

# A Learning Community

is a **city, town or region** which

Goes beyond its statutory duty to provide education and training for those who require it

## And instead

Creates a **vibrant, participative, culturally aware and economically buoyant** human environment

through the **provision, justification and active promotion** of learning opportunities

to enhance the potential of **all** its citizens

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**City, Town or region** - A learning community can be large, medium-sized or small. The smaller it is the more easily established is the community. A city or region may comprise several interacting learning communities.

**Statutory duty** - each Local authority is required by law to provide a basic level of education for its children and opportunities for higher learning through universities, further education or adult education colleges.

**Education and training** - in a true learning community these words are gradually being replaced by 'learning' or 'lifelong learning' to emphasise the new focus on the needs of individual learners

**Vibrant** - a dynamic environment which hums with cooperative activity and vital, spontaneous energy

**Participative** - this is part of the stakeholder idea in which citizens are encouraged to actively participate in the development and growth of their own communities and to establish links with other communities

**Culturally aware** - not only being aware of their own identity vis-à-vis the cultural heritage within their community, but also aware of, and comfortable with, the effects of change on their, and the community's, future.

**Economically buoyant** - most research demonstrates a strong link between educational growth and economic health. A Learning community will be well in tune with the wealth-creating aspects of its activities

**Provision of learning opportunities** - this sets the agenda for a future in which learning replaces education

**Justification** - and in which every citizen knows why learning is important both to him/herself and the well-being of the community in which he/she lives

**Active promotion** - and in which the community itself encourages and animates its citizens to take advantage of the learning opportunities

**Enhance the potential** - each citizen has enormous potential to learn, develop personally and contribute profitably to the community

**All** - **perhaps the most important word**. A learning Community is not for the favoured few but for every citizen to donate skills, talents and knowledge for the many.