

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date	12 January 2005
Subject	Council Meeting
Location	Stewart Room, Derbyshire Chamber and Business Link, Chesterfield
Time	16:00
LSC office	Derbyshire
Publication intent	Public

Present

Peter Brammall
Alan Charles
June Cooper
Carol Dibbs
Simon Hemmings
David Hughes
John Kirkland (Chair)
Ian Murray
Mohammed Sharief
Ken Spencer
Roger Taylor
David Williams

In attendance

Garry Bryant
Andrew Flack
Hugh Hastie

LSC staff

Jay Hurley (part-time)
Bev Hunt
Andrew Martin
Maureen James
Philippa Wilson

Apologies

Apologies have been received from:
Michael Hall
Russell Rigby
Carol Taylor
Anne Tipple
Karen Foulds

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 John Kirkland welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Council to new member June Cooper. He thanked Anne Tipple for facilitating the meeting and hospitality.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Item 3. Matters arising

- 3.1 Executive Director's Report

Tomlinson Report

- 3.2 This item is still pending. Further consideration due following publication of the 14-19 white paper.

StAR Information

- 3.3 This item will be addressed under agenda item 7.

Employer Engagement Strategy & Role of Council Sub Groups

- 3.4 This item will be addressed under agenda item 9.

Strategic Area Review: Framework for Adult Review

- 3.5 This item will be addressed under agenda item 5.

National Meeting of LSC Chairs and Executive Directors

- 3.6 This was the first regional meeting and was extended to include Council Members. Feedback regarding the event was very good and it gave an opportunity for Council Members to meet their regional counterparts.

Decision: It was agreed that all Council Members consider if they know of any suitable individuals who may be potential Council Members within the East Midlands and invite them to future regional and local meetings as observers to give them an insight into the workings of the Council.

Action: ALL

Item 4. Executive Director's Report

- 4.1 Peter Brammall brought several issues to the attention of the Council:

Mark Haysom Visit

Decision: It was agreed that all Council Members receive a copy of the 'Xplore' CD ROMS.

Action: PB

Regional Issues and Developments

- 4.2 Peter Brammall has been nominated as the lead on the formation of an Organisational Development Board, which has representatives from across the East Midlands. This group will be assessing improvements that could be made to LSC resource utilisation, with a view to increasing the proportion targeted towards priorities, such as skills and employer engagement.

Decision: Peter will report any conclusions from the Board to the Council in the future.

Local LSC Issues

- 4.3 Contract re-negotiations – the Regional Statement of Priorities will be published within the next week and will give a clearer definition of LSC priorities; this will influence the provider negotiations currently underway which will determine 'what we buy'.

4.4 Funding – David Hughes, who is the lead for the National Funding Group, spoke to the Council regarding the impending funding issues. £630 million new money from 04/05 to 05/06. This is a massive growth, but there are more people in learning and some decisions to be taken which will impact on a local level. Allocations will be re-based against actual delivery and shortfalls will be recovered against 04/05.

4.5 £1.5 million has been saved across the East Midlands out of revenue from under spends. Details of which to be provided to Council Members.

Action: PB

4.6 There is a £200 million cut in non-participation budgets, which will be used to fund learning participation. Funding for 06/07 will be difficult and the LSC is not entering into 3 year funding discussions as exact budgets for this period are unknown. Across the board there is no growth in adult learning but there will be an inflation increase – but no volume growth. Increased adult activity in priority areas (skills for Life, Adult Level 2 entitlement) will be funded via a reduction in lower priority activity (eg. other provision).

14-19 Developments

4.7 Hugh Hastie briefed the Council Members on the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures published up until January. The figures cover the whole of Derbyshire and hide a wide variance in performance in some districts. The target figure for unknown NEET was 8.7% and Derbyshire hit 6.5%. The target figure for NEET was 9.2% and Derbyshire hit 8.2%. By 2010 the plan is to reduce these figures by another 2%. Figures from schools, Y11 Destination Figures, will be released shortly.

4.8 Council members then discussed the following issues:

LSC Procurement

4.9 Does the European directive have an impact on this? There are guidelines and processes in place to address this issue.

Decision: It was agreed that Peter Brammall will investigate this further and report back to the Council fully on the guidance.

Action: PB

14-19 Pathfinder Grants Ceasing

4.10 Roger Taylor raised the issue of grants that were being ceased ie 14-19 Pathfinder and U Project. There would be some alternative funding available for successful projects. Money for the U Project is being reduced but is being merged with PYAP.

Apprenticeships

4.11 Early stages of interest are being followed up. Derbyshire is on-track in comparison with national figures.

Item 5. StAR Update and LASDA Report on Adult Learning

5.1 Andrew Martin briefed the Council on the LASDA Report. This report is a better way to measure participation levels. Adult participation is higher in the East Midlands with the exception of ethnic minorities.

5.2 3.2.3 which states that the Wilsthorpe Ward overall participation rate is a little below the average for the Derbyshire LSC is a typing error and should read is above the average.

5.3 Indexing on the tables: red equals above regional/national average, blue equals below the regional/national average.

- 5.4 Data will extend to include deprived wards to give an indication of adult participation across the region. 2001 census data was used to calculate these figures. A strategy needs forming to take it forwards as part of the StAR process.
- 5.5 A concern was raised that the 16-19 figures were below average but 19+ is higher than average. These figures could be mutually re-enforcing.

Item 6. 14-19 Strategies and Action Plan from Area Wide Inspection of Derby City

- 6.1 Bev Hunt briefed the Council on the 14-19 Strategies and Action Plan from AWI of Derby City. All partners will be consulted on the action plan for their input. There is current support from GOEM and National Office.
- 6.2 The issue was raised regarding the exclusion figure in Derbyshire being very high and possible reasons for this and how to deal with it were discussed.
- 6.3 It was expressed that the action plan may be looked upon sceptically due to the delayed completion of the previous action plan. It was asked that Council Members remember that this inspection was requested by the LSC to initiate improvement in provision. Also the formation of the tri partite group (LSC, LEA and Connexions) should assist the achievement of a successful conclusion.

Decision: It was agreed that all comments/amendments be emailed to Bev Hunt or Kevin McCann for inclusion in the final draft.

Action: ALL

Item 7. Derbyshire LSC: Performance Indicators

- 7.1 Andrew Martin briefed the Council on the Derbyshire LSC Performance Indicators. Not all the targets are at a local level and are only indicators of progress towards/contributions to targets measured nationally.

Decision: It was agreed that all Council members would forward comments on the paper to Andrew Martin. This agenda item will be carried forward to the next Council meeting in February; when the discussion will focus upon one area of the Performance Indicator paper.

Action: ALL

Item 8. Valuable Skills: ETP Strategy

- 8.1 Jay Hurley, Derbyshire LSC ETP Manager, gave a presentation of the ETP Strategy to the Council.
- 8.2 Ken Spencer congratulated everyone involved in the success of the pilot scheme and outlined the need to review lessons learned; these would include the nature of 'completion rates', with focus being placed upon the nature of learning, – and it's relevance to employers/employees – including practical skills gained, rather than merely on formal qualifications.

Item 9. Council Sub Groups and Employer Engagement

- 9.1 Peter Brammall gave the Council an update on this issue. The current structure and content of the subgroups has been discussed at previous meetings. The Individual Sub Group will continue and has been re-named the Equality and Diversity Sub Group.
- 9.2 The Employers Sub Group will evolve to help FE Colleges meet their forthcoming challenges. The group will continue with existing activities including regional sector skills information analysis.

Decision: It was agreed that the group will continue under three broad strands of activity, with an individual Council Member to be the lead on each of the areas. These will be –

FE Response

- 9.3 Looking at the college's response to the LSC Agenda for Change and employer engagement/delivering the skills strategy. This will involve working with College Corporation Boards.

DLSC Employer Engagement Strategy

- 9.4 Help to evolve the approach to employer engagement and skills development, including how this influences learning provision. Also reviewing the sector skills reports.

Responsiveness to local market intelligence

- 9.5 To work with partners to anticipate major developments and up skill those not in the labour market, examples of which include the Westfields project currently being undertaken.

Decision: It was agreed that Council members interested in joining this group would contact Peter Brammall. The intention is to agree leads for each strand of work and work plans at the first meeting, the date which will be set once the composition of the group is known.

Action: ALL

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 21st February 2005 in Boardroom 1, Edwards Geldard, Derby commencing at 4pm.

Publication no.

Meeting chair

John Kirkland

Minute taker

Philippa Wilson

Document ref.

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Version

1.0

Date of version

17 January 2005

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