“Heavy-hitters” from Education and Business join LSC
LSC appoints three new members to its National Council

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) today announced the appointment of three new expert members from the world of business, schools and Higher Education to the LSC’s National Council.

The new members are:

**John Cridland CBE:** Deputy Director-General of the CBI

**Malcolm Trobe,** outgoing President of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL), Headteacher of Malmesbury School, Wiltshire

**Professor Deian Hopkin,** Vice Chancellor of London South Bank University

Congratulating the three on their appointment, LSC Chair, Chris Banks said:

“I am delighted to welcome John, Malcolm and Deian to the National Council. As members of the Council, they will play a vital role in helping the LSC to shape a world class learning and skills system for England that meets the skills and training demands of employers and learners. They will also play a key part in supporting the LSC’s drive to continue to simplify and streamline its operations for the benefit of the providers we fund, our partners and ultimately for the benefit of the learners, employers and communities we serve.
“In this way, they will have an opportunity to make a real and positive difference to the lives of over 5 million learners over the age of 16; and to thousands of businesses across England”.

All three share the LSC’s commitment to improving the skills and qualifications of young people and adults – whatever their background – for a more competitive economy and inclusive society. But more than that, each brings with them their own set of skills and expertise:

- **John Cridland** as a renowned representative of the business community will help to ensure that the LSC is delivering the training and skills that employers want.

- **Malcolm Trobe**, as a senior, key figure within the schools’ sector will be able to advise the LSC on the learning and training we provide - in collaboration with schools and other partners – for young people.

- **Deian Hopkin** as a well known and respected Vice Chancellor, will play a key role in helping the LSC to further strengthen the links between Further and Higher Education, as we seek to increase the number of learners progressing from Further Education to University, in order to gain higher level skills and qualifications.

Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Education said:

“Skills are key to this country's productivity and competitiveness. The Government is committed to ensuring that businesses can recruit and retain individuals with the skills they need for their success and that individuals have the skills they need to get on in work and in life.

“The LSC has a crucial role making sure we have a learning and skills system that provides the training and qualifications that both employers and individuals need. The knowledge, expertise and experience of the new Council members will strengthen further the LSC’s capacity to make a difference to our economy and people’s lives.”
The new members will take up their posts from September 2007 and will be appointed for a three year period. Each postholder will be paid an honorarium of £4,000 per year plus expenses to cover travel, childcare and subsistence.

Commenting on his appointment, John Cridland said:

“Skills are vital to the UK’s productivity and competitiveness. Skill and qualification levels have improved greatly over the past few years, but this same rate of progress will not be enough if the UK is to continue to thrive in an increasingly competitive global context. As a new member of the Council, I am therefore looking forward to working with the LSC to help it deliver its part in meeting this skills challenge. In particular, by helping to raise awareness about the business benefits of skills to employers; and also helping to ensure that the training the LSC funds, delivers what employers actually want.”

Commenting on his appointment Malcolm Trobe, said:

“As a new member of the National Council, I hope I can bring to bear my experience as President of the Association of School and College Leaders; and also as a Headteacher, in order to support and advise the LSC. I am particularly keen to work with the LSC to build collaboration with the schools’ sector so that together we can ensure young people have a wide range of opportunities to acquire the skills and qualifications they need to get on in work and in life.”

On his appointment Professor Deian Hopkin, said:

“These are exciting times to join the LSC, at a time when the skills challenge for the UK has been so clearly spelt out by the Leitch Review. It has been encouraging to see so many learners progressing from Further Education to University, not only through traditional A level routes but also through a range of vocational and work-based learning provision. The new 14-19 Diplomas will add a rich dimension to that provision. As a member of the LSC National Council I want to help the LSC to continue strengthening the crucial links between Further and Higher Education in order to extend educational opportunities much further, and to raise the level of skills in this country. “

ENDS

Notes to Editors

This press release applies to England only.

LSC
The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is
that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

Since it was established in 2001, the LSC has overseen a huge increase in the numbers of young people and adults in learning and training and skills and qualification levels have never been higher. In addition the LSC has helped 40,000 businesses equip their staff with new qualifications at a time and a place that suits them through our Train to Gain Service.

- In March this year we began the process of recruiting three new national Council members to replace those whose tenure had come to an end. We sought new members with a background in business, in schools and in HE.
- 113 applications were received and on 7 June a panel interviewed 7 short listed applicants.
- LSC National Council member positions are public appointments, appointed by the Secretary of State.
- Advertisements seeking applicants from the HE, schools and business sectors, were placed in the Sunday Times, the Guardian Educational supplement, the TES and on a range of websites in March.
- 113 applications were received and following several sifts, seven candidates were interviewed on 7 June by Chris Banks, Susan Pember and Moyra Kedslie (Independent Assessor).
- The panel recommended the appointment of John Cridland, Malcolm Trobe and Professor Deain Hopkin to the National Council.
- The Council now comprises of 15 members. It includes eleven men and four women. There is one member from an ethnic minority and no members with declared disability.
- LSC National Council member appointments are public appointments made by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. They have been made in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Good Practice.
- All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for appointees’ political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Malcolm Trobe has declared that he has undertaken some activities on behalf of the Labour Party. John Cridland and Deian Hopkin have declared no political activities.

Pen Pictures of Candidates Appointed

**John Cridland, CBE** - Deputy Director-General of the CBI

John joined the CBI in 1982, appointed Director of Human Resources Policy in 1995, negotiating
the UK’s first National Minimum Wage, entry into the EU Social Chapter and the Employment Relations Act 1999. John is a Governor at Leighton Middle School, Leighton Buzzard and has just finished terms on the Low Pay Commission and ACAS. John was awarded the CBE in the New Year Honours List 2006 for services to business.

Malcolm Trobe – for the last fifteen years, Malcolm has been Headteacher of Malmesbury School in Wiltshire. He is currently seconded from this post for the 2006-07 academic year as President of the Association for School and College Leaders (ASCL) and will return to school in September 2007. Malmesbury is a specialist school for science and the performing arts. Previously he has taught in schools in Hampshire and Dudley and was the Technical and Vocational Educational Initiative (TVEI) Director for Dudley for five years. Malcolm also has significant experience in curriculum development and assessment having been a Chief Examiner at both ‘O’ level and GCSE. He has served on the science committees of both the School Examinations Council (SEC) and the School Examinations and Assessment Council (SEAC) and was the Vice Chair of the National Rates Advisory Group (NRAG) of the Learning and Skills Council.

Professor Deian Hopkin – Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of London South Bank University

After a career as a historian in the Universities of London, Wales and the Open University, Deian became Dean of Human Sciences and then Vice Provost at London Guildhall University before being appointed to his present post in 2001. He is Chairman of the Skills Task Group of Universities UK, joint-chair of the DfES HE Engagement Board and adviser to the London Employment and Skills Board. He is one of the four champions of the new 14-19 Diplomas and a Board member of Foundation Degree Forward. Deian is also Vice Chairman of London Higher and is active in charitable activities being Chairman of the student charity, UNIAID and Vice Chair of the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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