

## **Memorandum of Understanding: Education and Training Support in the Manufacturing Sector**

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills, the Learning and Skills Council, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Universities UK, Regional Development Agencies (and their Business Link and Manufacturing Advisory Service providers), the National Skills Academies and the Manufacturing Skills Alliance of Sector Skills Councils are committed to working together to join up their programmes and services to provide clear and easy access for manufacturers to the support on offer for skills and workforce development in England. Partners will work together to support manufacturers to address their skills needs. The shared goal is to help manufacturing businesses raise productivity and competitiveness by developing a world-class skills base in the UK.

Manufacturers will be able to access high-quality advice and support through a number of different routes. Each business will be free to choose the route that suits its needs. Whichever the chosen route, the partners to this Memorandum will work together to give manufacturers of all sizes and sub-sectors easy access to support to meet the range of their training needs. Each partner will ensure:

- Their own programmes and services deliver high-quality advice and support that meet the skills and training needs of manufacturers;
- Strong partnership working to ensure manufacturers are given the help they need to get appropriate support quickly if a particular partner can not meet their needs, by clear signposting and referral to whichever partner is best placed to provide the service; and
- Co-ordination of employer engagement activities to ensure employers are engaged in a joined up and efficient manner.

In delivering this commitment, Memorandum partners will have the following roles and responsibilities:

- **UK Commission for Employment and Skills** advising and challenging Government at the highest levels across the UK on its employment and skills strategy, targets and policies.
- **Learning and Skills Council** overseeing the Train to Gain and National Employer Services and the Apprenticeships programme, and planning and funding all other adult education and training in England outside of higher education.
- **Higher Education Funding Council for England** promoting and funding high-quality, cost-effective teaching and research, meeting the diverse needs of employers, students, the economy and society.
- **Universities UK** representing the views of UK Universities, facilitating communication with manufacturing employers to ensure that Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) continue to produce quality graduates equipped with the skills that they need, and promoting the wide benefits to business of engagement with HEIs in workforce development.
- **Regional Development Agencies** leading the management of the Business Link integrated brokerage service the Government's primary access channel for business support, and overseeing a range of other business support services including the Manufacturing Advisory Service which provides specialist advice and support to manufacturers.

- **National Skills Academies**, led by employers, providing specialist support for manufacturers in the design and delivery of training and qualifications, developing and sharing best practice in skills. Academies will work collaboratively in supporting employers across the manufacturing sector.
- **Sector Skills Councils** representing the views of manufacturing employers in their sector, articulating the future skills needs of manufacturing, ensuring that the supply of skills and qualifications is driven by manufacturers' needs, and raising employer ambition and investment in skills.

Government and Memorandum partners will review performance against the commitment periodically, drawing on evidence from existing reporting and evaluation mechanisms to assess progress in simplifying manufacturers' access to support, and identifying opportunities for further simplification.


The UK Commission for Employment and Skills will draw on the lessons learned in manufacturing in its work to develop cross-cutting proposals for further simplification of the skills system in England.

**Together, Government and delivery partners are committed to providing simplified support for manufacturing firms to help them develop the skills, training and qualifications they need for their workforce to be successful.**

**Signed by:**



Mark Haysom (Chief Executive, LSC)



David Eastwood (Chief Executive, HEFCE)



Chris Humphries (Chief Executive, UK Commission for Employment and Skills)



Steven Broomhead (Chief Executive, NWRDA on behalf of all RDAs )



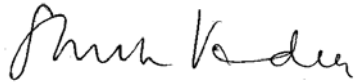
Allan Cook (Chair of the National Skills Academy for Manufacturing and member of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Manufacturing)



Philip Whiteman (Chief Executive, Semta on behalf of Manufacturing Skills Alliance of Sector Skills Councils)

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Diana Warwick (Chief Executive, Universities UK)

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Shriti Vadera (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness, BERR)

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David Lammy (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills, DIUS)