

CLC WELCOMES THE REVIEW OF THE ITBs

The Construction Leadership Council welcomes the publication of the Review of the Industry Training Boards. Both the Construction Industry Training Board and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board play a vital role in ensuring the construction sector can recruit, train and retain a skilled workforce, though forecasting demand for skills, developing and designing qualifications, and ensuring that funding is available to train workers across the sector. The CLC endorses the strong arguments in the Review as to why the nature of the construction and engineering construction sectors means both should be retained.

The CLC believes that the ITBs must play an important role in supporting the sector as it faces the challenges of adapting to new technologies and an ageing workforce. The construction sector needs to transform itself, and move to a new business model based on digital and manufacturing technologies. These will require a more highly skilled workforce, and for the workforce to be trained in new skills. The ITBs will need to work with the sector to develop and fund programmes that deliver these skills.

The CLC also welcomes the clear direction set in the report about the reforms needed to the governance and operation of the ITBs to make them more strategic and responsive to the industry, with better communication around strategic skills objectives and the progress made towards the delivery of these. These reforms are necessary if the ITBs are to retain the confidence of the industry, and work with it to deliver the skills required. However, the industry needs to support the ITBs to take forward these reforms, provide greater strategic direction about the skills required and invest in developing the skills of our workforce.

The CLC will continue to work closely with the ITBs, to ensure they are aligned with the overall strategic objectives of the sector and wider skills development priorities, and the effective implementation of these reforms. As part of this new approach, Sarah Beale, Chief Executive of the Construction Industry Training Board, will become a member of the CLC Skills Sub-Group.

Andrew Wolstenholme, Co-Chair of the Construction Leadership Council said:

“The Construction Leadership Council welcomes the publication of the review, which sets a clear direction for the ITBs. The two Industry Training Boards have a vital role to play in delivering the skills the construction sector needs now and in the future. Whilst reform is needed to ensure the ITBs are more strategic and accountable to the industry, it is important that the industry works with both to drive these changes and to train our people in the skills we need to make the British construction industry the best in the world”.

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