

# The Learning and Skills Council

## A brief guide

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Department for  
Education and Employment

## The Learning and Skills Council - An Introduction

### Introduction

In June 1999 the Government published the *Learning to Succeed* White Paper. This set out plans to modernise and radically reform the management of post-16 education and training provision in England. Its vision was of a nation:

- ▶ in which individuals will achieve their full potential and companies will thrive;
- ▶ that can compete with the best, that is well equipped and adaptable enough to secure our economic future;
- ▶ that is confident, socially inclusive, with strong families and neighbourhoods, where people can grow and be equipped to play a full part in their community; and
- ▶ in which creativity, enterprise, and a regard for learning can flourish.

### The Learning and Skills Council

The new Learning and Skills Council (LSC) will maximise the contribution of post-16 learning to this vision. From April 2001 the LSC will take on the training functions of the current Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) network and the funding responsibilities of the Further Education Funding Council. The LSC will have an annual budget of over £6 billion and responsibility for funding around six million learners each year in England. The LSC will be responsible for the funding, planning and quality assurance of:

- ▶ Further Education sector colleges;
- ▶ school sixth forms;
- ▶ work-based training for young people;
- ▶ workforce development;

- ▶ adult and community learning;
- ▶ information, advice and guidance for adults; and
- ▶ education-business links.

The LSC will work to achieve a post-16 learning culture which will:

- ▶ be responsive to the needs of individuals and employers;
- ▶ promote employability for individuals by equipping them with skills that are in demand in the labour market;
- ▶ help employers develop employees to achieve world class business performance;
- ▶ ensure targeted support for the most disadvantaged and promote equality of opportunity;
- ▶ secure the entitlement of all 16-19 year olds to stay in learning;
- ▶ promote excellence and high quality delivery of service; and
- ▶ remove unnecessary bureaucracy and secure maximum effectiveness and value for money.

### Structure and management of the LSC

The LSC will be a unitary body formed as an executive Non-Departmental Public Body. It will have common goals and objectives, working through a common structure and culture with a transparent and accountable national framework. The LSC will be governed by a National Council consisting of the National Chair, up to 14 Council members, and the Chief Executive. The offices of the national arm of the LSC will be in Coventry.

The National Council will be advised by two statutory committees (one covering adult learning and one covering young people) and will operate through 47 local LSC's, which have been organised to reflect travel-to-work and travel-to-learn areas (see map at the Annex). Local LSCs will each have a Council, consisting of the local Chair, up to 14 Council members, and the local Executive Director. The offices of the local arms of the LSC will be in the locations also set out in the Annex.

### The role of the LSC at national level

At the national level the LSC will:

- ▶ assess national learning and skills needs, and advise the Government on the National Learning Targets;
- ▶ develop a three year corporate plan and annual operational plan agreed with the Secretary of State including strategies to meet the National Learning Targets;
- ▶ set a clear national agenda for workforce development, working with business, trades unions, and National Training Organisations;
- ▶ drive forward action to tackle poor basic skills amongst adults, ensure accessible learning opportunities are available to the most socially disadvantaged and those with learning difficulties, and promote equality of opportunity for all learners;
- ▶ develop a wide range of national partnerships to understand needs and agree strategies for working together. For example, this will include Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), the University for Industry (Ufi), the Small Business Service (SBS), and with major national employers. It will also include local authorities and education/training providers through their representatives; and
- ▶ allocate the majority of its budget to local LSCs for them to allocate funds within a national framework with a significant proportion of local flexibility.

## The role of the local LSCs

The local LSCs will be responsible for ensuring that the needs of local communities, businesses and individuals are reflected and met through LSC-funded provision, and for delivering the national priorities and policies at local level. They will have real decision making authority and flexibility. They will determine the allocations of LSC funding locally and deploy significant local discretionary budgets, including funds to drive up the quality of local provision and to support local initiatives which would not otherwise attract mainstream funding. A typical local LSC will be responsible for annual budgets of £100 million and for funding 100,000 learners in its locality.

Local LSCs will also develop local workforce development plans building on the work undertaken by TECs. These plans will direct local action to encourage employers, particularly small firms, to invest in developing their workforce and promote the business benefits of this, including recognition through the Investors in People Standard. Local LSCs will work closely with RDAs, local authorities, learning partnerships, the Connexions Service, the SBS, Ufl and others to ensure coherent action is taken to achieve shared goals.

## Who will make up the LSC?

To ensure that business needs are at the heart of the LSC arrangements, and that they are consumer driven, at least 40 per cent of the members of the LSC, both nationally and locally, and the national Chair and the majority of the local Chairs, will be people with substantial recent business or commercial experience. The National Council and local LSCs will each include a senior RDA figure to reinforce the important links between the LSC and the RDAs on integrating skills strategies and planning.

We also expect the national and local LSCs to have members who understand the needs of:

- ▶ local communities, through local authority and voluntary sector experience;
- ▶ employees, through trade union representation;
- ▶ young people;
- ▶ people with special needs and learning difficulties or those with disabilities;
- ▶ adult and community learning; and
- ▶ people who face discrimination

It will also be important that learning providers are represented, including people with experience of working in a senior capacity in the schools, further and higher education, and private and voluntary training provider sectors.

## Next steps

Work is continuing on many fronts to ensure that the LSC is operational from April 2001. This ranges from finding LSC premises, to staffing in the local LSCs, to the planning and funding mechanisms for the LSC, to making senior appointments to the LSC, nationally and locally.

The senior appointments to the LSC will be made following open, national advertisements. The appointments process will follow the principles of openness and transparency and, where appropriate, will be commensurate with the Nolan principles and the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The LSC National Chair and Chief Executive and the local LSC Chairs and local Executive Directors will be announced on a designate basis in June and July 2000. Their appointments will be confirmed when the Learning and Skills Bill, subject to its passage through Parliament, receives Royal Assent. They will play a critical role in establishing the new organisation and in working with partners and providers to ensure an orderly transfer of responsibilities. The members of the National Council will be announced in October, Local Council members in November, and members of the National Council's two advisory committees in December.

## Further Information

If you would like further information on the LSC please contact us:

- ▶ **by post** to Mike Morley, Department for Education and Employment, W3A, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ
- ▶ **by e-mail** to [mike-morley.feedback@dfee.gov.uk](mailto:mike-morley.feedback@dfee.gov.uk), or
- ▶ **via the DfEE's Internet site** at [www.dfee.gov.uk/post16/](http://www.dfee.gov.uk/post16/). This site has an e-mail facility available.

If you would like a copy of the Learning and Skills Council Prospectus (also available in Braille, large print and on audio cassette) this can be obtained free of charge from the address below. Please state which type of copy you require.

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## Local Learning and Skills Councils in each English region



### North West

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
1 Cumbria	Workington
2 Lancashire	Preston
3 Greater Manchester	Manchester
4 Merseyside/Halton	Liverpool
5 Cheshire/Warrington	Middlewich

### West Midlands

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
6 Shropshire	Telford
7 Staffordshire	Stoke on Trent
8 The Black Country	Sandwell
9 Birmingham/Solihull	Birmingham
10 Coventry/Warwickshire	Coventry
11 Herefordshire/Worcestershire	Worcester

### South West

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
12 Gloucestershire	Gloucester
13 Wiltshire	Swindon
14 Former Avon	
15 Somerset	Taunton
16 Dorset	Bournemouth
17 Devon/Cornwall	Plymouth & Satellite at Truro

### North East

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
18 Northumberland	Cramlington
19 Tyne & Wear	Gateshead
20 County Durham	Newton Aycliffe
21 Tees Valley	Middlesborough

### Yorkshire and the Humber

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
22 North Yorkshire	York
23 West Yorkshire	Bradford
24 Humberside	Hull
25 South Yorkshire	Sheffield

### East Midlands

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
26 Derbyshire	Derby
27 Nottinghamshire	Nottingham
28 Lincolnshire/Rutland	Lincoln
29 Leicestershire	Leicester
30 Northamptonshire	Northampton

### East of England

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
31 Norfolk	Norwich
32 Cambridgeshire	Peterborough
33 Suffolk	Ipswich
34 Bedfordshire	Bedford
35 Hertfordshire	St Albans
36 Essex	Chelmsford

### London

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
37 London West	Ealing*
38 London Central	Camden
39 London North	Palmer's Green
40 London East	Stratford
41 London South	Croydon

### South East

Local LSC Area	LSC Location
42 Oxford/Bucks/Milton Keynes	Abingdon
43 Berkshire	Reading
44 Surrey	Woking
45 Kent/Medway	West Malling
46 Sussex	Brighton
47 Hampshire/Isle of Wight	Fareham & satellite at Newport (IOW)

\* The Government's preference is to locate the West London local LSC in Ealing but before a final decision is made, it will be necessary to look further into the financial implications.

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