

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 27 June 2006
Subject Council Meeting
Location Room DO/G16, Royal Devonshire Campus, University of Derby Buxton
Time 16:00
LSC office Derbyshire
Publication intent Public

Present Carol Taylor
David Williams
Geoff Stevens
Ian Murray
John Kirkland OBE
Ken Spencer
Mohammed Sharief

In attendance Andrew Flack - Derby City Council LA
Hugh Hastie OBE - Connexions
Keith Burn - Jobcentre Plus
Nigel Cooke - GOEM
Sara Bolton - Derby City Council LA

LSC staff Peter Brammall
Bev Hunt
Kevin McCann

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Alan Charles
Anne Tipple
Carol Dibbs
Margaret Lynch
Michael Hall
June Cooper
Russell Rigby

David Shaw - Derbyshire County LA

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 John Kirkland welcomed all attendees to the meeting and apologies were given as above.

- 1.2 John also welcomed Councillor Sara Bolton from Derby City Council, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, now sitting on the Council as an observer in place of Chris Wynn, who tendered his resignation after a Council Cabinet reshuffle.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Item 3. Matters arising

Matters arising – Management information pack (3.3)

- 3.1 The issue regarding the release of 'A' level point scores by Derby City schools was still awaiting confirmation.

Decision: Andrew Flack informed the Council that this issue with Derby City Head Teachers had been resolved and they were willing to share information. This action is closed.

Matters arising – Management information pack (3.4)

- 3.2 At the Council meeting held on 16 May Ken Spencer raised the suggestion of National Office contacting QCA to enable the LSC to use this data as soon as it is released. It was agreed that Peter Brammall would pursue this with National Office.

Decision: Peter Brammall informed the Council that National Office had previously pursued this data through DfES. Due to Peter approaching National Office, they are now pursuing QCA for this data and Peter may require Ken to share his contacts at QCA to facilitate this. This action is closed.

Matters arising - Executive Director's report – Funding Allocations (3.6)

Decision: At the Council meeting held on 23 February it was communicated that the FE position and final allocations for other programmes would be completed by the end of May and would be presented by Bev Hunt at the next Council meeting.

Decision: This action will be covered under agenda item 6. This action is closed.

Executive Director's report - Test Derbyshire (4.6)

- 3.3 At the Council meeting held on 16 May Peter informed the Council of the Test Derbyshire campaign carried out by the Derbyshire Learning Partnership (DLP). Carol Taylor had forwarded comments on a similar campaign in Sunderland and ideas to share best practice, which Peter agreed to forward on to Chris Hastie from DLP.

Decision: The comments from Carol Taylor have been fed through to Chris Hastie who asked Peter to thank Carol for her input. This action is closed.

2006/07 FE allocations & targets (8)

- 3.4 At the Council meeting held on 16 May it was agreed due to a shortage of time that this agenda item would be presented by Bev Hunt at the next

Council meeting as part of the wider review following conclusion of allocations over the next fortnight.

Decision: This action will be covered agenda item 6. This action is closed.

Item 4. Executive Director's report

- 4.1 Peter Brammall brought the Council's attention to some specific items in his report:

Expression of Interest – "Cities Strategy" pathfinder projects

- 4.2 Keith Burn was invited to talk about the Expression of Interest and informed the Council about the background to the pathfinder projects and the bid being produced by Jobcentre Plus, Derbyshire LSC and Derby City Council. Any monies awarded will be spent on the 3 most deprived wards in Derby ensuring that joined up strategies are utilised. The deadline for submission of the Expression of Interest is 3 July.

Decision: It was agreed that Peter Brammall would circulate a copy of the submitted Expression of Interest to the Council.

Action: Peter Brammall

NEET

- 4.3 Hugh Hastie was invited to talk about the NEET figures in the Executive Director's report. Hugh informed the Council that although the SFR figures show an increasing NEET cohort within the UK, this is not the case in Derbyshire. The SFR figures can be misleading as they are based on estimates whereas the data supplied by Connexions Derbyshire to the Council is based on actual data for the tracking of 30,000 young people in Derbyshire and therefore is more accurate. At the end of November there was a 3% decrease in NEET figures for Derbyshire, whereas only a handful of Connexions Partnerships were on track to meet the 2010 targets across the country.

Decision: The issue of the impact on NEET figures due to EMA's was raised. Peter informed the Council that information regarding the initial round of EMA's would be brought to a future Council meeting.

Action: Bev Hunt

Theme 7

- 4.4 Peter informed the Council that the middle managers (Band 3's) have been appointed with decisions communicated last week. Band 2 decisions will be made within the next 7-10 days.

Decision: Peter agreed to present a picture of the new LSC once the new staff structure was complete.

Action: Peter Brammall

- 4.5 John Kirkland reported on the Regional Board and the current review of the non-executive, emphasising the importance of getting local voices heard. The review is still underway and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

Action: Peter Brammall

Capital bids

- 4.6 Peter informed the Council that agenda item 8 - Derby College 'in principle' capital application would not be discussed at today's meeting. Discussions are still in process with Derby College with regard to the Roundhouse development; once concluded, the College will be providing further information to the LSC to enable a comprehensive review to be completed.
- 4.7 Therefore due to the need to review this proposal and seek endorsement by the Council before September – when it needs to go before the National Capital Committee - Peter proposed that the Council delegate authority to a Sub Committee. This work would be completed within 4-5 weeks.
- 4.8 This sub committee will also consider an application received in relation to the construction of vocational workshops at Chesterfield College's Clowne campus, which requires approval prior to the next full Council meeting in September.

Decision: It was agreed to create a Capital Sub Committee for the approval of capital bids. Peter will make the arrangements once the timing for receipt of the additional information from the college was clear.

Action: Peter Brammall

Decision: It was agreed that all Council Members wishing to be involved in sitting on the Capital Sub Committee should contact Peter Brammall as soon as possible.

Action: All Council Members

Decision: It was agreed that the proposed capital bids would be circulated to all Council Members prior to the meeting of the Capital Sub Committee to allow them to feedback any comments for consideration.

Action: Peter Brammall

- 4.9 The following Council Members declared interests:
Ian Murray – Chesterfield College; Principal;
John Kirkland – potential construction works in connection with the Roundhouse development;
David Williams – legal advisor to Derby College.

Train to Gain

- 4.10 Peter informed the Council that 100's of tenders have been received for Train to Gain, with over £141 million worth of bids for £10 million of funding which is available for 06/07 (£26 million for 07/08). Letters have been sent out to providers on 26 June confirming the outcome of their bids. These are not 'allocations' as such, rather nominal funding caps, subject to employer choice about their preferred deliverer.

Decision: It was agreed that Peter would provide a map of provision for Train to Gain.

Action: Peter Brammall

Item 5. Council Sub Committee update

Audit Sub Committee

- 5.1 The minutes of the previous Audit Sub Committee were presented for the Council's information. The Council was informed that the minutes attached would be the last due to the creation of a Regional Audit Committee.
- 5.2 Concern was raised over School Sixth Form audits. The Council was informed that audits are led through DfES to ensure that there is no duplication of requirements from schools. Most of the issues picked up by the Provider Financial Assurance team are over or under payments due to a misinterpretation of guidance. There had been no audits for Derbyshire schools and as shown in the Audit Sub Committee minutes, Peter Brammall has contacted National Office to request that this be rectified.

Item 6. 2006/07 allocations and targets

- 6.1 Bev Hunt presented the 2006/07 allocations and targets to the Council. The core FE funding formula (as outlined) is applied consistently across the region. In addition to the core funding, growth money will be used to ensure key targets are met. The issues around moving to a 'needs-based' approach were discussed including possible proxies for 'need' (such as the proportion of the adult workforce without a Level 2) and the potential for destabilising existing successful provision.
- 6.2 Derbyshire's targets contribute to the overall East Midlands targets and the paper outlined improving performance trends in key areas – Level 2 @ 19, Adult Level 2, Apprenticeships and Skills for Life, also confirming contracted provision for 06/07 is expected to achieve above target performance.
- 6.3 The WBL funding allocation for 06/07 represents a 2.5% increase on 05/06 – this is despite the like-for-like funding reduction, since the 05/06 budget included payments for training allowances, which (after the introduction of EMA's) are now paid centrally. Within this budget, it has been difficult to secure an increase in learner numbers due to the focus in Derbyshire upon the relatively more expensive areas of engineering and construction. This has however been offset by DLSC securing an extra £500,000 funding for WBL.
- 6.4 WBL targets are for a full framework and not solely the NVQ. If participation continues at current rates this target should be met. The Council then discussed how the full framework ie completion of key skills, could be achieved and if the non-executive could assist with this in Derbyshire.

Item 7. Management Information pack

- 7.1 Bev Hunt presented the Management Information pack to the Council. The Management Information pack gives a positive picture with:
 - An increase in participation by young people in FE and WBL;
 - E2E participation for young people set to exceed performance for last year (04/05);
 - Improvement in achievement for young people on FE long courses;

- Expected achievement of full framework apprentices target for young people;
- WBL participation for adults has increased;
- ESF information is included in the pack, with the majority of this work being on target;
- Improvement in achievement for adults on FE long courses;
- Improvement in the amount of Skills for Life provision provided, therefore increasing ability to reach target;

7.2 Hugh Hastie informed the Council that the positive picture outlined in the Management pack was pleasing, as was seeing all the hard work by partners coming together, as not all LSC's have such encouraging statistics and that Derbyshire has the potential to move forward.

7.3 Peter Brammall confirmed that the figures provided a platform for success, which would also be facilitated by the increase in collaboration and broadening of the vocational offer now being seen across Derbyshire.

Item 8. Derby College 'in principle' capital application

8.1 This agenda item was not discussed at the meeting. Please see paragraph 4.6.

Item 9. Appointment of Area Director to LSC Council

9.1 Due to the recent Theme 7 restructure, all local Councils have to consider the appointment of the local Director of Area to the Council. The Executive Director was a member of the council; the replacement of this role by that of the Director of Area prompts this request.

9.2 John Kirkland as Chair proposed the appointment of Peter Brammall to the Council and this was endorsed by David Williams, Deputy Chair.

Decision: It was agreed unanimously that Peter Brammall as Director of Area – Derbyshire be appointed to Derbyshire's Council.

9.3 Andrew Flack informed the Council that Derby City Council were very pleased with the appointment of Peter Brammall, Bev Hunt and Kevin McCann as the senior management team, due to the working relationships built with key partners and hoped it would continue.

Item 10. Any other business

10.1 None.

Item 11. Date of next meeting

11.1 The next meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 5 September, being held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock commencing at 4pm.

Publication no.

Meeting chair

John Kirkland OBE

Minute taker

Philippa Wilson

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