

**DERBYSHIRE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS MEETING**

**HELD ON 2 JULY 2003**

**AT DLSC OFFICE**

**Present:**

Tom Blyth  
Alan Charles  
Olivia Dean  
Carol Dibbs  
Glenys Goucher  
Michael Hall  
Simon Hemmings  
David Hughes  
John Kirkland (Chair)  
Stephen Lismore  
Ken Spencer  
Carol Taylor  
Roger Taylor  
David Williams

**In Attendance:**

Terry Laws  
Debra Blackshaw (Minutes)

**Observers:**

Gary Bryant (GOEM)  
Andrew Flack (Derby City LEA)  
Karen Foulds (Jobcentre Plus)  
Hugh Hastie (Connexions Partnership)  
Bob Laxton MP

**ITEM**

**ACTION**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Hardyal Dhindsa and Pat Morgan-Webb.

JNK welcomed Bob Laxton MP to the meeting. Mr Laxton is MP for Derby North and PPS to Alan Johnson, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education with responsibility for the Learning and Skills Council.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

**3. Matters Arising**

LIF

A paper will be presented to the meeting on 29 July.

DH

### Bitesize

A verbal update will be given at the meeting on 29 July DH

### Health and Safety

Due to the changes regarding Health and Safety and the Reshaping of the LSC a report will now be presented to the Council in the Autumn. CW

### Maximise

At the last meeting GG asked whether targets of 50% of young people moving into structure learning was realistic. A report will go to Council in the Autumn addressing this question in light of the experience of the first period of the project. TL

### Timing of Council Meetings

All Council Members and Observers should have received a copy of the ED's Monthly Report, please contact DB if not. This report will be issued on a monthly basis and will keep Members updated on any issues that arise between meetings. If Members have any questions they should contact DH between the meetings. KS and DH are working on a questionnaire for Council Members regarding the structure and content of meetings. This will be circulated shortly and will form part of the awayday on 24 September. DH/KS

### Strategic Area Reviews

This will be covered under item 9 of this agenda and a report will be presented to the Council on 29 July. DH

### Derby College

RT agreed to chair the capital bid sub committee discussing Derby College. Derby College will be making a presentation to the Council at the end of this meeting. Due to a possible conflict of interest JNK will leave this meeting before this takes place.

### Derbyshire Community Foundation

The proposal to support the Foundation with the money in the Southern Derbyshire Learning Charity was agreed by correspondence after the last meeting. A total of £345K has now been transferred to the Foundation. This enabled the Foundation to meet the £1m target and therefore draw down

the £1m from the anonymous benefactor.

#### 4. **Executive Director's Report**

Members were asked to give feedback to DH and to ask any questions between Council meetings.

Several members of the Council have asked for details of the staff structure. Due to the Reshaping and restructuring changes that are taking place DH will circulate a paper probably in September.

DH

#### 5. **Relationship with MPs**

JNK and DH have met with every MP in the County during the past two years. DLSC needs to ensure that MPs are informed about what is happening in the county with regard to the LSC.

Bob Laxton MP informed members that Derbyshire MPs meet on an ad hoc basis with other agencies across the county. He offered his support to host a meeting of all Derbyshire MPs at the House of Commons in the autumn. The meeting could be used to update MPs on the work and the impact of the LSC in Derbyshire. This offer was warmly accepted and DH promised to follow this up.

DH/BL

TB expressed his thanks and appreciation for the invitation from the new Minister to a meeting at Lancaster House on 23 June and BL said he would pass on his kind words.

#### 6. **Council Awayday**

The Council Awayday will be held on 24 September at Broomfield Hall, Morley, Derby. The programme for the day will include a tour of the facilities at Broomfield and will be themed around the work and remits of the three sub committees.

If any members have suggestions for the awayday they should contact DH.

DH

#### 7. **Financial Performance**

DH presented a paper on the financial performance of DLSC.

DH informed members that DLSC had come in under their admin budget despite having to absorb on-going additional costs for excess travel incurred by staff who were previously

based in the Chesterfield office of North Derbyshire TEC.

WBL performance profiles are still causing concern. Providers are not achieving targets and re-profiling has taken place. Contract reviews are taking place and DLSC will only contract with providers who are able to perform to the profile they have contracted for.

Work with Connexions on E2E which starts in August should improve the figures for WBL. DLSC are also working with Connexions and Derbyshire Network to market Modern Apprenticeships more effectively as some employers do not find them appealing. KF informed members that Jobcentre Plus had also found this to be the case for adults. GG commented that in her experience Modern Apprenticeships were very popular amongst SMEs. DLSC will be monitoring monthly and will report back to the Council throughout the year.

KS asked for a picture of what is delivered and in what area and at what level for the county. KS also asked if there were any plans for capacity building or new providers. DH informed members that DLSC were working with current providers with regard to capacity building and were looking at new providers in certain areas such as construction and in geographical areas such as High Peak. A report on WBL will come to a subsequent meeting and a list of training provided would be circulated as soon as possible. DH

## 8. **Investors in People**

DH presented a report on Investors in People. DLSC has already passed the target of 45% of people working in companies with liP and because of this DLSC are now working towards a target of 50% by 2005.

SL expressed concern that the cost of assessment for small companies could prohibit them from applying. CD also expressed concern about the cost of re-assessment. TB expressed concern that the change in target methodology is a change only to make the targets easier to meet. DH informed the Council that this was not the case and the change in methodology did not indicate a reduction in energy and effort to achieve more liP achievements.

KS asked if there are any patterns emerging from liP achievement. TL informed members that a number of schools were applying for liP and DH informed the Council that the increasing emphasis locally on key sectors will allow us to look at this in a more sophisticated way.

9. **Membership of Strategic Area Review Steering Group**

DH presented a paper and asked for volunteers from the Council to notify him of their interest. CD expressed a view that 11-16 schools should also be represented and OD expressed the same for the Voluntary Sector. JNK asked that any member whose term is coming to an end in November should not to put their name forward until after the re-appointment process.

ALL

The first meeting will take place on 21 July at DLSC office, commencing at 2 pm.

JNK and CT left the meeting at 5.15 and RT took over as Chair.

10. **Presentation by Derby College**

Olivia Dean, Carol Dibbs, Michael Hall and David Williams all declared potential conflicts of interest. Simon Hemmings left the meeting at 6 pm.

David Croll, Principal and Chief Executive, Shaun Orrell, Director of Finance and Deputy Principal and Nigel Gell, Assistant Principal Learning Environment of Derby College joined the meeting.

David Croll gave a presentation on the capital bid proposal. A copy of the presentation and minutes from the Capital Bid Sub Committee meeting held on 26 June are attached.

Members expressed strong support for the proposal. There was broad agreement that the proposal would be an asset to the city and should encourage non-learners back into learning. There was a consensus that the way the College worked with other providers, in particular the schools with sixth forms, 11-16 schools and work-based learning providers, was critical to the success of the proposal.

DC assured members that Derby College already works with a number of schools in the area and is happy and willing to work with other schools and providers.

The issues raised in the minutes of the Capital Bid Sub Committee were all raised again in the discussion. There was a consensus that the underlying assumptions about student numbers needed to be carefully assessed in order to justify the proposal.

AF presented to the meeting the range of views from a meeting of secondary school heads which the College and DH had attended on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2003. There was significant opposition to the proposal from some schools with sixth forms. He asked that the papers be made available to all of the Heads in order for them to be able to feed into the decision-making process. AC suggested that the term “6<sup>th</sup> form” was becoming outdated.

DH emphasised the need for the LSC to support new provision which would widen participation in the city. Current levels of participation and achievement were well below the national averages. One key test for the LSC was whether the proposal would impact on that.

RT thanked David Croll for the presentation.

11. **Date of Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 29 July at 4 pm and will take place at DLSC office.