

## Bitesize Briefing DfES Restructuring & how it affects FE Provision (October 2007)

The following is a summary of the key elements of “Machinery of Government: Departmental Organisation” (Cabinet Office 29 June 2007) and what part of DfES will become the responsibilities of the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)

### **DIUS Objectives**

- Sustain and develop a world-class research base
- Maximise the exploitation of the research base to support innovation across all sectors of the economy
- Raise and widen participation in Higher Education
- Raise participation and attainment by young people and adults in post-16 education and learning
- Tackle the skills gap among adults, in particular equipping people with basic literacy and numeracy
- Increase the supply of people in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

- ...development, funding and performance management of **further education** in England. There are some 385 further education colleges and 1,000 publicly funded training providers in England, catering for some 5.5 million students per year. They are currently funded through the LSC. In carrying out these functions, the DIUS will work in partnership with the DCSF to secure effective delivery of the 14-19 reforms.
- ...lead responsibility for the further education service, including general further education colleges and training providers. This will include ...overall goals ...developing the strategy ...maintain oversight of the pattern and range of institutions, their performance and viability ...lead work on employer engagement and the development of the apprenticeships programme in conjunction with business and the Sector Skills Councils ...sponsor the LSC.
- The DCSF will lead the Government’s overall strategy for the 14-19 phase with the DIUS ensuring, through its sponsorship of general FE colleges and training providers that they play their full, active part in delivering the reform programme successfully. To provide strong strategic leadership for the 14-19 phase overall planning responsibilities for that phase will transfer to the new Department as will all funding for 14-19 learners with the exception of that for apprenticeships. Funding for school sixth forms, sixth form colleges and the contribution of FE colleges to the 14-19 phase will transfer to LAs’ ring fenced education budgets. Sponsorship of the FE service as a whole, its post-19 funding, and sponsorship and funding of Apprenticeships and work-based training providers, will sit with the new DIUS, working closely with the DCSF to ensure strategic objectives and policy pre- and post-19 are coherent and consistent...
- The Department will be responsible for taking forward the Government’s **wider skills agenda** – implementing the Leitch Review of Skills (Dec 2006): ensure that employers have a strong voice in shaping the design and delivery of training for adults, particularly through the new Commission for Employment and Skills and the 25 Sector Skills Councils; developing the successful Train to Gain programme as a new way of delivering training in the workplace; and providing better support for adults to engage in education and training. Vocational qualifications will be reformed to ensuring they reflect employers’ needs, and for those excluded from the labour market there will be better integration of employment services with training.