

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 1 May 2007
Subject Council Meeting
Location Room NC109, Chesterfield College, Clowne Campus
Time 16:00
LSC office Derbyshire
Publication intent Internal

Present Alan Charles
Carol Dibbs
Carol Taylor
Ian Murray
John Kirkland OBE
June Cooper
Ken Spencer
Margaret Lynch
Michael Hall

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

LSC staff Peter Brammall
Kevin McCann

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
David Williams
Geoff Stevens
Mohammed Sharief

David Shaw - Derbyshire County LA
Hugh Hastie - 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.

1.2 John thanked Chesterfield College and the Clowne Campus for their hospitality in hosting the 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

Matters arising – Streamlining LSC Accountability (3.4)

3.1 Streamlining LSC accountability was first discussed at the Council meeting held on 28 November. At subsequent meetings it has been agreed that the Council should retain an awareness of this development and feedback any issues and concerns to John Kirkland.

3.2 John requested assistance with the membership of the Regional Board to ensure Derbyshire knowledge is conveyed at this level. The composition of the Board is still being agreed but it is thought to consist of 7-8 business people.

Decision: Once agreed the proposed composition of the Regional Board membership will be confirmed to Council Members, along with the list of key employer contacts across the region; Council members are requested to advise John Kirkland if any of the same are known personally to them.

Action: All

3.3 John informed the Council that the second reading of the Bill regarding the formal creation of the Regional Board will, at the earliest, be the end of May. This may mean that local Councils will continue in their current form until the end of this year.

Decision: John and Peter acknowledged the importance of retaining the commitment of Council Members. As part of the plan for the extension of local Council meetings through to the end of the year, a workplan will be developed and shared with Council Members.

Action: Peter Brammall

Director of Area report – Leitch Review of Skills (4.2)

3.4 At the Council meeting held on 14 February it was agreed to add the Leitch Review as an agenda item for a future Council meeting. As laid out in the Director of Area report (agenda item 4) this is an important development for the learning and skills sector; it was agreed that it would be appropriate to take stock now of the key policy drivers which are likely to influence learning and skills developments over the next few years, including not only Leitch but also the Lyons Review and the Demand Led consultation.

Decision: It was agreed that the next Council meeting on 28 June would become a session to explore these issues with the invitation extended to include FE governing bodies and Professor Mike Campbell of the Leitch Review team giving a presentation.

Action: Peter Brammall

Derby College – confirmation of ‘Agreement In Principle’ for capital developments (8.5)

- 3.5 Following the Council meeting held on 14 February, the Derby College proposal was circulated to all Council Members not present for comments/approval in order to ensure quoracy. Approval was secured and the proposal was submitted to the National Capital Committee which in turn gave its approval.

Decision: This action is closed.

Terms of Reference – Capital Sub Committee (9.4)

- 3.6 At the Council meeting held on 14 February 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”. This amendment has been carried out.

Decision: This action is closed.

Item 4. Director of Area report

- 4.1 Peter Brammall presented his Director of Area report to the Council.
- 4.2 It was confirmed that the 2007/08 Young Apprenticeship programmes in the City included Sport and not Construction as stated.

Item 5. Updates from the Local Sub Committees, Regional Board & Regional Audit Committee

Employer Engagement Sub Committee minutes

- 5.1 Ken Spencer gave an update on the last Employer Engagement Sub Committee.. The Engineering Forum held at JCB was successful, receiving positive feedback from those employers and partners who attended.

Regional Board minutes

- 5.2 At the last Regional Board Margaret Warren, Director of Marketing and Communications and Verity Bullough, Regional Director, gave a presentation on the campaigns that are being undertaken locally and nationally. There will be a national ‘great skills campaign’ over the summer to raise aspirations amongst both learners and employers, with this theme running through the campaigns planned throughout the rest of the year.
- 5.3 The Local Plans were presented and approved by the Board.

Regional Audit Committee minutes

- 5.4 At the last Regional Audit Committee issues discussed included how to embed risk management, the audit recommendation action log and regional concerns around contract management. The financial Year-end closure process is going according to plan, as are the Annual Assurance Statements, with the Statements of Internal Control being signed off and the final full assurance statements being ready for 1st June deadline.
- 5.5 Michael Hall raised the issue of the membership of the Regional Audit Committee. Currently there is a Council Member representative from each Area Office. Once local Councils are formally replaced by the Regional

Board, confirmation is awaited that the membership of the Regional Audit Committee will reflect the representation from each area of the region.

Decision: It was agreed that this would be fed back to the Regional Finance Director.

Action: Peter Brammall

Item 6. Performance Review

- 6.1 Kevin McCann presented the Performance Review to the Council. The Performance Review will be used for Derbyshire's Area Review on 9 May with the Regional Review with Mark Haysom taking place early June.
- 6.2 Kevin led the Council through the paper which included young people, adults, LLDD, quality, local area agreements, framework for excellence and future priorities. Overall the paper shows a positive performance for Derbyshire and sets out the challenges for the future.
- 6.3 The section on EMA prompted a discussions around the ability to track young people and disaggregate the figures (eg those who were in FE, remain eligible for EMA but are not claiming it), along with potential correlation to other indices of deprivation.
- 6.4 Ian Murray informed the Council that Chesterfield College has undertaken a longitudinal report on early leavers and will share the report findings with the Council.

Action: Ian Murray

- 6.5 Future priorities for Derbyshire will be NEET reduction; accelerating the achievement rate for Level 2 at 19; driving up performance in Train to Gain; increasing WBL apprenticeship participation; and quality improvement, increasing the proportion of provider ratings which are 'good' or 'excellent'.

Item 7. NEET

- 7.1 John Gibb gave an update on NEET to the Council. The March '06 to March '07 figures show a slight increase in the whole of the County against a decreasing cohort and the 'churn' of this cohort is large. The increase is marginal but enough to cause concern. The concept of a 'value added' measure for benchmarking the relative impact made in the NEET cohort in particular areas was discussed. The subject of the September Guarantee was discussed, along with the work underway between Connexions and the LSC to ensure this is a workable process delivering learning options of relevance and worth to all young people.

Item 8. Any other business

- 8.1 None.

Item 9. Date of next meeting

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Council will take place on Thursday 28 June 2007 being held at the Joseph Wright Centre, commencing at 4pm, and will take the Leitch Review as its focus.

Meeting chair	John Kirkland OBE
Minute taker	Philippa Wilson
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