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Leading learning and skills

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) welcomes Lord Leitch's vision for world-class skills. It is imperative that our country has the skills to compete globally, now and in the future. We want more people to operate at a high level in the global economy with increased productivity per head and more people in work. Prosperity for all will be achieved through world class skills and the Further Education system will be central to this.

LSC Chair Chris Banks said: "This is a clear rallying call and Lord Leitch has set ambitious challenges to employers, learners and to those who work with them. The LSC is in full agreement that we need to seize this opportunity and ensure that the ambitions of being world-class in skills are met.

"The LSC National Council* met today to discuss the Leitch Review of Skills and gave its full support to the direction and ambitions contained in the final report.

"We are particularly pleased to see the recognition of the contribution that some of our flagship programmes and services are already making such as Train to Gain, Apprenticeships, Skills for Life, the National Employer Service and the clear direction to build on these to accelerate progress in the years ahead."

LSC Chief Executive Mark Haysom said: "It is a big challenge to be world-class. We have collectively already made considerable progress but there is much, much more which needs to be done. The LSC lies at the heart of this and is ready to play its full part.

"It is clear that we must all continue to accelerate change so that we go further, faster. The LSC recognises and shares this ambition and we will continue to raise our game to make this a reality. We look forward to working with DfES and our partners to achieve this.

"In particular the LSC is delighted that, today, the Chancellor has further reinforced his commitment to our Train to Gain service. He also announced a threefold increase in the numbers of adults who will be able to gain qualifications by 2011 and a doubling of Apprenticeships by 2020 to 500,000. He also committed additional capital for Further Education colleges."

**The LSC National Council contains representatives of business, higher education, further education, schools, Jobcentre Plus, voluntary sector and the TUC.*