

JOHN SAVAGE APPOINTED NEW CHAIR OF LSC SOUTH WEST

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the organisation responsible for ensuring the delivery of high quality education and training for young people and adults, has today (Wednesday 28 May) announced the re-appointment of renowned businessman John Savage as the Regional Chair of the South West LSC.

John, who previously held the position between 2006 and 2008, will lead the LSC South West's new Regional Council which is to be formally established in September. He will also direct the process for recruiting members to the new Council over the course of the next two months.

Set up as part of the Further Education and Training Act 2007, the new Regional Council will inform the LSC's decision making at a regional level, guide progress and ensure the Government's strategy for education and skills works on the ground. John's appointment as Regional Chair is one of nine made by the LSC across the country.

Boasting a broad range of business experience gained in management over a period of more than 40 years, John is involved with a number of organisations working within the South West. He is currently Executive Chairman of Business West and Vice Chairman of the West of England Partnership. He is also board member of the South West of England Regional Development Agency.

John said: "I am delighted to have this opportunity to continue working with the LSC in this important period of change. The challenges around the learning and skills agenda could not be more important."

Malcolm Gillespie, LSC Regional Director - South West, said: "We have a single aim; to improve the skills of the nation."

“In John, we have appointed a strong and dynamic individual who will continue to add huge value to the LSC. John will now help to establish a Regional Council in the South West.

“The Regional Council will provide challenge, support, and leadership to the LSC’s work and in doing so will help to shape a world class education and skills system for the South West. John and his team will play a key role in ensuring that the LSC continues to deliver for learners and employers.”

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Note to Editors:

LSC

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country. For more information visit:

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/westofengland>

The Further Education and Training Act 2007

The new Regional Councils –established as part of the Further Education and Training Act 2007 will inform the LSC’s decision making at a regional level, guide progress and make sure the Government’s strategy for education and skills works on the ground.

The Act streamlines the LSC’s “non-executive tier” replacing 47 Local Councils with 9 Regional Councils, resulting 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 will reflect both the local and regional needs of learners and employers.

Machinery of Government consultation “Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver”

On 17 March 2008 the Secretaries of State of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and Department for Children, Schools And Families (DCSF), announced the Machinery of Government consultation “Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver” which proposes that there will be two new bodies that will continue to drive ahead the huge agenda that the LSC has been charged with since 2001.

1. For young people there will be a new national Non Departmental Public Body, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) with some regional capacity, which will support local authorities in their new role in commissioning and funding 14-19 provision. Local capacity on 14-19 will therefore, as expected, be with Local Authorities.

2. For adults there will be a new Skills Funding Agency (SFA), again with some regional capacity, which will oversee the distribution of funds to the sector and manage the performance of FE colleges. The Agency will also house the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), the National Employer Service, and the Adult Careers and Advancement Agency. As has already been announced, the Train to Gain brokerage service will transfer to Regional Development Agencies in April 2009.