

LSC APPOINTS REGIONAL COUNCIL IN THE NORTH WEST

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the North West has recently announced the appointment of 13 council members to form a new Regional Council.

Set up as part of the Further Education and Training Act 2007, the new Regional Council will lead the LSC's regional and local presence; informing decision making, guiding progress and ensuring the successful delivery of the LSC's agenda in the North West. The 13 council members will act as guiding voices, translating national and regional strategy into practice and effectively investing the LSC's budget over the next few years.

The Act was introduced to streamline the LSC's 'non-executive tier' following the replacement of 47 Local Councils with the nine Regional Councils in existence today. This move has resulted in a more simplified, less bureaucratic structure, as well as being aligned to the organisation of the LSC executive team. In this way, the new councils reflect both the local and regional needs of learners and employers.

Appointed members are required to have a combination of business, education, training and community experience in order to contribute to the balance of the board. As a result of a successful recruitment drive earlier this year, the LSC in the North West received a significant number of applications for key positions on the Regional Council, including those from many leading businessmen and women in the region.

The appointed council members all demonstrate a strong commitment to learning and skills, and are from a diverse range of sectors and backgrounds. The new council consists of representatives from educational establishments, trade unions and from the public and private sector.

The same recruitment drive also saw the reappointment of Roger Hoyle on the 1 June as the Regional Chair of the LSC in the North West.

Congratulating the new Regional Council members, LSC chair Chris Banks said: “We have a single aim; to improve the skills of the nation, and over the next few years the LSC – supported by the new Regional Councils – has a huge and important role to play. Our aim is to work with the Further Education sector to ensure that we continue to respond effectively to the changing needs of individual learners, employers and wider communities, and to secure the skills we need to remain competitive as a country.

“I am delighted that we have been able to attract such a high calibre of membership to our new Regional Councils from a wide range of sectors and backgrounds. The Regional Councils will provide challenge, support and leadership to the LSC’s work, and in doing so will help shape a world class education and skills system for the North West region.”

Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Bill Rammell, added: “The Government is committed to delivering the world class education and learning system that we need if we are to compete effectively in a global economy.

“The nine new Regional Councils will have a vital role to play in ensuring that in all regions we have the skills needed to strengthen our economic performance and to transform the ambitions and life chances of millions of people.”

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Notes to editors :

The new North West Regional Council consists of the following members:

- Roger Hoyle (Chair), Business Consultant
- Pat Bacon, Principal, St Helens College
- Maureen Boland, Director for HR and Business Development, Conlon Construction
- Kath Boullen, former member of Merseyside Local Council and the National Young Peoples Advisory Committee
- Claire Dove, CEO of Blackburne House Group
- Christine Gaskell, HR Director, Bentley Motors
- Abdul Hamied, Regeneration and Renewal Manager, Rochdale MBC
- Kate Hollern, Work-based Learning Contracts Manager, Blackburn College
- Graham Lamont, Self employed, Chartered Accountant and the current High Sheriff of Cumbria
- Jenny Martin, Regional Organiser for NUS and is Chair of the newly formed University of Cumbria, Students' Union Shadow Board
- Alan Roff, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for University of Central Lancashire.
- Dean Royles, Executive Director of Workforce and Education in NHS Northwest
- Ray Short, Senior Officer for the Public Sector with Unison
- William (Bill) Rutter, Regional Board member and Chair of the Capital Group

Learning and Skills Council

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.