

ASSEMBLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 26 September 2007

**Strategic Review of The Regional Approach to
Post 16 Education, Training and Skills**

Progress to date

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on the progress of the Strategic Review of the Regional Approach to Post 16 Education, Training and Skills

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Board note the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Assembly has been invited by David Cragg, Regional Director, Learning and Skills Council and skills advisor to the West Midlands Regional Assembly, to examine the contribution of the LSC to the region. Following discussions it has been agreed that this would take the form of a strategic review of the Regional approach to post 16 education, training and skills.

- 3.2 The Panel will consider written submissions and hold a number of evidence gathering sessions. The Panel will produce a final report making recommendations for The Regional Assembly and the Learning and Skills Council. All participants will be asked to comment on a draft report prior to this being finalised.

4. Terms of Reference

- 4.1 The Panel considered the objectives of the review and agreed that the initial list of ten objectives could be simplified in to four terms of reference as follows: -

1. To establish a baseline understanding of national policies on post 16 education, skills and training.
2. To establish a baseline understanding of performance and intelligence data relating to post 16 education, skills and training in the West Midlands region.
3. To examine the alignment, collaboration and integration of policies and practices relating to post 16 education, skills and training in the West Midlands region.
4. To examine the implementation and operation of policies, practices and resources relating to post 16 education, skills and training in the West Midlands region.

5. Review Process

- 5.1 The panel began collecting evidence in May and will continue to do so until mid/late October. Once evidence has been collected a draft report will be produced which will be circulated for a period of consultation during November/December 2007. The final report will then be presented to the full Assembly in January 2008.
- 5.2 The panel began by receiving a briefing on national policies related to skills. The panel also received a presentation which gave a baseline understanding of performance and intelligence data relating to post 16 education, skills and training in the West Midlands region details from the West Midlands Regional Observatory and the Learning and Skills Council of the performance of the region on skills issues.
- 5.3 To date the panel has received evidence from the following organisations:-
 - Engineering Employers Federation
 - Federation of Small Businesses
 - Hereford College of Technology
 - Herefordshire Group Training Association
 - Painter Bros
 - Regional Skills Partnership
 - Royal National College for the Blind
 - Special Metal Wiggins
 - Trades Union Council – Union Learn
 - Transport and General Workers Union
 - West Midlands Business Council
 - West Midlands Chamber of Commerce
 - West Midlands Minority Ethnic Business Forum
 - Youth Parliament

- 5.4 The panel are due to meet with representatives of the following organisations
- Colleges/Universities
 - Job Centre Plus and Connexions
 - Private providers of training contracted by the LSC both large and small sized organisations
 - Sector Skills Council
 - Skills Active
 - Sport England

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