

Education and Life-Long Learning Committee

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Dear

Report of the Skills Task Force

At the Committee's meeting on 29th Novemebr it was agreed that I should let you have a summary of the members' comments.

As you are aware the Committee had a wide-ranging discussion. Members of the Committee endorsed the Report's view that providing a highly skilled workforce is necessary for economic revitalisation. It was not possible for the Committee to arrive at a collective view of the Report's recommendations

but the following represents views expressed by various members:

- A priority be placed on giving small and medium enterprises as much support and encouragement as possible to improve the skills levels of their workforces;
- Management should be involved in the process of 'up skilling';
- There was a particular issue around the support needed for single owned and managed companies in these circumstances the use of a mentoring system was suggested;
- The need for sound leadership at all levels could not be underestimated.

The Committee noted that the four key issues that the presenters themselves would identify were:

- The importance of ensuring entitlement of education to at least level 3;
- The need to establish a management centre of excellence in Wales;
- Introduction of a learning maintenance allowance to help 16-18 year olds remain in education; and
- The importance of quality employment and a high skills level for those people on New Deal opportunities.

There was considerable support among the members on this.

Cynog Dafis A.M

Chair