

## **2030 Vision for the Cambridge Sub-Region**

### **Workshop on Education and Skills**

**Held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at The University of Cambridge Centre for Mathematical Sciences**

#### **Note of Chairman's Final Summary in the Plenary Session**

- Schools and FE Colleges need to be better informed about employers' circumstances and needs and vice versa. There are already structures, organisations and practices to facilitate such a two-way flow of information and understanding – for example, employers serving on governing bodies of schools and colleges, outreach activities and work experience offered by employers, headteachers' representative bodies liaising with employers – and these should be more effectively exploited rather than setting up additional structures and organisations.
- Careers information and guidance in schools and colleges is variable in quality and the outcomes of the Connexions service are thought to be ineffectual. This is a key area for further development.
- Schools and FE Colleges have suffered from an excess of regulation, targets and central government circulars, resulting in a sense that teachers are becoming de-professionalised and unwilling to take even the most reasonable risks for fear of transgressing these burdensome prescriptions.
- The quality of teaching and learning and the recruitment of outstanding practitioners is central to the promotion of excellence in education and skills. Such excellence requires a differentiated approach which is relevant to the individual needs and aspirations of every student, including those with special needs. In addition to acquiring knowledge, students should learn mental and social skills such as problem solving and working as a member of a team. In this respect, extra-curricular activities such as Maths Challenge and The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme can make a valuable contribution.

**Colin Greenhalgh**

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