

### APPRENTICESHIPS ON THE MENU AT SWINDON BUSINESS BREAKFAST

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At a business breakfast event in Swindon next week, business owners and managers are to be given the opportunity to learn more about Apprenticeships, including the essential role they can play in supporting organisations in the current economic climate.

Hosted by the new National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), the breakfast – held at Swindon’s STEAM Museum from 7.45am on Wednesday, 13 May – will also enable attendees to hear how Apprenticeships are already benefiting local employers

In addition, the NAS and independent business brokers from Business Link will be on hand to explain the availability of Apprenticeship funding and answer employer’s queries via a question and answer panel session.

John Chudley, Regional Director of the NAS, said: “There has always been a strong business case for Apprenticeships, but the benefits are even greater during the current trading climate. In fact, our research has shown that almost a quarter of businesses have hired more apprentices to help them through tougher times.

“Apprenticeships have always made good commercial sense, and the fact that so many businesses are now taking part in the Apprenticeship programme is testament to how successfully it is meeting employers’ exacting demands and creating a valuable, skilled and willing workforce for the future.”

Apprenticeships have been identified as a key weapon to help combat the downturn and a cornerstone of the Government’s skills strategy to boost the economy and increase UK competitiveness. Earlier this year, Gordon Brown announced an extra £140 million of funding to create an additional 35,000 new Apprenticeship places in response to concerns that the recession will make it harder for young people to get onto the jobs ladder.

In the last 10 years, the number of Apprenticeships in the UK – which span 80 different industry sectors – has risen from 75,000 to 240,000. In the South West, there are in

To find out more about Apprenticeships, visit [apprenticeships.org.uk](http://apprenticeships.org.uk) or call 08000 150 600

excess of 49,000 learners on Apprenticeship programmes at more than 17,000 businesses.

Further information about the Swindon Business Breakfast can be obtained by calling 0117 973 1173.

**For more information about Apprenticeships, visit [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) or call 08000 150 600.**

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### **Did you know?<sup>1</sup>**

- In the last 10 years, Apprenticeship places have risen from 75,000 to more than 240,000.
- In the South West alone, there are more than 49,000 learners on Apprenticeship programmes offered by over 17,000 companies.
- The aviation industry has experienced the largest growth in Apprenticeships in the South West in the last year followed by vehicle maintenance and repair.
- In the UK, there are more than 200 different Apprenticeships across 80 different industry sectors.
- A young person who completes an Apprenticeship at Level 3 will earn £100,000 more during their working life than someone with a Level 2 qualification who does not do an Apprenticeship.

### **National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)**

The NAS was announced in January 2008 and officially launched in April 2009. Reporting to the Departments for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the service will drive forward the Government's ambition for Apprenticeships. The service aims to bring about a significant growth in the number of employers offering Apprenticeships.

The NAS will assume total responsibility for the delivery of Apprenticeships that includes: Employer Services; Learner Services; and a web-based vacancy matching system. This online system enables individuals to search and apply for live vacancies and allows

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<sup>1</sup> LSC figures, 2007

employers, and their training providers to advertise their vacancies to a wide range of interested applicants.

The service has ultimate accountability for the national delivery of targets and co-ordination of the funding for Apprenticeship places. It will act to overcome barriers to the growth of the programme and assume responsibility for promoting Apprenticeships and their value to employers, learners and the country as a whole.