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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

SKILLSACTIVE WELCOMES LEITCH REVIEW

Published today, the long awaited review, 'Prosperity for all in the Global Economy: World Class Skills', produced by Lord Leitch, examines the UK's long-term skills needs, and sets out ambitious goals for 2020 in order to make the UK a world leader in skills.

The Leitch Review was tasked with considering the UK's long term skills needs, accessing the current 'skills environment', and producing an ambitious vision that will make the UK a world leader in skills by 2020.

Key recommendations relate directly to Sector Skills Councils and their relationships with employers, the government and providers of training and education.

SkillsActive chief executive Stephen Studd said; "We welcome the Leitch Review of Skills at a time when employment skills are so high on all agendas.

"We welcome the emphasis on a demand-led system with a strong organised input from employers. However, we do recognise the challenges that this brings, and are very pleased that Sector Skills Councils are at the heart of the solution.

"We agree the need to build on existing structures rather than create new ones, and that there needs to be a shared responsibility between employers and the government on delivering on the skills agenda.

"The Review couldn't come at a better time for our sector. Following the publication of our Sector Skills Agreement earlier this year, we now know where our priorities lie and will work with the sector to achieve them."

-ENDS-

SkillsActive's priorities as outlined in its Sector Skills Agreement:

1. Improve the quality and range of services.
2. Improve recruitment and retention.
3. Professionalise and upskill the existing workforce.
4. Match supply to demand.
5. Redirect funding for training.
6. Increase sector investment in our people.

To access the full Leitch Review on Skills visit: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/523/43/leitch_finalreport051206.pdf

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and the Caravan industries.
2. SkillsActive's mission statement is: "To ensure best quality, best business and best value within the Sector to achieve its economic and social potential."
3. SSCs are employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. SSCs provide employers with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sector's skills and business needs. In return they receive substantial public investment and greater dialogue with government departments across the UK.
4. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com
5. SkillsActive has developed a Sector Skills Agreement for the Active Leisure and Learning Sector which defines the sector's skills needs and forms an agreement between employers, government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years.
6. SkillsActive is *Shaping Skills for the Future*, through...
 - PEOPLE...
...ensuring all people in the sector are appropriately trained and qualified.
 - PRODUCTIVITY...
...ensuring better performance through the professional development of the sector.

 - PROVISION...
...ensuring the sector has accessible, relevant and funded training across the UK.

 - PROMOTION...
...ensuring the contributions of the sector are recognised at a governmental level.