DERBYSHIRE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS MEETING

HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2002

AT NEW BATH HOTEL, MATLOCK

Present:
Tom Blyth
Carol Dibbs
Michael Hall
Simon Hemmings
David Hughes
Pat Morgan-Webb
Ken Spencer
Carol Taylor
Roger Taylor
David Williams (Acting Chair)

In Attendance:
Terry Laws
Debra Blackshaw (Minutes)

Observers:
Karen Foulds, Jobcentre Plus
Hugh Hastie, Connexions

ITEM		ACTION
1.	**Apologies**	
	Apologies were received from Alan Charles, Olivia Dean, Hardyal Dhindsa, Glenys Goucher, John Kirkland, Stephen Lismore, Brian Gray, Jan Sensier and Chris Wynn.	
	The poor attendance at the meeting was noted and it was suggested that the attendance record for all Council Members should be circulated.	DB
	New members Carol Dibbs and Carol Taylor were welcomed to the meeting by DW.	
2.	**Minutes of Previous meeting**	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.	
3.	**Matters Arising**	
	Bitesize	
	The Bitesize report will now come to the December Council meeting.	

ITEM	ACTION

Capital Bid from Derby University

Staff are seeking further information from the University regarding the proposal in order to satisfy the LSC Capital Committee's requirements. DLSC is working closely with HEFCE and a meeting is taking place shortly between HEFCE, Derby University and DLSC. An update will be presented to the Council in December.

4. **Presentation on Basic Skills**

TL gave a presentation on Basic Skills with support from CT. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Data used in the presentation is based on estimated information from the Basic Skills Agency.

SH asked if the target of raising the literacy and numeracy of 1000 for the Employer Training Pilot was included in the target of 13,713 across Derbyshire and was informed by DH that this figure is part of the 13K.

Read On Write Away (ROWA) is hosted by Derbyshire County Council. It is not itself a training provider, rather it delivers through others. RT is Chair of ROWA which started over 5 years ago. It has an established track record for being innovative and effective in Derbyshire and elsewhere.

DH informed members that the target from DfES is to raise the literacy and numeracy of 750K adults by 2004 and 1.5m by 2007. One major difficulty is measuring progress, which takes place through a variety of mechanisms not all of which are funded by the LSC and not all of which count towards the targets.

TB asked what progress had been made to make sure that young people do not leave school with problems with Basic Skills. RT stated that much progress had been made in recent years, including the ability to record progress of individual pupils.

PMW added that in spite of this progress work still needs to be done on post 16 and on effective carry over of information.

KF informed members that over 93% of people claiming benefits are tested for Basic Skills needs.

ITEM		ACTION

5. **Performance Reports**

This is the first month of the recently agreed performance reporting schedule. DH discussed three reports which provided the council with the data currently available for Work Based Learning, Further Education and School Sixth Forms.

It was agreed that the Provision Sub Committee should look at emerging data and address how it can be developed in order to meet our requirements. Their recommendations will be considered by the Council at a later date.

6. **FRESA**

Ivan Lewis MP launched the FRESA (Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action) this week. A meeting of the East Midlands LSCs takes place on Friday 22 November in order to progress our role within the FRESA

7. **Admin Budget**

Confidential Item

DLSC will have overspent by £70K by the end of this financial year. This is due wholly to excess travel allowances which are beyond DLSC's control. A number of posts have been held vacant in order to save money. National money for administration is likely to stay static for the next three years.

DLSC, in conjunction with the other EM LSCs, is looking at which services could be delivered on a regional level. DfES has set strict rules on what the administration budget can be used for, eg DLSC cannot second staff into pilots.

8. **Good Practice Publication**

TL presented the paper on the Good Practice Publication. The focus of the document should be on discretionary money and the impact that has had, not core funding. Activities defined as discretionary represent expenditure in excess of £9M.

Newspaper format was suggested and Council members agreed the proposal.

ITEM		ACTION

9. **ESF**

Confidential Item

RT and CT declared an interest

This year DLSC received 274 bids of which122 scored above the 60% threshold. The bids considered total almost £20 million against a budget of £7.7 million. More applications were received at DLSC than across the whole of the region than in previous bidding rounds.

The Council approved the successful bids as summarised in Annex A.

Thanks were expressed to Elaine McCulloch and Sue Axbey and all staff involved who have done a fantastic job keeping to timescale.

A report will be produced at a later date indicating the success rates of various types of organisation involved.

KF expressed thanks Elaine McCulloch and Sue Axbey for all the help that has been given to Jobcentre Plus co-financing activity.

10. **Any Other Business**

A copy of "Council Members in Brief" was distributed and council members were asked to check and update if necessary. It was agreed that Observers should also be included. DB to collate all information. DB

11. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 12 December 2002 at 3 pm, starting with Sub Committee meetings followed by a full Council meeting at 5 pm. The meetings will take place at DLSC offices.

A photographer will be available from 2.30 to take photographs of the new Council Members. If any member wishes to update their photo they should contact DB as soon as possible.