

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 21 March 2007
Subject Council Meeting
Location B&Q Distribution Centre
Time 16:00
LSC office Nottinghamshire
Publication intent Internal

Present: Keith Stanyard (Chair)
Mick Brown
Elaine Clark
Roger Hursthouse
Jean Pardoe
David Sadler
Deborah White
Pat Woodfield

LSC Staff: Nigel Jackson
Terry Laws
Paula Webber
Kathy White

Apologies: Stuart Anthony
Sarah Bartlett
Angela Bright
Graham Chapman
Milton Crosdale
Chris Hasty
Barbara McKenna
Jon McLeod
Tom Stockwell
Mick Storey

Item 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

Item 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
As above.

Item 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 30 January and 6 March were agreed as a true record.

Item 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 **Item 4 (Item 3.2) Regional Capital Group** – Keith Stanyard expressed concerns that a meeting of this group has not yet been convened.

ACTION: Mick Brown to discuss with Andrew Martin.

4.2 **Item 6: Action Points from the Council Away Day** – Mick Brown advised that a discussion on establishing closer working arrangements with the voluntary and community sector took place at the staff away day on 7 March.

ACTION: Mick Brown to produce a report for the next Council meeting.

4.3 **Item 9: Local Area Implementation Plan** – Roger Hursthouse confirmed that all local area implementation plans had been approved at the Regional Board meeting on 14 March. Some concerns were expressed at the meeting regarding the method of allocations which appeared to be very much a “top down” process and also in relation to block allocations of funding.

Mick Brown reported that, at an RMT meeting earlier that day, a number of issues had been raised regarding the allocations process. It is expected that this will be finalised by 31 July.

Council members registered concerns that allocations did not appear to reflect demand.

Item 5. AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5.1 **Allocations FE** – Mick Brown advised that the overall 2007/08 allocation was an increase of 3% on the budget for the previous year. The total allocation for Nottinghamshire LSC is approx. £107m Unfortunately, Nottinghamshire LSC only has the capacity to fund 99.7% of the figure agreed with colleges in their three year forecasts. Detailed negotiations are currently taking place with all colleges regarding the volumes they are able to deliver in key target areas. Adjustments will be made based on a college's performance and its ability to deliver. All colleges have been guaranteed a 3.7% increase in rates for 16-18 year olds, and a 2.5% increase for adults.

5.2 Council members noted the high levels of funding allocated to Lincolnshire LSC and requested that the position was closely

monitored by the Regional Board. In response to a question from David Sadler, Mick Brown advised that it would not be possible to claw back funding from underspend in other offices

- 5.3 Mick Brown reported that figures for all LSC offices in the region, once finalised, will be published in the Annual Plan.
ACTION: Mick Brown to provide an update on final allocations at a future Council meeting.

- 5.4 **WBL** – MB reported that the WBL target set for the region was unachievable as insufficient funding had been allocated to the target, mainly due to the fact that national rather than local success rates had been used to determine funding. Nottinghamshire LSC is, however, achieving the target and this has resulted in an additional £700k being allocated from areas of underspend in 2006/07. It is expected that this redistribution of funding will also apply in 2007/08.

A detailed discussion on allocations will be held with the Planning and Performance team on 4 April.

- 5.5 **Train to Gain** – Regionally, performance is well below target running at approx. 47% of the planning profile. Several meetings have been held with Karen Woodward and the regional team to discuss in more detail and Nottinghamshire LSC Partnership Managers will be conducting future discussions on TtG with providers.

Council members expressed concern at the shortfall in performance in this key area of LSC work and welcomed the decision to manage TtG at a local level.

ACTION: Mick Brown to provide an updated performance table following the third quarter review.

A regional TtG roadshow will be held on 27 April at the East Midlands Conference Centre. All major employers have been invited.

- 5.6 **Accommodation** – Mick Brown informed Council members that Nottinghamshire LSC is planning to relocate to Unit 2 at Castle Marina, and work would be starting in the near future on planning the refurbishment of the building in line with the LSC's design specification. It is expected that Nottinghamshire LSC will relocate to the new premises in July/August. In the meantime, Protocol National will move into the existing premises on 30 March and will occupy the whole of the ground floor and the first floor regional room. Work is currently underway to ensure appropriate security between Protocol and NLSC staff. Nigel Jackson is taking lead responsibility for matters associated with the move.

Item 6. MINIMUM LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE (MLP)

6.1 PW spoke to this paper which explains how the LSC now monitors providers and where it takes action or intervenes.

An FE provider will be sent a notice to improve if more than 25% of provision has a success rate of less than 50%. The notice will be sent to both the principal and the Chair of the organisation. If the proportion of provision with a success rate below 50% is between 15% and 24% the notice to improve will be sent only to the principal.

6.2 In relation to WBL, provision will go out to tender if it falls below the 40% success rate. Where the level is below 40% but above 33% a provider will have the opportunity to reapply to deliver provision. In response to a question from Jean Pardoe, Terry Laws confirmed that Nottinghamshire LSC was moving towards rationalising organisations whose success rates were poor.

It is expected that MLP rates will increase in 2008.

Item 7. Nottingham North Education Provision

7.1 Paula Webber provided an update on the situation in the Nottingham North area. Following the public meeting on 1 December to discuss issues surrounding provision in North Nottingham, it was agreed to undertake the following work:

7.2 **1: Impact Study on the Potential Closure of Basford Hall Campus** - Research is currently being undertaken by the University of Nottingham. Schools and local residents have been contacted and asked a numbers of questions relating to their perceptions of Basford Hall and their desires for provision in the area. The final report is expected to be available in April.

7.3 **2: Post 16 Education Mapping Exercise**
In total over 250 courses were delivered from 34 venues. Paula Webber tabled a paper identifying the breakdown of the funding streams. Approximately half of the courses are funded from mainstream LSC funding. One Nottingham provides only 1% of funding support.
ACTION: Paula Webber and John Wilson to visit the area to review progression.

7.4 **Construction Strategy Report** – Nigel Jackson reported that the construction strategy would be presented at the Greater Nottingham Employment and Skills Board meeting on 22 March. Initial findings identify that supply does not meet demand, that quality of provision needs to improve, and highlights the decline in the number of adult

construction courses. The report contains a series of recommendations:

- the LSC and JC+ to work together more closely on construction projects, particularly in relation to small sub contractors involved in maintenance and refurbishment work
- to build on recommendations relating to Making the Connection by negotiating agreements with employers concerning the hire of local labour
- to persuade the local authority to sign up to a more robust section 106 approach, which will be more specific in terms of the number of local people to be employed on public funded projects
- to ensure that recognised qualifications are being used.

ACTION: Nigel Jackson to bring the final report to a future Council meeting.

Item 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Update from Regional Board

Roger Hursthouse provided an update from the Regional Board meeting held on 14 March. It is anticipated that the new Regional Board will become operational in October. Interviews for the new Chair are expected to be held in June.

8.2 Event at the Guildhall on 7 March

Ministers referred to the excellent work undertaken by the local Councils and thanked Council members for the central part they have played in transforming the LSC and for their continuing support.

8.3 Capital Applications

NCN - Paula Webber reported that South Nottingham College and New College Nottingham were exploring merger options and a joint committee would be established to consider. Proposals will be submitted to both Governing Bodies by the end of the March. Mick Brown advised that NCN had recently purchased premises adjoining Basford Hall which would be a valuable addition to the NCN estate. There is also a strong possibility that city centre options may now become available and this could be a preferred location for the main NCN college site.

Hale Consulting have been commissioned to produce a review of options focusing on a two-college model incorporating a redistribution of the curriculum.

SNC - SNC will be submitting a proposal to take out a lease on premises in Bingham to offer vocational provision in the area.

WNC – Terry Laws reported that the college has submitted a triple planning application and this is likely to be the biggest obstacle to securing early action. There is also some local opposition. It is unlikely that the application will be ready for the Council to consider before June.

Castle College – The application for Beeston is expected to be ready for consideration by the Council at its meeting on 30 April. The full accommodation strategy is expected in July. Some issues still exist regarding the Carlton Road site which are under review with the City Council.

Bilborough College – The college was previously unable to finish some of the work on site due to an over run on costs. With the growth in student numbers, it is likely that the college will now submit a proposal to complete the work outstanding.

Keith Stanyard confirmed that a schedule of meetings had been arranged with Chairs and principals of NCN, SNC and Castle College. The first draft of the Hale report will be available for the first of these meetings on 29 March.

8.4 David Sadler requested that the favourable comments relating to the partnership arrangements between North Nottingham College and B&Q were fed back to the college.

ACTION: Terry Laws to draft a letter to John Connolly.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 30 April. Venue to be advised.