

NEWS RELEASE

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Ref. 20071409 Skills Review



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

ORGANISATIONS and parties are being offered one last chance to attend a strategic panel review being carried out by the West Midlands Regional Assembly on behalf of the Region's Learning Skills Council.

With a large 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 review is examining the Region's approach to post 16-education, training and skills. It will also look at why the West Midlands is falling behind on work force skills.

Cllr Jo Jones, Review Panel Chair said: "Improving workforce skills and in turn the performance of our businesses is critical to the future success of the West Midlands. The panel are gaining a better understanding of how skills issues impact across the Region in terms of both policies and strategies and geography."

To conclude the evidence gathering stage of the reviews the panel will be holding a series of meetings during September and October to hear representations from across the Region.

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

- ENDS -

**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](http://www.wmra.gov.uk)