2. Provider Responsiveness to Employers

2.1. A new indicator for provider responsiveness to employers is being developed. The LSC has consulted directly with employers and employer representative organisations, including the CBI, to gather views on the factors that need to be included in this indicator.

2.2. Core components of the indicator are likely to include the provider’s ability and capacity to:

- research employer needs and market to meet those needs
- deliver content relevant to employer needs
- deliver at a time and place suitable to employers.

2.3. The LSC is also considering ways that this indicator might be extended as a mark of quality to providers which are not funded by the LSC, to assist employers in their planning and purchasing decisions, this work is being taken forwards under the working title of the ‘new standard for employer responsiveness and vocational excellence’. The contents of both of these developments will be aligned and coherent to reduce the impact on providers.

2.4. The indicator will build on and bring together work on the ‘Quality Mark’ for the skills strategy and the recognition criteria for Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE). We propose that the indicator will be included in the first iteration of the Framework to be published from June 2007.