

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 13 September 2007
Subject LSC local Council Meeting
Location LSC Office, North Hykeham
Time 17:00
LSC office Lincolnshire and Rutland
Publication intent Public

Present: Roger Begy, Chair, LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland
John Allen, Lincoln College
John Crosby, Independent
Heather Lee, Lincolnshire Co-operative Society
Frances Mannsaker, University of Lincoln
Pam Smith, EM & AP Smith
Alan Robson, Rural Chaplain
Nev Jackson, Amicus
Nick Rashley, LSC Area Director
Michael LeGoff, JSFM Consulting Ltd

In attendance: Rachel Crookston, Government Office for the East
Midlands
Carole Lang, Connexions

LSC staff: Chris Harris, Partnership Director
Alan Danton, PA to Area Director

Apologies: Apologies have been received from:
Haydn Biddle, George Bateman and Sons Ltd
Carol Chambers, Rutland Local Authority
Linda Poole, Independent
Maureen O'Callaghan, Independent
Tony Worth, QV Foods Ltd
John Kearsey, JobCentre Plus
Tina McEwan, Connexions
Joanne Oliver, National Probation Services Lincolnshire
Area
Peter Duxbury, Lincolnshire Local Authority

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the local Council meeting and thanked them for attending.

Item 2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 Members were asked to declare, immediately prior to the appropriate agenda item, any interest in items to be discussed.

Item 3. Apologies

- 3.1 Apologies for absence were noted as above.

Item 4. Minutes of last meeting

- 4.1 Members of the local Council approved the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 10 May 2007.

Item 5. Actions since the meeting held on 10 May 2007

- 5.1 Members received a report on the actions arising from the meeting held on 10 May 2007. All actions from the meeting had been progressed and completed.

Item 6. Lincoln College – Detailed capital consent and capital project grant a support application

- 6.1 John Allen declared an interest in this item.
- 6.2 The paper was introduced by the Partnership Director with the recommendation to the local Council to endorse support towards the purchase and development, by Lincoln College, of the old Tradex building in Lincoln.
- 6.3 The development will provide facilities for 3 main curriculum areas:
- a. Performing arts
 - b. Electrical and Gas and Oil assessment centre
 - c. Plastering centre
- 6.4 90% of the cost would be financed from college reserves. The capital cost of the project being £5,022,436, an LSC contribution of £502,243 was sought.
- 6.5 The Chair noted the fact that Learners with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities would be well served by the new acquisition.

Decision: The local Council endorsed the proposal of a capital support grant at 10% (being £502,243) for consideration by the Regional Director.

Item 7. Governmental changes and impact on the Learning and Skills Council

- 7.1 The Area Director gave an overview of recent Government changes that impact upon the LSC. The key changes set out were:

- a. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) will be responsible for the development, funding and performance management of higher education (both teaching and research) and further education, as well as taking forward the Government's wider skills agenda;
- b. Responsibility and funding for 14-19 learning and skills is with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF);
- c. Funding for school sixth forms, sixth form colleges and the contribution of FE colleges to 14-19 will transfer from the LSC to local authorities' ring-fenced education budgets;
- d. Sponsorship of Further Education, post-19 funding and Apprenticeships and work-based training providers will sit with DIUS;
- e. It will not be able to give effect to the full legislative changes required for the transfer of funding until the academic year 2010-11;
- f. In the three full academic years between now and then, the LSC will retain the legal responsibility for securing and funding all forms of post-16 education and training outside higher education. In particular, it will retain the duty to secure the proper facilities for young people aged 16 to 19.
- g. For post-19 education and training, the Government will consider how best to deliver the functions and services that support the FE system; It wants to build on the progress made with the LSC over recent years in developing a demand-led approach;
- h. In taking forward these changes, the Government will work closely with the LSC, other national partners and consult schools, colleges and providers to ensure new arrangements are introduced smoothly;
- i. The Government will take the opportunity to review how the funding and accountability framework can best support initiative and high performance both at institutional level and across the FE sector as a whole.

Nev Jackson arrived at 17:25

7.2 Members of the local Council noted the changes and expressed concern that:

- a. the changes in structure could lead to delay in 14-19 developments;
- b. apprenticeship development will require very close working between DIUS and DCSF

7.3 The Area Director highlighted he has met with the Directors of Children's Services for both Lincolnshire and Rutland. There is agreement:

- a. to commence specific transition planning once there is sufficient detail and that this work for the benefit of local developments and staff should commence as early as possible; and
- b. that the local 14-19 plans will provide structured continuity during transition.

Item 8. Open Competitive Tendering (OCT) 2007/08 – learning and training programmes

8.1 The Partnership Director presented the results of the OCT of provision contracts for 2007/08 to the local Council.

- 8.2 The Area Director explained that OCT had brought in an increased number of providers.
- 8.3 The Partnership Director described matched funding and outlined where OCT linked to European Social Funding (ESF) for the years 2007/13.
- 8.4 Pam Smith declared an interest when Boston College was mentioned in the discussion.
- 8.5 Pam Smith queried whether the OCT process would destabilise small providers.
- 8.6 The Area Director set out that a key prompt for the use of OCT had been where performance fell below set minimum levels of performance. The application of minimum levels of performance had been through the local team applying their knowledge and experience.

Action: The Chair agreed to raise the concern that small rural providers could be destabilised through the OCT of provision at the LSC's Regional Board.

Item 9. Lincolnshire and Rutland Learning and Skills Council – local Council legacy

- 9.1 The Chair explained the purpose of this item was to ensure that the LSC's future regional governance structure was aware of the achievements of the local Council and the ongoing local issues to address.
- 9.2 The Area Director thanked local Council members for their input to the preparatory document circulated prior to the meeting.
- 9.3 Members discussed the key issues set out in the paper and the Chair encouraged feedback.
- 9.4 Pam Smith emphasised the challenge offered by local transport in regard to provision.
- 9.5 The challenges and benefits of inward migration were discussed.
- 9.6 The Area Director asked if the local Council members thought that the paper detailed the key local learning and skills issues. Local Council members agreed, in particular, with the need to further develop high quality apprenticeships in the area.

Rachel Crookston left the meeting at 18:25

Decision: The local LSC Council endorsed the local LSC Council legacy paper.

Item 10. Area Director's Report

- 10.1 The Area Director presented the Area Director's report to the local Council members.
- 10.2 The LSC for the East Midlands has been recommended for recognition for the Investors in People standard.

10.3 Adult Learner Accounts (ALAs) were being piloted in Lincolnshire and Rutland and this was bringing in additional funding of £1.3 million to the area. The pilot is restricted to learners over the age of 19 studying for a full Level 3 qualification.

10.4 Adult Learner Grants (ALGs) are now being introduced locally. Pam Smith queried the possibility of losing a pound, from the grant, for every pound gained through employment or through benefits. The Area Director thought that this would not be the case but would look into the matter and confirm.

Action: The Area Director to investigate the relationship between income levels and ALG eligibility.

10.5 The importance of the LSC working with local authorities regarding the Rutland / Stamford Post 16 Options Review was emphasised by the Area Director.

10.6 The LSC was about to move into the 2008/2009 Business Cycle. This will introduce a new funding mechanism that will impact significantly on schools with sixth forms.

10.7 The minutes from the Regional Audit Committee Meeting on 2 July 2007 were reported to the local Council. Nev Jackson, as the area's representative on the Committee, reported that there were no issues identified for the area

Item 11. Any other business

11.1 The Area Director highlighted that a future local Capital Committee would be arranged in due course.

Item 12. Date of next meeting

12.1 The next, and final, meeting of the local Committee will take place on: Thursday 13th December 2007 (17:00), at the Washingborough Hall Hotel, where members would also be invited to a farewell dinner.

Publication no.

Meeting chair Roger Begy

Minute taker Alan Danton

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