



**meeting SKILLS: NOW AND THE FUTURE SELECT COMMITTEE**

**date 14 April 2008**

**agenda item number**

## **Report of the Chair of the Skills: Now and the Future Select Committee**

### **Further Information and Work Programme**

#### **Purpose of the report**

1. To inform Members of developments in government's plans for skills training and to indicate the further work programme for this select committee scope.

#### **Background**

2. On 28 January 2008, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Select Committee to examine workforce skills issues in Nottinghamshire. On 17 March the Skills: Now and the Future Select Committee received a scene-setting presentations on skills issues. Additionally, on 17 March the government announced substantial changes to the delivery of skills for adults and young people. This comprises the dissolution by 2010 of the Learning and Skills Council and the transfer of responsibility for commissioning courses and training to local authorities in the case of young people and to a new Skills Funding Agency in the case of adults.

#### **Further Information**

3. The Department for Children, Schools and Families plans to transfer £7 billion to local authorities to help colleges and sixth forms deliver the reforms needed to raise the education and training leaving age to 18.
4. The Government will also direct £4 billion through the new agency to provide training and skills for adults, transforming the system to be responsive and demand led. The Skills Funding Agency will build on the work of the Learning and Skills Council to route funding to FE colleges and other providers to meet the demand of employers and learners.
5. The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families stated that, "Local Authorities are in the best place to respond to the needs of

young people locally. So by giving them responsibility for the funding we are putting the final pieces in place to ensure they can offer this choice. They are already responsible for schools, are taking responsibility for advising young people and are being given new duties to ensure that the right range of provision is in place for young people to continue in education and training until 19.”

6. These proposals are the subject of a consultation which closes on 9 June 2008.

### **Work Programme**

7. On 14 April the Select Committee will receive information and evidence from the Learning and Skills Council, Job Centre Plus and Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce (The Federation of Small Businesses were also invited to attend this Select Committee but had not confirmed their attendance at the time this report was being finalised).
8. On 12 May the Select Committee plans to receive evidence from local “blue chip” companies such as Boots and Rolls-Royce.
9. Further meetings of the Select Committee will take place on 16 June and 14 July. All meetings due to take place at 2:00 p.m.

### **Recommendation**

10. It is recommended that

the Skills: Now and the Future Committee note the work programme, receive briefing and evidence, and initiate lines of questioning as necessary.

**Councillor John Knight**

**Chair of the Skills: Now and the Future Select Committee**

Background papers: nil.