### **The London Skills and Employment Board Strategy (30 October 2007)**

The strategy contains the following challenges:

**Challenge 1:** A fundamental change to the employment and skills support available for Londoners

**Challenge 2:** An ambitious new Employer programme for London Employers

**Challenge 3:** A new level of responsiveness from London's learning and skills providers to ensure that skills provision is focused on meeting genuine needs.

**Challenge 4:** An integrated skills and employment infrastructure

- The LSEB was set up under the Further Education and Training Bill. The Chair is Ken Livingstone and the vice-chair is Harvey McGrath, Chair of the Man Group and of London First. The majority of members are employers with representatives from Further Education and Unionlearn. There are advisors from Further Education, Higher Education and the Sector Skills Development Agency. The ex-officio members are David Hughes, Chris Hayes from Jobcentre Plus and Jeremy Long from the London Development Agency.
- The Board's role is to champion adult skills in London, to set priorities and produce a strategy for adult skills training in London. The strategy will drive the way the LSC allocates funds and operates programmes in London in line with national priorities.
- The strategy was launched for consultation on 30 October 2007. The consultation ends on 21 January 2008 and the strategy will be published in spring 2008. The strategy can be downloaded from: <http://www.london.gov.uk/lseb/strategy.jsp>

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**LSC website:** [www.lsc.gov.uk/london](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/london)

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