



## Partnering Arrangements

### **Partnerships between Awarding Organisations**

The ECITB will, where appropriate, enter into partnerships with other awarding organisations to:

- share expertise and knowledge of different markets for qualifications;
- reduce costs by offering an economy of scale in awarding arrangements, marketing, approval and verification;
- promote networking of assessors and internal quality assurers;
- combine resources to carry out the functions of centre approval and external quality assurer visits.

These partnerships will help Approved Centres to:

- gain access to a wider range of qualifications without having to contend with different administrative and quality assurance systems;
- reduce the complexity and cost of using different systems;
- assist candidates by using common documents and procedures.

### **Partnerships at Approved Centre level**

The ECITB will, where appropriate, encourage Approved Centres to develop partnerships with other organisations. The ECITB will provide guidance on the range of models available for the delivery of qualifications in order to promote access to the qualifications framework. Partnership between employers, training or assessment providers and other organisations will enable them to:

- share the process and costs of becoming an Approved Centre and the management of day-to-day quality assurance as well as encouraging the development and sharing of good practice;
- gain access to an established system of assessment and internal quality assurance by becoming satellite sites of an Approved Centre.

Where partnership arrangements are in place, the ECITB will ensure that the assessment and quality assurance arrangements meet the full requirements of the Approved Centre criteria and that each member of the partnership is clear about its respective roles and responsibility in relation to them.

Approved Centres must have robust arrangements and a written enforceable agreement in place with third parties or service providers where such partnerships exist.

Where an Approved Centre has a number of assessment sites, internal quality assurance arrangements must be applied and maintained with equal rigour at all locations. Failure to do so could result in centre approval being withdrawn or a stop being placed on certification claims, affecting all sites.

## **Review Arrangements**

We will review this policy and its associated procedures as part of our continuous improvement arrangements and revise it, as and when necessary, in response to customer, learner or regulatory feedback (e.g. to align with any enquiries process established by the regulators) and to identify any trends that may emerge in the subject matter of enquiries received.

## **Contact us**

If you have any queries about any aspect of this process, please contact:

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