

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 14 February 2007
Subject Council Meeting
Location Boardroom, LSC - Derbyshire
Time 16:00
LSC office Derbyshire
Publication intent Internal

Present David Williams
Geoff Stevens
John Kirkland OBE
Ken Spencer
Mohammed Sharief

In attendance Andrew Flack - Derby City LA
John Gibb - Connexions
John Perry - GOEM
Sara Bolton - Derby City Council

LSC staff Peter Brammall
Kevin McCann
Richard Kirkland

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Alan Charles
Carol Dibbs
Carol Taylor
Ian Murray
June Cooper
Margaret Lynch
Michael Hall

David Shaw - Derbyshire County LA
Hugh Hastie OBE – Connexions
Keith Burn - Jobcentre Plus

Bev Hunt

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 John Kirkland welcomed all attendees to the meeting and apologies were given as above.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

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

Item 3. Matters arising

Council Sub Committee update (6.1)

- 3.1 At the Council meeting held on 28 November 2006 minutes of the Capital, Employer Engagement and Equality and Diversity Sub Committees were included in the Council papers for information. It was agreed that any queries arising from these minutes should be forwarded to Peter Brammall or John Kirkland.

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

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) & NEET issues (8.3)

- 3.2 At the Council meeting held on 28 November 2006 it was agreed there would be a presentation at the next Council meeting on NEET.

Decision: This will be covered under agenda item 7. This action is closed.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) & NEET issues (8.3)

- 3.3 At the Council meeting held on 28 November 2006 it was agreed that NEET would become a standing agenda item for future Council meetings.

Decision: NEET has been added as an agenda item for each meeting on the 2007 proposed list of agenda items for Council meetings. This action is closed.

Streamlining LSC Accountability (9.2)

- 3.4 At the Council meeting held on 28 November streamlining LSC accountability was discussed and 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.

Decision: It was agreed that the Council should retain an awareness of this topic and continue to feedback any concerns to John.

Action: All

Item 4. Director of Area report

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

Leitch Review of Skills

- 4.2 The Leitch Review has been published and the LSC is working with DfES on the details of the implementation. A full discussion on the Leitch recommendations would be beneficial once this work had progressed.

Decision: It was agreed to add the Leitch Review as an agenda item for a future Council meeting.

Action: Peter Brammall

Regional Commissioning Plan

- 4.3 The Regional Commissioning Plan has been published and a copy was included within the papers issued. Development of the plan was agreed by the Regional Board. The Plan forms the framework for Derbyshire's Annual Plan (agenda item 6).

Funding allocations

- 4.4 The current indicative 2007/08 funding allocation for Derbyshire represents an increase of 5% for FE and an extra 4% for WBL. The region as a whole has received an extra 6.7%, which is the 2nd highest increase in the country.

Derby College Roundhouse development

- 4.5 This will be covered further under agenda item 8.

LSC – Derbyshire new premises

- 4.6 In addition to Peter's report a further development may see the potential move to Pride Park fall through. Peter is currently in the process of trying to recover the situation and should hopefully have more information in the next 24 hours.

Other issues

- 4.7 Ken Spencer enquired about the training for LSC Partnership Managers, referred to in the report. Peter explained that the LSC is entering a period of dialogue with providers around the Annual Plan requirements, funding and allocations and this training covered the systems supporting that process.
- 4.8 David Williams informed the Council that he has been appointed as Chair of East Midlands Business and wanted to signal this in case of potential future conflicts of interest. John Kirkland informed the Council that this issue had already been discussed and it was agreed that this appointment would not cause a conflict that would require David to step down as a Council Member.

Item 5. Council Committee update

Employer Engagement Sub Committee minutes

- 5.1 At the last meeting the focus of the meeting was on Train to Gain and a final review of Valuable Skills, its development and success rates.
- 5.2 Originating from the Council's Employer Engagement Sub Committee, the Engineering Forum held at JCB in January was heralded as a success, allowing the views of key local employers to shape the LSC's future strategy in this area.

Regional Audit Committee minutes

- 5.3 Minutes of the Regional Audit Committee's November meeting are included in the Council papers for information.

Item 6. Local Annual Plan 2007/08

- 6.1 Peter Brammall presented the 2007/08 Area Implementation Plan to the Council. The Plan outlines Derbyshire's key actions and priorities, using the National and Regional Statements of Priorities as a framework, and includes

the commissioning strategy setting out how new provision will be procured for 2007/08.

- 6.2 The final detail covering targets, activity volumes and funding allocations will be finalised as part of the provider discussions which run through to June. As in previous years, Council Members are asked to endorse the Plan – by the end of March for statutory purposes - on the basis of the key actions and priorities outlined. A final version will be brought back to Council for information later in the year as the provider discussions are concluded. The Plan will be submitted in its current form to the Regional Board for approval in March.
- 6.3 The Council discussed the Plan and suggested additional amendments, including: the need to make an explicit reference to both the city and county Children and Young Peoples' plans especially Area 1; the funding of language skills for asylum seekers in the light of the national changes to policy proposed in this area.
- Decision:** It was agreed that, subject to the above amendments, the Council approved the Plan.

Item 7. NEET

- 7.1 John Gibb gave a presentation on Year 11 progression and NEET to the Council.
- 7.2 The Council discussed the issues now facing the LSC and Connexions, including the September Guarantee, to be introduced in September 2007. Despite hitting the November 2006 target for NEET reduction, there is a need to do more. The combination of 'smarter' provision, effective support mechanisms, employers' involvement and a joined-up strategy were seen as critical.
- 7.3 Future priority actions to further reduce NEET also included: an analysis of the current NEET cohort, along with longitudinal research if possible; a focus upon the changing make-up of the NEET figures, with the 2006 Year 11 progression figures revealing a decline on the previous year.
- 7.4 John Kirkland thanked John Gibb for his presentation.

Item 8. Derby College – confirmation of 'Agreement In Principle' for capital developments

- 8.1 John Kirkland left the meeting for this agenda item in order to avoid any potential conflict of interest in respect of his position as Chairman of Bowmer & Kirkland Limited. David Williams, Deputy Chair, was asked to oversee this agenda item.
- 8.2 Peter Brammall presented the above paper to the Council. The initial proposal was approved by the Council's Capital Sub Committee in September 2006 for 'In Principle' support. The proposal was then submitted to the National Capital Committee which granted 'In Principle' approval. The College has revisited its proposal to make the amendments required by the National Capital Committee and provide final costings, planning approval status and risk plan.

- 8.3 The College is seeking 35% of the overall capital costs from the LSC. Changes to the proposal include the removal of the £2M VAT payment relating to change of use for the Joseph Wright Centre to include adult activity. The overall costs from the 'In Principle' proposal have increased by £1.5M but this is considered to be within the range generally accepted for developments of this size as further detailed building specifications are agreed with contractors etc. The College contribution increases by £750,000 due to an improvement in its underlying financial position and, with the LSC contribution remaining at 35%, this represents improved value for money.
- 8.4 Conditions for approval will include confirmation of: planning permission for both sites; purchase of land for the Joseph Wright extension; Phase 2 approval for Heritage Lottery funding; cost certainty in line with professional advice; receipt of detailed risk management/contingency measure plans.
- 8.5 The Council discussed the proposal, including the implications the approval may have on other local provision.

Decision: It was agreed to approve the proposal to progress it to the National Capital Committee. Due to the inquoracy for this agenda item it was agreed that the paper would be circulated to all Council Members not present for their comments/approval before it could be submitted to the National Capital Committee.

Action: Peter Brammall

Item 9. Terms of Reference – Capital Sub Committee

- 9.1 John Kirkland rejoined the meeting.
- 9.2 Peter Brammall presented the Terms of Reference – Capital Sub Committee to the Council. Due to the number of capital proposals likely to be developed over the next few months, there is a need to formalise the delegated authority to the Capital Sub Committee via Terms of Reference.
- 9.3 Feedback for this agenda item had already been received prior to the meeting from Alan Charles. He suggested that if membership was via named Council Members, there would be a need to permit deputies in order to ensure quoracy. Alternatively membership could be drawn from any available Council Member.
- 9.4 It was agreed to amend the Terms of Reference to state that "The Capital Sub Committee shall be made up of five available local Council Members".

Action: Philippa Wilson

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 1 May being held in Room NC109, Clowne Campus, Clowne, commencing at 4pm.

Meeting chair	John Kirkland OBE
Minute taker	Philippa Wilson
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