The Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the organisation responsible for ensuring the delivery of high quality education and training for young people and adults, is today (Tuesday 27 May) announcing the appointment of three new members to its National Council; and the appointment of nine new Regional Chairs to lead the LSC’s new Regional Councils.

The new members of the LSC’s National Council include representation from the world of business and for the first time, a learner representative. They are:

- **Sally Hopson**, MBE, Marketing Operations Director, ASDA stores
- **Jill Youds**, Head of People Development, Lloyds TSB
- **Emma Pearson**, a trainee legal secretary and Chair of the National Learner Panel

Congratulating the new Council members on their appointment, LSC Chair, Chris Banks said:

“We have a single aim; to improve the skills of the Nation. Over the next two to three years the LSC has a huge and important job to do. As we continue to build on the progress we have already made ensuring that improvements will continue
to happen in future years, I am therefore delighted to welcome Sally, Jill and Emma to the National Council. They will play a key part in driving forward this crucial agenda and ensuring the voices of both employers and learners are heard at the highest level."

Commenting on their appointments to National Council Sally Hopson, MBE, Marketing Operations Director, ASDA stores said:

“I am excited about the opportunity to work with the colleagues at LSC as we prepare for an important period of change. There has been significant progress over the last few years but much remains to be done and I am looking forward to helping with the next stage of the journey. I aim to bring a pragmatic commonsense influence to the agenda, sharing the passion of the LSC for improving the skills of the nation.”

Jill Youds, Head of People Development Lloyds, TSB, said:

“I’ve worked with thousands of people over the course of the 20 years I’ve been in the business world. Those people have had a vast range of skills and have come from all kinds of backgrounds. I do believe that the true foundations of economic and social wellbeing in England are the learning and skills of our key resource, our people. I’m thrilled to be asked to join the LSC National Council and hope I can use my commercial background and experience of many years working with a diverse range of people to benefit the LSC during a challenging time of change.”
Emma Pearson, a trainee legal secretary and Chair of the National Learner Panel, said:

“I am passionate about the learner voice being taken into consideration at the highest possible level, and the move by the LSC to include the learner voice at top tier level can only be applauded. Having spent the last two years as a member of the National Learner Panel, and this last year as their Chair, I look forward to continuing the work of bringing the voice of the learner to the forefront of all major decisions which affect every day learners across England.”

The LSC is also announcing the appointment of nine Regional Chairs to lead the LSC’s new Regional Councils which will be formally established in September.

The nine new Regional Chairs are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LSC Region</th>
<th>New Regional Chair</th>
<th>Background</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire &amp; Humber</td>
<td>Rachel Mann</td>
<td>Partner/Director of FisherMann Limited</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Midlands</td>
<td>Bennett Reid</td>
<td>Chief Executive of The Midcounties Co-operative and Chair of the Black Country LSC since February 2003.</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>Roger Begy, OBE</td>
<td>Leader of Rutland County Council, Board Member of the Regional Assembly and of East Midlands Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>Roger Hoyle</td>
<td>Former Chief Executive of the Liverpool Health Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>John Savage</td>
<td>Executive Chairman of Business West, Vice Chairman of the West of England Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>North East</td>
<td>James Ramsbotham</td>
<td>Chief Executive, North East Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>Claire Ighodaro, CBE</td>
<td>Independent director whose board roles include Lloyd’s of London. Also on the LSC National Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>East of England</td>
<td>Chris Paveley</td>
<td>Chairman of the Uniter Group, one of Britain’s largest national ICT Support companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Norman</td>
<td>Non-executive director of Genesis Integrated</td>
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East Boyland Systems, chairman of West Sussex Economic Partnership and a director of the Sussex Innovation Centre of the University of Sussex

Chris Banks added: “I am delighted that we have appointed such a strong and dynamic group who will add huge value to our existing cadre of Council members. The new Regional Chairs will provide challenge, support, and leadership to the LSC’s work; and in doing so will help to shape a world class education and skills system for each region. They will play a key role in ensuring that the LSC continues to deliver for learners and employers, whilst supporting the organisation as we transition to new delivery arrangements”

The new Chairs will also lead the process for recruiting members to their new Councils over the course of the next two months.

Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Bill Rammell, who endorsed the appointments, said:

“This is a crucial time for the LSC and for the Further Education and training system as a whole. Education and skills lie at the very heart of this country’s future success and prosperity, and the LSC’s Regional Councils have a key role in continuing to drive forward progress in support of our shared ambition for every 16 and 17 year old to participate in education and training; and for every adult to have the chance to improve their skills and have a more successful economic life.

“We are embarking on a major reform of the post-16 delivery landscape; and the consultation currently underway sets out our proposals to move to a radically different model of organising the skills system based on a new demand led system, and to transfer leadership and accountability for the outcomes of all young people to local authorities as part of their wider responsibility for delivering an even more integrated approach to Children’s Services.
“Strong leadership of the LSC will be vital during this time, and the LSC, supported by its Regional Councils, has a crucial role to play over the next 2-3 years in working with the FE sector to ensure that it can continue to respond effectively to the changing needs of individual learners, employers and wider communities, and to secure the skills we need to compete on world markets.”

ENDS

Media Enquiries
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Notes to Editors

Learning and Skills Council: 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.

The Further Education and Training Act 2007
The new Regional Councils – established as part of the Further Education and Training Act 2007 will inform the LSC’s decision making at a regional level, guide progress and make sure the Government’s strategy for education and skills works on the ground.

The Act streamlines the LSC’s “non-executive tier” replacing 47 Local Councils with 9 Regional Councils, resulting in a more simplified, less bureaucratic, structure, as well as being aligned to the organisation of the LSC executive team. In this way, the new Councils will reflect both the local and regional needs of learners and employers.
Machinery of Government consultation “Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver”

On 17 March 2008 the Secretaries of State of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and Department for Children, Schools And Families (DCSF), announced the Machinery of Government consultation “Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver” which proposes that there will be two new bodies that will continue to drive ahead the huge agenda that the LSC has been charged with since 2001.

1. For young people there will be a new national Non Departmental Public Body, the Young People’s Learning Agency (YPLA) with some regional capacity, which will support local authorities in their new role in commissioning and funding 14-19 provision. Local capacity on 14-19 will therefore, as expected, be with Local Authorities.

2. For adults there will be a new Skills Funding Agency (SFA), again with some regional capacity, which will oversee the distribution of funds to the sector and manage the performance of FE colleges. The Agency will also house the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS), the National Employer Service, and the Adult Careers and Advancement Agency. As has already been announced, the Train to Gain brokerage service will transfer to Regional Development Agencies in April 2009.

Pen Pictures of new National Council Members

Sally Hopson, MBE – Marketing Operations Director, ASDA Stores. Following 9 years at Habitat Stores Ltd, Sally joined ASDA in July 1994 as a store manager. She then held a number of posts including Customer Services Director, People Director and Retail Operations Director in the North and East Divisions before becoming Marketing Operations Director in September 2007. Sally was on the Women in Work Commission for two years and is a Director of SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise). Sally was awarded an MBE for services to diversity in the 2007 New Year Honours List.

Jill Youds – Head of People Development UK Stores – Lloyds TSB. Jill has been Head of People Development at Lloyds TSB since 2006 following spells as Group HR Director at Pearce Group Ltd and as Retain HR Director with Clarks International. In 2002, she was named as the HR manager of the year at the Personnel Today Awards. Her role at Lloyds TSB sees her setting the strategies for the skills and knowledge development of 20,000 employees from a broad range of backgrounds, cultures and academic achievements.

Emma Pearson – Chair of the National Learner’s Panel. Emma has studied in the FE sector for some years, since leaving school and commencing employment. She has a varied learning background that ranges from studying for NVQ level 3 to A levels, from attending traditional college
classes to participating in distance learning and work-based learning for a modern Apprenticeship. She has a passion for work-based learning and is particularly keen to tackle the isolation felt by many work-based learners. Emma was a member of the first National Learner Panel and has recently been appointed as Chair to take the panel forward into its second year.

Pen Pictures of nine new Regional Chairs

**Yorkshire & Humberside: Rachel Mann**
Rachel is a Partner/Director of FisherMann Ltd and has extensive management experience in the public and private sectors with over 10 years at Director and Chief Executive level in health and local Government and five years running her own business. From 1999 – 2003 she was Chief Executive of Craven District Council before setting up her own business. She was a member of the York and North Yorkshire LSC since 2001 and it’s Chair from 2006.

**West Midlands: Bennett Reid**
Chief Executive of The Midcounties Co-operative and Chair of the Black Country LSC since February 2003. Has also made major contributions in other aspects of life in the Black Country and the West Midlands and was a prime influence in the development of the Black Country Consortium which has enabled four local authorities to work closely with employers and agencies such as the LSC to develop a vision for the future of the Black Country. He is active in a wide range of community organisations being the Chair of the Walsall Hospital NHS trust, the Walsall Regeneration Company and the West Midlands Regional Advisory Board for Business in the Community. He has also been the Vice Chair of the Regional Assembly and a member of the West Midlands Business Council.

Regards

**East Midlands: Roger Begy, OBE**
Roger Begy started his business career as a graduate trainee with Alcan Aluminium and progressed to become Managing Director of Alcan Polyfoil. Roger has remained in the food industry ever since, running the sweet corn interests of Green Giant in both the UK and Europe, starting a food brokerage business and then joining British Sugar to become Sales and Marketing Director. He moved on to become Deputy Managing Director of the parent company Berisford Bristar, with responsibility for all their food companies in the UK and abroad. He is currently involved in a start up company that has developed a half-calorie sugar. Roger has been Leader of Rutland County Council since 2003. He is a Board Member of the Regional Assembly and of East Midlands Tourism. He was chairman of the Lincolnshire & Rutland LSC and the Regional Board since their inception. He received the OBE for services to Further Education this year.

**North West: Roger Hoyle**
Roger has a substantial record of achievement as a public sector leader in modernising public services. Having been an NHS Trust Chief Executive and then working in policy development at the Department of Health, from 1994 to 2003 he was Chief Executive of the Liverpool Health Authority and was Chair of Greater Merseyside LSC since March 2003. He is currently Chair of the LSC’s North West Regional Management Board and a Non-Executive Director of IIP (UK).

**South West: John Savage**
John is a member or Chair of many organisations working within the South West Region including Executive Chairman of Business West, Vice Chairman of the West of England Partnership and
Chairman of the South West Learning and Skills Council Board. He is a Board member of the South West Regional Development Agency.

**North East: James Ramsbotham**

James is a successful business leader with experience at a senior level both in the private and public sectors. He is passionate about the North East and well versed in the issues facing the Region. James has experience of Chairing the Regional Learning and Skills Council and is deeply committed to all associated issues. James is currently Chief Executive of the North East Chamber of Commerce - a key influencing body in the region championing skills and economic prosperity.

**South East: Norman Boyland**

With a background in research, development and operations management, Norman Boyland works at a senior level in a number of skills-related organisations. Currently Chair of the LSC’s South East Regional Board and Chair of the National Capital Committee, Norman was chair of Sussex LSC from its formation. He is a non-executive director of Genesis Integrated Systems, chairman of West Sussex Economic Partnership and a director of the Sussex Innovation Centre of the University of Sussex.

**East of England: Chris Paveley**

Chris Paveley is Chairman of the Uniter Group, one of Britain’s largest national ICT Support companies. A former Chair of Essex TEC and Essex LSC, Chris has just completed his six year term as a Board member of the East of England Development Agency and the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership. Chris is currently a board member of the Thurrock Development Corporation and is a member of the LSC’s East of England Regional Board.

**London: Claire Ighodaro, CBE**

Listed by New Nation (August 2007) as the UK’s 5th most powerful black woman, Claire Ighodaro was the first female President at the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) from 2003-2004. Claire is currently non-executive Director of the Banking Code Standards Board and Lloyd’s of London, an Independent Board Member of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), a Trustee of the British Council, sits on the Council of the Open University and chairs four Audit Committees. Until December 2004 Claire was an executive at BT plc where she held a number of senior posts, including Finance Director, Broadband, BT Group plc. Claire is also on the LSC’s National Council.