



Statement of Support from the Rt Hon David Willetts, MP, Minister of State for Universities and Science, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Government understands the important role of learning technologists and learning technology in education and training. When used well and managed wisely, ICT is a powerful tool to ensure that:

- curriculum and teaching are relevant to an increasingly digital world and economy;
- learners, teachers and lecturers have good access to digital resources, together with support and tools to create and deploy these resources;
- productivity and efficiency are enhanced and innovation encouraged.

The conference themes “increasing productivity and effectiveness” and “meeting the changing expectations and needs of learners, employers, and society” resonate with this Government’s agenda. The next few years will see individual institutions becoming more self-reliant, taking their own decisions about whether and how to pool resources or share services, and sourcing their own support and guidance.

Membership organisations such as ALT clearly have an important role to play in this changed world. That is why we commend ALT for its role in:

- linking together practitioners, policy-makers, and researchers to share best-practice;
- facilitating and spreading innovation;
- creating learning communities;
- supporting cross-sectoral work;
- professionally accrediting learning technology practitioners;
- developing the evidence-base on which decision-making should depend.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to put on record our support for **ALT-C 2010 “Into something rich and strange” - making sense of the sea-change** and the valuable work of ALT and its individual, organisational, and sponsoring members.

I’m sure your conference will generate a great deal of discussion and will advance participants’ understanding. Above all I am confident it will contribute in a practical way to meeting the challenges of the next few years and I wish the conference well.

David Willetts

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