

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 28 November 2006
Subject Council Meeting
Location Committee Room, South East Derbyshire College, Ilkeston
Time 16:00
LSC office Derbyshire
Publication intent Internal

Present Alan Charles
Carol Taylor
Geoff Stevens
Ian Murray
John Kirkland OBE
June Cooper
Ken Spencer
Michael Hall

In attendance Andrew Flack - Derby City LA
Hugh Hastie OBE - Connexions

LSC staff Peter Brammall
Verity Bullough
Richard Kirkland
Kevin McCann
Sally Stewart
Karen Woodward

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Carol Dibbs
David Williams
Margaret Lynch
Mohammed Sharief

David Shaw - Derbyshire County LA
John Perry - GOEM
Keith Burn - Jobcentre Plus
Sara Bolton - Derby City Council

Bev Hunt

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 John Kirkland welcomed all attendees to the meeting and apologies were given as above.
- 1.2 John particularly welcomed Verity Bullough, Regional Director – East Midlands, and Sally Stewart, Director of HR, to the meeting.
- 1.3 John thanked South East Derbyshire College for their hospitality in hosting this Council meeting.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

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

Item 3. Matters arising

Director of Area report – School Sixth Form Presumptions (4.8)

- 3.1 At the Council meeting held on 5 September it was agreed that Peter Brammall would contact Council Members to sit on a Capital Sub Committee to consider school sixth form presumption bids.

Decision: This meeting was held on 31 October and the minutes from this meeting are enclosed in the Council meeting papers for information. This action is closed.

Regional Audit Committee update (5.1)

- 3.2 At the Council meeting held on 5 September Peter Brammall advised that he would be happy to take any queries liaising with Michael Hall as appropriate on the Regional Audit Committee minutes.

Decision: No queries were raised. This action is closed.

Item 4. Director of Area report

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

Adult Level 2 achievement

- 4.2 It was announced that the milestone of one million adults achieving a Level 2 qualification since 2002 has been achieved. Delivery of the new target of 3.6 million more adults to be qualified by 2010 is linked to the success of the Train to Gain programme.

Regional Commissioning Plan

- 4.3 Development of the Regional Strategic Analysis is occupying most of the time of the Regional Office team, who are feeding this into a Regional Commissioning Plan to be presented at the Regional Board meeting in December. This will set the framework for the development of the Local Plan, which will summarise the agreements reached with providers for changes to their delivery for 2007/08.

Derbyshire's performance review

- 4.4 Key areas of the review were rated as 'green' on the traffic light system and overall the review reflected the positive progress being made in participation and achievement across Derbyshire. However Derbyshire needs to remain focused to tackle future challenges, which include Adult Level 2 and NEET targets.

Roundhouse capital proposal

- 4.5 The capital bid for the development of the Roundhouse by Derby College was agreed 'in principle' at the National Capital Committee. A detailed bid will now need to be submitted by Derby College to the National Capital Committee in spring.

NEET

- 4.6 The reason for the high figure of 14% for October is outlined in the report and as expected this figure has already dropped significantly. The latest update (mid November) indicates a figure of 8% (target 7.6%).

Skills Board

- 4.7 Employment and Skills Boards are being developed across the area in conjunction with partners including Derbyshire County, Derby City Council, the LSPs, Jobcentre Plus and local employers. This is pertinent to the agenda item on 'Streamlining accountabilities' as groups such as these will increasingly be the mechanism for reflecting the Derbyshire perspective in learning and skills strategies.

Item 5. Regional perspective

- 5.1 Verity Bullough gave the Council a verbal update on the performance of the East Midlands. This follows on from the six monthly performance review for the East Midlands with Mark Haysom, Chief Executive of the LSC. As a region the strengths include improving Young People's participation and attainment (Level 2 & 3), the largest improvement in the country for apprenticeship framework completions and the best performance of any region to date for the Train to Gain programme.
- 5.2 The weaknesses include the fact that the region has the second smallest increase in adults participating at Level 2, the smallest shift to recognised qualifications for Skills for Life, the third lowest for fee income generated and static or rising NEET figures.
- 5.3 The regional team have been working hard to ensure the national allocations methodology achieves an improved match between resources and targets. This process is not yet finalised, although indications are that the East Midlands will receive an above average budget settlement. This will help to tackle the challenges identified in the performance review.
- 5.4 In summary, the overall direction of travel is good, however the pace of change is the issue.

Item 6. Council Sub Committee update

6.1 Minutes of the Capital, Employer Engagement and Equality and Diversity Sub Committees are included in the Council papers for information.

Decision: Any queries arising from these minutes should be forwarded to Peter Brammall or John Kirkland.

Action: All

Item 7. Train to Gain update

7.1 Karen Woodward presented an update on the Train to Gain programme to the Council. The presentation outlined the new regional specialist team, the regional objectives, targets and budgets and gave an update and achievements and included information on the success of the brokerage system, especially in engaging 'hard to reach' employers.

7.2 The lessons learnt from the merger of the Leicestershire and Derbyshire ETP pilots have helped to shape the current Train to Gain programme and assisted in the initial success it has seen.

7.3 John Kirkland thanked Karen Woodward and her team for their hard work and success.

Item 8. Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) & NEET issues

8.1 Richard Kirkland presented the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) & NEET issues paper to the Council. He emphasised that this data is constantly changing and the figures presented are a 'snap shot' of the NEET situation. The latest update shows 2079 are identified as NEET by Connexions and not 2189 as shown in the paper.

8.2 Appropriate learning or employment opportunities for young people must be available to tackle the NEET figure. The LSC is working with partners to deliver a NEET reduction strategy and is also working on the September Guarantee and Foundation Learning Tier which are longer term strategies.

8.3 EMA performance plays a continuous strategic role in achievement and progression. It gives opportunities to young people that weren't previously available. Initial trends in e2e and EMA performance (with EMA initially viewed unfavourably by some compared to the previous system of training allowances) have now settled and numbers are now comparable or ahead of the same period last year.

Decision: Given the time constraints and the fact that we will be able to report against actual performance it was agreed that Hugh Hastie would give a presentation at the next Council meeting on NEET.

Action: Hugh Hastie

Decision: It was agreed that NEET would become a standing agenda item for future Council meetings.

Action: Philippa Wilson

Item 9. Streamlining LSC Accountability

9.1 Peter Brammall presented the Streamlining LSC Accountability paper to the Council. The subsequent discussion centred around; the need to ensure existing Council arrangements are in place through to next summer, when the legislation takes effect; ways of reflecting the Derbyshire perspective on the Regional Board; how to mitigate concerns around the potential lack of ownership and focus for the learning and skills agenda at a local level without a dedicated Council; the employer-focus of the Regional Board and the need to ensure other agendas are catered for.

9.2 John Kirkland thanked the Council for a useful discussion, which will help inform the development of the new arrangements.

Decision: John Kirkland stressed the importance of retaining and utilising the local knowledge of the Council Members and therefore requested that all consider these new arrangements and address any further feedback to him.

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 14 February being held at the LSC – Derbyshire office, commencing at 4pm.

11.2 Please find below future dates for 2007:

- Tuesday 1 May being held at Bowmer & Kirkland, Heage, commencing at 4pm.
- Thursday 28 June being held at the Joseph Wright Centre, Derby, commencing at 4pm.

Meeting chair	John Kirkland OBE
Minute taker	Philippa Wilson
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