

LSC ANNOUNCES REGIONAL COUNCIL IN THE SOUTH WEST

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) South West, the organisation responsible for ensuring the delivery of high quality education and training for young people and adults, has today announced the appointment of 11 council members to form a new Regional Council.

Set up as part of the Further Education and Training Act 2007, the new Regional Council informs the LSC's decision making at a regional level, guides progress and ensures the Government's strategy for education and skills works on the ground.

The Act streamlines the LSC's "non-executive tier" having replaced 47 Local Councils with nine Regional Councils. This 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.

Council members are drawn from the community via a formal recruitment process. Applicants are selected on various criteria in addition to their performance at interview, and must have the required mixture of business, education, training and community experience in order to contribute to the skills balance of the board.

As a result of a successful recruitment drive launched earlier this year, the LSC South West received a significant number of applications for key positions on the Regional Council, including those from many leading businessmen and women in the South West.

The new council members demonstrated a strong commitment to learning and skills, and were drawn from a diverse range of sectors and backgrounds. The new council will consist of representatives from educational establishments and from the public and private sector.

The same recruitment drive also saw the reappointment of renowned businessman John Savage as the Regional Chair of the LSC South West.

John commented on the new appointments: "The next two years of the work of the LSC South West will be as vital as all those preceding, where we have delivered on the promises made and achieved the targets set. I am very pleased that so many excellent applications were received by the regional board positions and that we were able to select members from a wealth of talent."

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 South 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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All media enquiries, please contact:

Kelly Davis or Richard Cook at Bray Leino PR

T: 0117 973 1173

E: kdavis@brayleino.co.uk / rcook@brayleino.co.uk

Notes to editors:

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

- John Savage, Business West, Executive Chairman

- Malcolm Gillespie, LSC, Regional Director South West
- Nick Buckland, Director/owner of Priest House investment company as well as a management consultant. RDA member, business owner, consultant and non-exec on several boards
- Richard Dimbleby, Self employed, Education and Management Consultant.
- Chris Hyde, ROK Property Solutions plc, Regional Director
- Brian Kemp, Self employed, Management Consultant
- Susan Moore, College Principal, Weymouth College
- Timothy Moore, Self employed, Educational Consultant
- John Rogers, Skills for Health, Chief Executive
- Timothy Ward, The Learning Curve, Chief Executive
- Carole Whitty, National Association of Head Teachers, Deputy Chair.
- Juliet Williams, South West RDA, Chair
- Dereth Wood, Executive Director and Director of Operations, Ufi /learndirect

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.

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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.