

Skills boost for 2012 Games **Additional £5 million this year on new skills for Londoners**

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A multi-million pound investment package to improve skills and training opportunities for Londoners in four key sectors related to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games was announced today by Skills Minister David Lammy MP. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will spend an additional £5 million across London this year to expand vocational training in four key areas: Sport, Customer Service, Audio-Visual and Construction Skills. Demand for skilled workers in these four sectors is forecast to increase in the run-up to 2012 and beyond. The extra money will be spent to meet the increased demand from employers for sector skills. The LSC is working with partners on the London Employment Skills Taskforce (LEST) action plan which will maximise the employment and skill opportunities brought about by London hosting the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. As a result of this investment, thousands more Londoners will be equipped with the skills they need to succeed.

In 2007-08, the £5 million will be spent on:

SPORT

- Delivering 50 new Advanced Apprenticeships in Sporting Excellence – in swimming and tennis coaching to help prepare the capital's elite athletes for competition
- Delivering 188 new sports and leisure Apprenticeships to increase the number of sports coaches in London in the lead up to the Games
- Providing bursaries for 400 future sports coaches

CONSTRUCTION

- Providing training for people on incapacity and health benefit to enable them to become employed construction trade A1 assessors - a key demand arising from the 2012 Games

- Preparing local residents for construction Apprenticeships at Kings Cross station which will be a major transport hub for the 2012 Games

CUSTOMER SERVICES

- Increasing the numbers of apprentices trained in customer service skills by delivering 200 new Apprenticeships in customer service/ hospitality

AUDIO-VISUAL

- Increasing the number and quality of work-based learning programmes on offer in the audio-visual industry

The LSC is also investing £1 million on the Pre-Volunteer Programme, a joint initiative with the London Development Agency (LDA) to encourage workless and socially excluded individuals in London to gain new skills, lifting their aspirations and creating new career choices. This programme is providing unemployed people with skills in public safety, interpersonal skills, customer service and volunteering, and is a stepping stone to further training or permanent work. Graduates from the scheme will also have the opportunity to be interviewed for the London 2012 Volunteering Programme that will be launched in 2010.

The Minister announced the funding on a visit to the Building Crafts College (BCC) next to the Olympic Park site in Stratford, East London. The college provides young people and unemployed adults with training in specialist construction skills.

Skills Minister David Lammy said:

" London 2012 is a once in a lifetime opportunity for individuals, employers and all of us. Working with the Mayor, we are determined to assist employers in meeting their skills needs to build and deliver the Games and their legacy. As Skills Minister I want to ensure that we use the Games to motivate people into work or training and help them compete for London 2012 opportunities and good jobs beyond 2012.

"Working in partnership the LSC can meet the challenges for London and the country. We must get more people into skilled jobs in construction, customer services and hospitality, media and communications - and help the coaches and athletes too. This £5 million package of measures will help reach out to Londoners and give them the skills they need to benefit from the Games."

David Hughes, the LSC's London Regional Director said:

"Our aim is to use London 2012 as an opportunity to raise skills levels and aspirations across London. This is about providing the right training in the right skills so that we can match the right people to the right jobs. It's also about ensuring that education provides the skills businesses want. Last, but not least, we want to work with local communities to ensure that people who are out of work or at a disadvantage can gain new skills as a result of the increased investment the London 2012 Games bring".

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, said:

"As London will be the focus of the world leading up to the 2012 Games, it is up to us all to continue working together to offer a first class welcome to everyone – a welcome they will never forget.

"This additional funding will boost the overarching programme to give Londoners the skills they need so they too can benefit from the 2012 Games, alongside the £15 million investment already committed through the London Development Agency."

Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London 2012 Organising Committee, said:

"London 2012 has always been about much more than sport – we want to use the transformational power of the Games to be a catalyst for good. This investment is another tangible example of how the Games can change lives."

The Olympic Delivery Authorities (ODA's) Director of Construction Howard Shiplee said:
"This welcome investment will help London 2012 achieve a sustainable skills and employment legacy."

The skills investment will be focused on work-based learning and Apprenticeships in order to ensure people have practical skills for use in the workplace so that business has the people they need to succeed. Lord Leitch's review predicted the need to double the number of Apprenticeships on offer from 250,000 to 500,000 by 2020.

The LSC will continue to increase the number and range of Apprenticeships in the run-up to the Games and beyond.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

LSC

The Learning and Skills Council 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 LSC works together with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), Jobcentre Plus, the London Development Agency (LDA), Sector Skills Councils, the Department for Culture Media and Sport and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) to ensure that Londoners benefit from the opportunities presented by the Games.
- The LSC is a key partner in the delivery of the LEST action plan (London Employment and Skills Taskforce), which seeks to ensure that the Olympics deliver an employment and skills legacy to Londoners.
- The five host boroughs in London are Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Greenwich and Waltham Forest.

The LSC spent **£133,281,723 in the last academic year 2006/07 on courses in sector skills** including sport, construction, media/audio-visual, hospitality, travel & tourism and retail. This includes courses in Further Education colleges, work-based learning providers and through Train to Gain.

Breakdown of 2007-8 investment into skills sectors related to the London 2012 Games

The LSC will spend around £1.5 million on 438 new apprenticeships across London, including:

- 200 new customer service/ hospitality Apprenticeships (Levels 2 and 3) – a direct response to Skills for Business Research (2007), which predicts 12,000 new customer service jobs by 2012, including hotel, conference, restaurant and catering managers.
- 188 new sport and leisure Apprenticeships (Levels 2 and 3) in coaching, teaching and instruction, activity leadership and fitness for able bodied and disabled learners
- 50 new Advanced Apprenticeships in Sporting Excellence (Level 3), in swimming and tennis, to prepare elite athletes for competition.

The LSC will invest around £1 million in projects to increase the amount and range of work-based learning opportunities across the capital, including:

- £200,000 on an a Construction Apprenticeship preparation programme at Kings Cross - enabling 100 16-18 year olds to progress into employment with Carillion
- £250,000 to provide career pathways for people on incapacity, disability or health benefit to become Construction Trade A1 Assessors – to address the shortage of assessors in the construction industry and to meet our objectives on ensuring a Paralympic skills and employment legacy
- £125,000 on 400 UKCC-endorsed sports coaching bursaries to be allocated to individuals – covering the cost of 2/3 of their qualification. (Sport England will fund the other third)
- £384,000 in order to build the capacity of work-based learning within the audio-visual industry

The LSC will invest £1.25 million to help people get jobs, for example:

- £1 million on the Pre-Volunteer Programme (PVP) – which engages those furthest from the labour market including people with disabilities, in volunteering and provide them with the skills to move closer into employment. The programme, being piloted across 11 London Boroughs, aims to provide graduates with an enhanced opportunity to apply to become a volunteer at the Games and is being jointly funded by London Development Agency (LDA)
- £250,000 on a Joblink programme run by the East London Business Alliance (ELBA) to work with colleges in the 5 host boroughs to equip students with 'employability skills'. This project is being jointly funded by LDA.

London Development Agency

The London Development Agency's Employment and Skills 2012 Investment for 2007-2008 of £15 million includes funding for programmes such as Community & Business Engagement, Pre-Volunteer Programme, Employer Accord, Hospitality and Catering, Joblink, and Games-Related Sector Training. Website: www.london.gov.uk

Building Crafts College (BCC)

The Building Crafts College provides young people and adults with Apprenticeships in specialist construction skills including carpentry, stonemasonry and joinery. The college is based in Stratford and is a Centre of Vocational Excellence for Traditional Building Crafts. Website: www.thebcc.ac.uk

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

LSC website: www.lsc.gov.uk/london

Media Enquiries

For media enquiries/ pictures of the Minister's visit to the Olympics site, please contact the LSC Press Office on the numbers below.

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