

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 8 September 2005
Subject Council Meeting
Location Boardroom 1, Edwards Geldard, Pride Park, Derby
Time 16:00
LSC office Derbyshire
Publication intent Public

Present Carol Dibbs
Michael Hall
Simon Hemmings
John Kirkland (Chair)
Ian Murray
Mohammed Sharief
Kenneth Spencer
Carol Taylor

In attendance Andrew Flack - Derby City LA
Hugh Hastie - Connexions
John Perry - GOEM

LSC staff Peter Brammall
David Hughes
Sammy Jones
Kevin McCann
Philippa Wilson

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Alan Charles
June Cooper
Russell Rigby
Geoff Stevens
Anne Tipple
David Williams

Richard Bingham - Jobcentre Plus
David Shaw - Derbyshire County LA

Bev Hunt - Director of Learning, LSC

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 John Kirkland welcomed all attendees to the meeting and apologies were given as above.
- 1.2 David Williams was thanked for the use of the room at Edwards Geldard.
- 1.3 John Perry, Senior Manager, Enterprise & Education at GOEM, was welcomed to his first Council meeting.
- 1.4 Carol Dibbs was congratulated on the recent exam results achieved by Da Vinci School.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

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

Item 3. Matters arising

3.2 Connexions progression data

- 3.1 A discussion was held on how to tackle the high NEET figure in Bolsover in the meeting held on 17th May 2005. A multi agency approach is required to try and track through and understand the particular issues that affect the Bolsover area. Ian Murray agreed to share findings with the Council from the Learning Partnership sub group.

Decision: It was agreed that a presentation at a future meeting would be made by this sub group. This presentation is yet to take place and there will be carried forward.

Action: Ian Murray

- 3.2 Hugh informed the Council that the specific reason that the figure appeared to be so high was partly due to national reporting requirements and the cross-border movement of young people after the age of 16.
- 3.3 Ian Murray informed the Council that Chesterfield College and the Derbyshire Network have a program running to try to address this issue and he will report their activity back to the Council at the November meeting in the form of a presentation.

Action: Ian Murray

3.3 White paper: 14-19 Education and Skills

- 3.4 At an earlier Council meeting Alan Charles and David Shaw agreed to review and report back on the extent to which schools funds are being used to assist in the delivery of vocational training.

Decision: It was agreed that action will be carried forward.

Action: Alan Charles/David Shaw

3.7 Register of Interest

- 3.5 One Register of Interests form is outstanding.

Decision: John Kirkland will follow this up.

Action: John Kirkland

4.7 & 5.3 Funding allocations review

These outstanding actions will be covered in the meeting being held in October.

Decision: Philippa Wilson will add to the agenda for October.

Action: Philippa Wilson

6.4 Work Based Learning performance update

- 3.6 An update on this action was not available as Bev Hunt was absent from the meeting.

Decision: This action will be carried forward to the next meeting and included in the Management Information update.

Action: Bev Hunt/Alan Charles

8.4 Union leaning Representative Programme

- 3.7 Peter Brammall offered to pursue if funding would be available to extend this programme – Peter contacted National Office regarding funding and has subsequently put Vic Bodsworth in touch with Mary Alys, the regional Union Learning Fund representative, to pursue regional bids to the national budget.

Decision: An update on progress with these bids will be provided at a future Council meeting.

Action: Kevin McCann

9.2 Length of terms

- 3.8 Philippa Wilson to issue confirmation of length of terms to all Council members.

Decision: This action is to be carried forward.

Action: Philippa Wilson

- 3.9 The possibility of attending Council Sub Groups following expiry of Council members' terms of office was discussed.

Decision: This will be addressed whilst reviewing the membership of the sub-groups following the conclusion of the recent recruitment process.

Action: Philippa Wilson

Item 4. Executive Director's report

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

Agenda for change

- 4.2 The final version of the agenda for change has been published. This also includes a seventh theme looking at the LSC's internal processes. It is proposed that November's meeting becomes an away day to discuss the agenda for change at length. Philippa Wilson will confirm details with all Council members as soon as possible.

Action: Philippa Wilson

- 4.3 All LSC staff will be sent an email on Friday 9th September to attend a briefing the following Friday on this seventh theme. This is a substantial

change to the organisation, which will include a month of consultation with staff, Council members and partners.

- 4.4 All East Midlands local Chairs will receive a copy of the briefing pack that Executive Director's received and Council members will be provided with details of the proposed changes.
- 4.5 All East Midlands local Chairs in the region will come together with two Council members from each local Council a few weeks after the announcement to discuss the changes.
- 4.6 In early November there will be the opportunity for all Council members to meet in order to share views and discuss this matter.

Regional team movements

- 4.7 The departure of David Hughes at the end of October was discussed and John Kirkland formally thanked David for all his work as both Executive and Regional Director.
- 4.8 As the Chair for the East Midlands region John Kirkland was involved in the recruitment process for David's replacement and is looking forward to Verity Bullough joining the region. Verity's role will differ slightly from David's as she will be the Regional Director with no direct responsibilities for a local office as an Executive Director. Therefore Peter Brammall will become Acting Executive Director for Derbyshire.

Marketing and Communications

- 4.9 Peter drew the Council's attention to this year's Derbyshire Skills Festival. The event will be taking place on 7th & 8th November and asked all attendees to put it in their calendars.
- 4.10 Council members will be sent VIP invitations as a matter of course and are welcome to attend the festival at any point over the two days. Full schedules will be issued.
- 4.11 Whilst Derbyshire LSC are aware that similar other events are held the only LSC backed event is the Skills Festival and attempts have been made to align these events with the Skills Festival.
- 4.12 Ian Murray also raised the opening of the Clowne Campus on 19th October commencing at 2.30pm. Official invitations will be sent out.

Decision: It was agreed that the October Council meeting will be held at the Clowne Campus. Philippa Wilson will confirm to all attendees.

Action: Philippa Wilson

Apprenticeships PSA targets

- 4.13 Derbyshire managed to hit and exceed targets. Activity is up 34% on last year which is a huge success for the Derbyshire office.

Employer Engagement Sub Group

- 4.14 Peter informed the Council that he was awaiting the completion of the engineering action plan for Derbyshire, agreed at the last meeting. Once this was in place a follow up meeting of the sub-group would be arranged.

Item 5. Green Paper: “Youth Matters”

- 5.1 Hugh Hastie gave a presentation to the Council on the Green Paper: “Youth Matters”. This paper is based around 4 key challenges and its origins stem from the Every Child Matters Paper.
- 5.2 Young people from varied backgrounds have been very much involved and contributed to this paper.
- 5.3 The following issues were raised:
 - The ‘opportunity cards’ were regarded as having a number of practical difficulties in terms of application.
 - IAG commissioning being pulled back from Connexions and placed with the Local Authority may be viewed in different ways. This could provide opportunities for collaboration and new forms of delivery, although, where it was working well, the role of Connexions should not be ignored.
 - There is a lack of the involvement of employers in the paper and Hugh confirmed that the Connexions response to the consultation will highlight this point.
 - Some members regarded the paper as confusing in places, with some contradictory objectives.
 - The issue of increased ‘parent power’ also needs careful thought as it carries risks as well as opportunities.
- 5.4 Overall Connexions feel positive about this document and hope it can be built upon to help develop IAG to make it more available to young people across Derbyshire.

Item 6. Outcomes of StAR consultation

- 6.1 Peter Brammall presented the outcomes of StAR consultation to the Council. There has been a high level of agreement with the proposals; in part this is due to the non-contentious nature of the proposals, although it also reflects the fact that many partners were ‘signed up’ to it from the outset as the process had been so inclusive and consultative - credit for this outcome goes to Andrew Martin and the StAR team. The StAR Steering Group- a subgroup of the council - ensured that the consultation responses have been incorporated into the final document.
- 6.2 The Council have been issued with an outline summary of the consultation responses and implementation plans for 14-19 and adults.
- 6.3 A StAR launch event has been planned for Friday 23rd September at the Chesterfield Hotel, with invitations already sent out.
- 6.4 The following comments were made:
 - Ken Spencer praised the documents and viewed them as a result of the skilled work by LSC staff and partners.
 - Ian Murray commended the process and regarded it as well worthwhile and praised Sammy for the work completed. This process has given the LSC a comprehensive database. It is now the ‘how’ that will be important.

- Negotiations of delivery will now take place. The nature of the sector means that there are lots of individual businesses which lend to developing clusters as proposed.
- Many felt that the review provides a good base and has realistic aspirations for change; with the goodwill and collaborative working already in place, the implementation of the proposals should be achievable.

Item 7. Derby College property strategy

- 7.1 Shaun Orrell, Deputy Principal and Finance Director, and Nigel Gell, Vice Principal and Property Director, from Derby College gave a presentation to the Council outlining the Derby College property strategy.
- 7.2 The property strategy was submitted last month and this presentation is part of the on-going discussions between LSC staff and the college.
- 7.3 Shaun and Nigel outlined the five strategy options and what each entailed. Derby College then narrowed the options to three and made a decision through the College Corporation to proceed with Option 5, involving the retention of the Joseph Wright Centre and Broomfield Hall sites, with Prince Charles Avenue becoming a centre for sports provision and college administration. The current Prince Charles Avenue teaching provision would move to a new city centre location (preferred site is the Roundhouse) and they would look to dispose of surplus land at the Prince Charles site.
- 7.4 The following issues were raised:
- **If Broomfield Hall was upgraded what else could possibly be taught there?**
Derby College are always looking to diversify, and would increase horticultural course, replace greenhouses and offer new courses like garden design and animal care.
 - **Broomfield Hall is a good location for those types of courses but there is little potential for further redevelopment. Is there any potential to combine with other counties to provide accommodation units to attract more students for this specialist provision?**
There is currently some accommodation available and further boarding students could be housed. This is a possibility that could be pursued.
 - **What are the space utilisation implications for the proposed Roundhouse site?**
Current space utilisation is at 24% and this needs to be increased to 35 - 40%.
 - **Why haven't costings been included in the presentation?**
Derby College were unsure where to pitch financial implications in the presentation. Detailed financial forecasts have been completed and Andrew Martin, Regional Finance Director, has received a copy – further discussions around the finances are ongoing and will be influenced by (1) the conclusion of negotiations in relation to the 'gap' funding for the

project and (2) the level of debt the college can afford to take on compared to the LSC grant support available.

- **The issue of 14-19 vocational provision, involving schools, needs to be a central part of the thinking.**

Derby College have submitted bids to DDEP and emda. They are presenting costs of the next stage to their Finance Committee and the above-mentioned discussions with the LSC represent the next stage.

Students and employees have been consulted and the major issues to be considered in the strategy are around access and location.

- **Why do Derby College think they can make the Roundhouse work, where others over the last 20 years have failed?**

Derby College believe they have a scheme that works and doesn't rely on commercial income. They also believe that the building is a good fit for what they want to do.

7.5 John Kirkland thanked Shaun and Nigel for attending the Council meeting and their presentation.

Item 8. Any other business

8.1 John Kirkland informed the Council that he is meeting shortly with Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, and in light of this will make future calendar commitments available to the Council so Council members can ask him to raise any issues on their behalf.

Item 9. Date of next meeting

9.1 The next meeting of the Council will take place on 19th October commencing at 4pm held in Room NC110 at Chesterfield College's Clowne Campus.

Publication no.

Meeting chair

John Kirkland

Minute taker

Philippa Wilson

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