

# SSC RELICENSING PANEL RECOMMENDATION

## PROSKILLS

### 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 Proskills UK (Proskills) is a company limited by guarantee and was established as a fully licensed Sector Skills Council (SSC) in August 2005, the penultimate SSC to be licensed. The SSC employs 44 staff. Income in 2008-09 was £4.7 million of which £1.7 million (36 per cent) was core funding from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. Proskills is responsible for a diverse range of industries. The SSC was initially responsible for the following five industries:

- Print and Printed Packaging.
- Extractives and Mineral Processing.
- Coatings.
- Building Products.
- Glass and related industries.

In August 2007, the following three industries were added to the SSC's footprint:

- Furniture, Furnishings and Interiors.
- Paper.
- Glazed Ceramics.

From Autumn 2009 Proskills is expected to become responsible for a ninth industry – Wood. The exact coverage has still to be agreed, but is likely to be those activities from the point the tree is felled to the delivery of products.

1.2 Proskills estimates that there are 55,000 employers and 800,000 employees in the eight industries within its footprint. 90 per cent of the industries covered by Proskills are in England with the three devolved nations accounting for the remaining ten per cent. Around 85 per cent of the companies in the industries covered have less than 10 employees. One per cent of the companies have more than 200 employees.

### 2 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AGAINST SSC RELICENSING FRAMEWORK

2.1 Overall Rating – **SATISFACTORY**

Key Themes	Does not meet standard	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding
Well Run SSC		✓		
Core Products and Services		✓		
Sector Specific Solutions		✓		
Results and Impacts		✓		

### 3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Relicensing Panel recognised that Proskills is a relatively young SSC. It was pleased with many aspects of the SSC's work and recommends that Proskills be relicensed. The SSC was considered to be performing to the upper end of a satisfactory standard and achieved an overall assessment of '**Satisfactory**'.
- 3.2 The Panel identified the SSC as being particularly strong in two key areas:
- The engaged and enthusiastic employer led Board which drives the strategy of the organisation;
  - The approach to meeting the needs of a very disparate footprint and creating bespoke solutions for each industry.
- 3.3 The Panel will be highlighting these areas of good practice with Ministers and would urge the SSC to share them more widely across the SSC network.
- 3.4 The Panel identified three key areas to support the continuous development of the organisation. These were:
- With the establishment of the Academy, Proskills now needs to make the step change to become an SSC that delivers solutions which make a real impact for the sector. The SSC Committee will be very interested in the progress Proskills makes in the next 12-24 months;
  - The Panel were not convinced by the arrangements for a whole Board audit committee structure and felt the benefits of a more conventional structure should be reconsidered. The UK Commission would be happy to work with Proskills on this;
  - Proskills should keep under review the diversity of its Board to ensure that talent from under represented groups is not missed.
- 3.5 The Panel endorsed the recommendations for improvement highlighted in the National Audit Office report and have recommended to Government that these should form part of the SSC's continuous improvement plan. The Panel believe that Proskills should fall into the medium risk band for ongoing performance assessment.