

NEWS RELEASE
Date - 2nd July 2007
Ref. 2007 Skills Review



Region's approach to Post-16 Education, Training and Skills

NEW changes could be introduced for post-16 education in Hereford as a Strategic Review is carried out by the West Midlands Regional Assembly and the Region's Learning Skills Council.

The Strategic Review will look into the Region's approach to post 16-education, training and skills.

With the largest proportion of people without any qualifications in England and only a small proportion of its workforce with qualifications at NVQ level 3 or above, the question is why is the West Midlands falling behind on work force skills?

Olwen Dutton, Chief Executive of the Regional Assembly said: "Improving workforce skills and in turn the performance of our businesses is critical to the future success of the West Midlands. As well as providing a clearer picture of the roles and responsibilities of the different organisations and structures involved in delivering work-related education and training, this Review should give us a better understanding of how skills issues impact across the Region in terms of both policies and strategies and geography."

As part of the review the panel will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 10 July at 10am at the offices of the Hereford Group Training Association Holmer Road Hereford HR4 9SX.

The meeting is to enable the panel to hear representations on the provision of skills and training especially in relation to rural areas of the region. The panel would welcome input from any organisations in the Hereford area who would like to attend the session.

To find out more, please contact John Wright at the Regional Assembly on 0121 678 1054.

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For further information contact:

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Notes to editors:

1. The West Midlands Regional Assembly ('the Assembly') represents a wide range of democratic, social and economic interests throughout the West Midlands region.
2. The Assembly's membership consists of 100 nominated representatives, with 68 members representing the local authority, 16 representing the business sector and 16 representing other economic and social partners.
3. The Assembly provides a platform for organisations to consider matters of common concern including: regional planning, transport, economic prosperity, sustainability, culture and Europe. It also supports regional policy forums and task groups on social inclusion, faith, housing, life long learning/skills, health, rural and community safety/crime reduction.
4. The Assembly works in partnership with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) the regional development agency (RDA), the Government Office West Midlands (GOWM), Regional Action West Midlands (RAWM) the West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA) and other regional and local organisations from across the West Midlands region.
5. The Assembly is the Regional Planning Body, and is also responsible for scrutinising the operation of the region's RDA, Advantage West Midlands.
6. For further information, visit our website www.wmra.gov.uk