

Leitch Implementation Update

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Background and Introduction

- 1 On publication of the Leitch Review of Skills *Prosperity for All in the Global Economy – World Class Skills* in December 2006, we committed to providing regular updates to Council on developments relating to Leitch implementation, as well looking more in depth in areas where the LSC is involved in taking the recommendations forward. This document is the latest in a series of papers which provide regular updates on Leitch implementation and complements the update on Leitch from Stephen Marston, Director General for Skills and Lifelong Learning Directorate, DfES.

Recommendation

- 2 National Council are asked to note recent developments relating to the implementation of the Leitch report

Leitch Implementation

- 3 The Department for Education and Skills have now commenced work on the development of a full Implementation Plan in response to the Leitch Review. This will be launched in early June alongside a formal launch of Skills Pledge at an event attended by the Chancellor, the Secretary of State and the Skills Envoy.
- 4 We have received a copy of the first outline of the Implementation Plan, which is still at the early stages of development and we are working closely with DfES colleagues to ensure that the LSC inputs fully as the document is drafted.

- 5 National Office policy leads will continue to liaise with their DfES counterparts working to ensure that we influence all policy developments that impact on the LSC. Regional Directors have also been nominated to work with national policy leads to ensure that policy decisions are evidence based.
- 6 It will be critical to ensure that, in meeting the ambitions of Leitch, there are realistic assumptions about what can be delivered in light of the final CSR settlement. This will need to be set against other LSC and Government priorities. We are working with DfES to ensure there is a shared understanding of the consequences of delivering the Leitch proposals.

Leitch/ FE Reform Roadshows

- 7 We have been working jointly with the DfES on a series of nine regional events aimed at FE College Principals, Work Based Learning Providers and key stakeholders. The events, hosted by Mark Haysom and Stephen Marston provided a strategic overview of the Leitch ambition and plans for FE reform and considered how the sector can work together to take forward the Leitch recommendations.
- 8 The roadshows, which took place between February and April, have been well attended and well received by stakeholders in all of the nine regions. Some of the consistent themes emerging across these events include:
 - Employer engagement;
 - Qualifications reform;
 - Brokerage; and
 - Bureaucracy.
- 9 A full report on all of the nine events is currently being drafted and will be published in June.

Commission for Employment and Skills

- 10 We understand from DfES that the recruitment for the Chair of the Commission for Employment and Skills is nearly complete, and an announcement is likely to be made in June after the local elections. The next step will be the recruitment of the Board and Chief Executive as the intention is that it will be up and running by April 2008.
- 11 There are still many issues to be addressed on the role and remit of the Commission and, most importantly, how it will balance a strategic advisory role with the more operational functions like SSC performance. The fact that it is a UK organisation means it is especially complex and the structures, governance, accountabilities and reporting arrangements are still being developed. The relationship with the LSC is also still unclear, and Chris Banks is due to meet with Stephen Hillier of DfES to have a first discussion on this.

Skills Pledge

- 12 The LSC Management Group Report provides an update on the Skills Pledge and the work currently being undertaken on what the pledge is and how it will operate. A Ministerial submission was sent up to Ministers at the end of April and we hope to provide a verbal update on this at the Council meeting.

Legal implications

- 13 There are no legal implications arising from this paper.

Financial implications

- 14 The DfES received an overall CSR settlement at the time of the Budget and this was considered reasonable. However our expectation is that the adult settlement, including Leitch, will be very modest. Further information will be provided to Council as and when it becomes available.

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| Paper creator | Priya Gossain |
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