

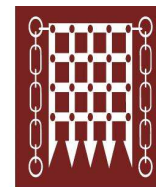
## Westminster Employment Forum Keynote Seminar

### Developing the higher level vocational education system and the next steps for Higher Apprenticeships

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD

Agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER  
EMPLOYMENT  
FORUM**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Lord Morris of Handsworth**
- 9.05 - 9.20 **The UK's higher level skills deficit**  
**Terence Hogarth**, Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick
- 9.20 - 9.35 **Challenges for the creation of new advanced colleges**  
**Neil Bates**, Group Chief Executive Officer and Principal, Prospects College of Advanced Technology, Essex
- 9.35 - 10.10 **Rethinking England's higher level vocational education system**  
*Are National Colleges, as proposed by the Government or a series of 'institutes of technical education', as proposed by the Labour Party, the best approach for increasing the proportion of young people progressing to study higher level vocational education; what other strategies should be considered? How can FE and HE providers co-ordinate their programmes to respond to local skills needs; what role should employers and Local Enterprise Partnerships play in facilitating this? To what extent do HE and FE institutions need to re-consider the traditional 3-year course approach and what are the barriers to adopting more flexible approaches? Has the removal of HE student number controls led to an increase in the number of places available on higher level vocational courses? What steps can be taken to boost part-time opportunities to study Higher Level vocational courses and engage employers with such options to upskill their workforce? What steps can be taken to improve progression and intermediate qualifications between the Level 3 learning and vocational HE?*  
**John Widdowson**, Principal and Chief Executive Officer, New College Durham and Chair, Mixed Economy Group of Colleges  
**John Munro**, External Affairs Adviser, British Retail Consortium  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Neil Bates**, Group Chief Executive Officer and Principal, Prospects College of Advanced Technology, Essex and **Terence Hogarth**, Principal Research Fellow, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick
- 10.10 - 10.45 **An international perspective**  
**Thomas Mayr**, Director, ibw Austria - Research & Development in VET  
**Johannes Kopf**, Managing Director, Austrian Public Employment Service  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Lord Morris of Handsworth**
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Rt Hon the Lord Broers**, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge
- 11.20 - 11.30 **The Catalyst Fund: innovative approaches to technical education at higher levels**  
**Peter Seddon**, Senior Policy Adviser, Knowledge Exchange & Skills Policy, HEFCE
- 11.30 - 11.45 **Developing higher level skills through employer and university collaboration**  
**Professor John Coyne**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Derby and Commissioner, UK Commission for Employment and Skills
- 11.45 - 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.10 **Higher Apprenticeships in practice**  
**Mark Protherough**, Executive Director, Learning & Professional Development, ICAEW
- 12.10 - 12.55 **Future challenges for degree-level Apprenticeships**  
*What further innovative approaches can be taken to raise awareness of Higher Level Apprenticeships as an alternative to traditional university study; what are the key challenges for doing this where employers have a relatively low public profile? How can Government encourage more employers - particularly SMEs - to offer Higher Apprenticeships? Can more be done to encourage the progression of apprentices with lower-level Apprenticeship qualifications to higher levels of vocational learning? How are Higher Level Apprenticeships currently viewed by employers; do current recruitment practices which focus on recent graduates, need to be changed to incorporate Higher Level apprentices? What role should universities play in the design and delivery of Higher Apprenticeships; to what extent do the 9 new 'Degree Apprenticeships', recently announced by the Prime Minister, represent an effective way of bringing together the best of higher and vocational education?*  
**Daniel Charles Mouawad**, Chief Executive, South East Midlands LEP  
**Helen Thorne**, Director of External Relations, UCAS  
**Alan Woods**, Director of Apprenticeships and Vocational Education, University of Law  
**Janet Curtis-Broni**, Executive Director, People & Organisational Development, Barking and Dagenham College, London  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Mark Protherough**, Executive Director, Learning & Professional Development, ICAEW
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**  
**Rt Hon the Lord Broers**, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge  
**Thomas Overend**, Forum Lead, Westminster Employment Forum