

DERBYSHIRE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS MEETING

HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2002

AT DLSC OFFICE

Present:

Tom Blyth
Alan Charles
Hardyal Dhindsa
Carol Dibbs
Glenys Goucher
Michael Hall
Simon Hemmings
David Hughes
John Kirkland (Chair)
Stephen Lismore
Pat Morgan-Webb
Ken Spencer
Carol Taylor
Roger Taylor
David Williams

In Attendance:

Terry Laws
Christine Wright
Debra Blackshaw (Minutes)

Observers:

Karen Foulds, Jobcentre Plus
Jan Sensier, GOEM

ITEM

ACTION

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Olivia Dean.

2. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

3. **Matters Arising**

Bitesize

A presentation on Bitesize will be given at the Individual Sub Committee meeting taking place after this meeting and a paper circulated to all Council Members.

TL

University of Derby Capital Bid

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

MH and KS declared an interest.

DH informed the council that DLSC was working closely with HEFCE and the University to progress the capital proposal. A meeting between DLSC, HEFCE and University of Derby took place in November. DLSC asked for a letter of comfort from HEFCE, which has been received, but HEFCE have asked the University a revised financial plan by the end of January. Hopefully after this has been received HEFCE will be able to supply a more robust comfort letter to enable DLSC to put the proposal forward to the Capital Committee. KS informed DH that this is not the understanding of the University. DH to contact Roger Waterhouse at University to clarify the situation.

DH

Presentation on Basic Skills

JK thanked TL and CT for the presentation on Basic Skills.

Performance Reports

These will be developed and reviewed by the Provider Sub Committee. The basic data available at present is unsatisfactory but this will improve over time. PMW informed the Council that the new IT system implemented by LSC National Office is causing difficulties in colleges which will cause further problems with MI in the short term. There are similar issues with Work Based Learning MI.

Administration Budget

To be dealt with at this meeting.

4. 5. 6. **Trust in the Future, Success for All and Grant Letter**

Items 4, 5 and 6 of the agenda.

Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education and Skills, presented the Grant letter at the Annual LSC conference of Chairs and Executive Directors on 4 and 5 December. This letter sets out what is expected of the LSC and the funding available.

Greater emphasis has been placed on the 14-19 agenda, Success for All and engagement with employers.

Key targets are that:

- 90% of young people will have taken part in training to enable them to go onto HE or skilled employment.
- The number of 19 year olds achieving NVQ level 2 will increase by 3% in 2004 and a further 3% by 2006.

- 55% of 19 year olds achieving NVQ level 3 by 2004.
- Improving the literacy and numeracy of 1.5m adults and young people by 2007.
- Reduce by at least 40% the number of adults without level 2 qualifications by 2010.
- Set challenging targets for minimum performance and value for money for providers.

The Success for All and Trust in the Future report will be the subject of further briefings and discussions over the coming months. In particular the Council will receive further details of three year funding and success measures for providers through an LSC circular in January 2003. Strategic Area Reviews will be on the agenda of the February 2003 Council meeting for further discussion.

DH

Although the total budget for the LSC increases from £8,095.374 million in 2003/4 to £9,200.308 in 2005/6 there is no increase in the administration budget of £218 million. Therefore a saving of over £30 million is needed over the three year period.

On 9 December John Harwood announced a reshaping of the LSC. This will be done by reducing the number of posts by 10%, creating a more efficient organisation by automating and streamlining processes, upskilling existing staff, recruitment of specialist and professional expertise from partner organisations and working in partnership with colleges, schools and training providers. DLSC is already running with a number of vacancies and the Directors are looking at restructuring DLSC to ensure that resources are prioritised to ensure efficiency and maximise effectiveness.

SH expressed concern that with the extra funding being given to the LSC there will not be enough staff to be able to deliver on the targets that have been set. KS suggested a mapping exercise on what staff currently do against what will need to be done. PMW suggested the possibility of seconding staff to colleges.

7. **Strategic Plan Review – Feedback from Sub Committees**

Feedback from Sub Committees will be given at the next meeting.

DH, CW,
TL

8. **Local Initiative Fund**

KP, AC and GG declared an interest.

TL presented a paper on the priorities for Local Initiative Fund 2003-04.

GG supported the proposal to continue support for the EBP. SL suggested that voluntary sector organisations should be able to access LSC funds at the same time and through a joined up process with other funders such as the new Sub-regional Strategic Partnerships. DH said this was already the case in the Coalfields Alliance area. MH queried the adequacy of the contract management process and DH assured him that training of appropriate staff had been arranged and has begun. KS proposed that the proportion of LIF directed to research should be increased if necessary as this would be consistent with the LLSCs overall strategic role. PMW stressed the importance of aligning LSC discretionary activities with regional priorities. A revised LIF strategy will be presented to the February Council.

TL

DH agreed to circulate a briefing on Strategic Sub Regional Partnerships in Derbyshire.

DH

9. **Any Other Business**

SH attended the Choices Event on 3 December which he thought was very well organised but was disappointed to see very few employers at the event.

JK informed members that the Employer Group meetings that have taken place were well attended and very positive.

GG asked for feedback about the impact of the changes made to provision in the North Derbyshire area. It was agreed to report back in the New Year.

Tom Blyth has agreed to join the Audit Sub Committee.

KS would like to attend to the Equality and Diversity conference for Council Members. DB to send details.

DB

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 28 January 2003 from 5 pm at DLSC office, following Sub Committee meetings starting at 3 pm.