

Background to ESOL meeting, 11/12/09

In May last year the Secretaries of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Communities and Local Government wrote to Local Authorities outlining a new approach to ESOL planned for autumn 2009. It argued that a new approach to ESOL, focusing on community cohesion, was needed to target priority community groups that had already settled in the UK.

Following a DIUS consultation, it was decided that local partners are best placed to identify priority learners, and to take a coordinated view on provision. On a non-statutory basis it was recommended that Local Authorities take a key role, working closely with partner organisations, in identifying priority groups.

It was in this context that the New Approach to ESOL group met at County Hall on 11th December last year. The minutes from the meeting are available on the Devon Economy website <http://www.devoneconomy.co.uk/new-approach-to-esol> along with other related documents.

We are eager to work alongside any interested parties who could contribute in driving this agenda forwards. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Andrew Lightfoot at Devon County Council on Andrew.lightfoot@devon.gov.uk.

Kind Regards

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