



## PRESS RELEASE

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**2 November 2007**

### **West at Work turns the heat up on skills**

Leading UK chef Rob Rees will be the main speaker at an event this month aimed at helping employers in the Tourism and Hospitality industry put quality skills at the heart of their business.

*Your Agenda, Your Future* will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at The Mansion House, Bristol from 3-6pm.

The event has been organised by the partnership project West at Work, which aims to make sure that our local workforce has the skills and training that employers need.

Rob Rees is a leading chef and consultant dedicated to creating a better food culture for Britain. He has actively campaigned around issues on education, health, nutrition, food safety and consumer issues for many years.

He is Board Member of Visit England, Board Member of the Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food, Board Member of the School Food Trust, Trustee for the British Nutrition Foundation, Gloucestershire's Ambassador for Food Vision and a former Board Member of the Food Standards Agency and Taste of the West.

Rob, who is also Chairman of £1million Gloucestershire Health 4 Schools project and CEO of The Wiggly Worm Ltd, said: 'I am delighted to support this West at Work event as having staff with the right skills and training is crucial to any successful business. Tourism and Hospitality is a competitive industry and it is vital that local businesses take advantage of all the opportunities on offer. Hopefully this event will help them do that and nurture a local workforce with the highest quality skills and training.'

At the event, employers will have the opportunity explain their skills issues and West at Work partnership representatives will highlight the services that are currently available to help drive local businesses forward.

Employers' aims and objectives can be discussed with the people who plan vocational training in the West of England, including representatives from colleges and sector specific training providers. There will also be plenty of opportunity to network with other businesses from the same sector.

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### *Continued*

The event is the first of three in the *Your Agenda, Your Future* series. The others will focus on Transport and Logistics (Tues 27th Nov) and Media and ICT (Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Dec). Speakers at the second and third events will include representatives from DHL Exel Supply Chain and Aardman Animations.

West at Work Director David Draycott said: “The *Your Agenda, Your Future* series will focus on the particular skills issues of certain industries. We need to make sure that our local businesses and workforce can benefit from the £5 billion of investment that will pour into the area over the next 20 years and having the right skills and training is central to that.”

Anyone who would like to attend any of the events or find out more information should contact [claire.black@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:claire.black@lsc.gov.uk) or call 07921 996244.

West at Work is a partnership between the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the South West of England Regional Development Agency (South West RDA), Jobcentre Plus, Business West, Connexions, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council.

For more information about West at Work visit [www.westatwork.co.uk](http://www.westatwork.co.uk)

### **ENDS**

Journalists who would like to attend any of the events or get more information should contact Jane Samuel on 07789 705867 or at [jane.samuel@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:jane.samuel@lsc.gov.uk)

Alternatively contact the West at Work team on 0117 3726452 or at [westatwork@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:westatwork@lsc.gov.uk)

For more information about Rob Rees visit [www.robrees.com](http://www.robrees.com)

