

# Reaching and Responding to Employers

9 June 2010



# Aim



To explore the processes and systems universities and colleges might need to have in place to support effective work with employers – the right offer, appropriate systems, costing and pricing.

# Context



Pre 7 May... *“We will expand new types of higher education programmes that widen opportunities for flexible study for young people and adults and reflect the reality of modern working lives...the next phase of expansion in higher education will focus on a greater diversity of models of learning: part-time, work-based, Foundation degrees.....”*

*Higher Ambitions (2009)*

Recommendation 29: Universities and the Government should actively promote a range of entry points through an all-year academic calendar in order to allow learners to enrol on, and undertake, courses at more flexible times throughout the year.

Recommendation 30: Universities and the Government should develop a transferable credit-based learning system to recognise student achievement in discrete modules or mini-courses, building on the findings of the Burgess Report.

# UKCES Skills Audit



- More than half of the jobs in the fastest growing occupations (since 2001) require at least a level 4 qualification
- More than half of the jobs that have declined fastest (since 2001) are where the majority of people are qualified to level 2 or below

Skills for Jobs: Today and Tomorrow, The National Strategic Skills Audit for  
England 2010

# Context



Post 7 May ??

*“We will await Lord Browne’s final report into higher education funding, and will judge its proposals against the need to: – increase social mobility; – take into account the impact on student debt; – ensure a properly funded university sector; – improve the quality of teaching; – advance scholarship; and – attract a higher proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.”*

*The Coalition: our programme for government*

# Context



Post 7 May ?? *“It is crucial to the national interest that we develop a technician class in Britain, the skilled workers without whom we can't succeed in such fields as clean tech, nanotech or advanced manufacturing; without whom the new technology businesses .....are unable to grow.”*

David Willetts 20 May 2010

*“ We will also work with our universities and colleges to strengthen their links with industry and ensure our people have the skills they need for the jobs these companies create.”*

Queens speech debate

# Context



*“..BIS to play a central role in putting Higher and Further Education on a sound footing for the future and linking both better into the economy.... making sure that the outdated value distinction between blue collar apprenticeships, and further education on one hand and university on the other is disposed of for good...”*

Vince Cable 3 June 2010