Innovating workforce development

Derek Longhurst
Chief Executive

Public Good: Higher Education as Social Value

Dearing's vision

Main purposes and values of HE:

- *to inspire and enable individuals to develop their capabilities to the highest potential levels throughout life, so that they grow intellectually, are well equipped for work, can contribute effectively to society and achieve personal fulfilment;*
- *to increase knowledge and understanding for their own sake and to foster their application to the benefit of the economy and society;*
- *to serve the needs of an adaptable, sustainable, knowledge-based economy at local, regional and national levels;*
- *to play a major role in shaping a democratic, civilised, inclusive society.*

Higher Education in the Learning Society (Dearing Review) (1997)

Innovating workforce development

"We need to recognise – even celebrate – the fact that a growing number of our students are going to be adults. Everything we can do to put higher education within the reach of an even wider pool of potential students is good for the economy and good for social mobility."

Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, speech on 14 July 2010

Innovating workforce development

"Once the bias in maintenance support towards full time three year study is removed, I suspect more students will opt for opportunities for part time learning, or courses delivered in the work place…That should also imply more distance learning…With more students combining work and study and more employer-input into higher education courses.

Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, speech on 14 July 2010

Public Good v. private benefit

*'...there is broad agreement...that those who benefit directly from higher education ought to make **a** contribution to the costs....The primary reason for this is that graduates benefit directly from higher education. The public also receives a benefit but this is less than the private benefit.'*

*Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education: An Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance (*Browne Review) (2010). 2.2, pages 20-21

Browne Review

'Higher Education in England has a reputation for high quality....Our competitor countries are investing more in quality...we are relying on student choice to drive up quality. Students will control a much larger proportion of the investment in higher education. They will decide where the funding should go; and institutions will compete to get it. As students will be paying more than in the current system, they will demand more in return.'

*Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education: An Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance (*Browne Review) (2010). Para 4.1

Browne Review

'The mission of higher education to reach out to everyone who has the capacity to benefit means that...applicants with work experience rather than formal qualifications should have the opportunity to seek entry.'

*Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education: An Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance (*Browne Review) (2010). Page 34.

"…the reductions in public funding are a consequence of the banking crisis and high public debt; it is worth remembering that when the banks were being bailed out to the tune of £117bn, HE was generating £59bn pa for the economy and acted swiftly to support business through the recession – as the economy improves, the question of public funding for learning and teaching must be revisited."

Sir Alan Langlands, Chief Executive, HEFCE
speech to the 2010 HEFCE Annual Conference