

CREATING THE LEARNING NATION - THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

1. Generates a national Task Force or Focus Group to examine how Learning Regions can be implemented
2. Organises the development and delivery of courses, seminars and workshops on Learning Regions to civil servants and key implementers in national and local government and the professional associations
3. Vitalises the public acceptance of learning as a desirable and pleasurable activity through promotional campaigns such as television advertising, newspaper advertising, billboards, learning tv programmes, film and video, mass distribution of leaflets etc
4. Encourages cities, towns and regions to set themselves up as 'Learning Cities, Towns and Regions', and develops guidelines on how that might be done and how expertise can be shared between them
5. Restructures the financing of Learning through integrated budgets, the use of electronic tools and techniques for open and distance learning and resource sharing, including human resource
6. Negotiates Green, and eventually White, Papers outlining agreed policy and Action in Learning Region development over a relatively long period of time
7. Motivates people through the development of new assessment and accreditation systems based on skills and competencies which reward learning positively however it has taken place, and which encourage further learning throughout life
8. Enlists the help of Industry through discussions with CBI and companies about improving the image of learning among the workforce and strategies for its help with learning region development
9. Nourishes international co-operation and encourages the transfer of ideas, concepts and actions between nations
10. Transforms economic and social growth in the regions through the encouragement of integrated strategies and policies which recognise the link between them
11. Promotes the development of Learning Regions through financial leverage.
12. Organises a programme of Learning Festivals which bring learning to the people (as in Japan)
13. Lubricates the development of 'Learning Organisations' by requiring all government departments to become 'Learning Organisations through a system of continuing, personal and professional development
14. Initiates a 'Learner's Charter' which sets out every citizen's entitlement to learning where, when and how they wish to receive it.
15. Creates guidelines on Learning Region strategies to mobilise the talents, skills, knowledge and expertise in every community to help expedite a 'big society'
16. Influences local authorities to use modern systems of learning such as Personal Learning Plans, Guides, Mentoring, and the development of Learning Counsellors and Learning Leaders
17. Establishes Lifelong Learning research centres in Universities or other non-partisan public research bodies
18. Stimulates and Supports International efforts to create Learning Regions at a Global level, and to link them in projects to improve trade, understanding and tolerance

The initial letters form the determinants of a successful Learning Nation

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See also 'Poems for a Learning Nation' by Norman Longworth, Amazon.