

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 14 December 2006
Subject local Council Meeting
Location Marriott Hotel, Grantham
Time 17:10
LSC office Lincolnshire and Rutland
Publication intent Public

Present Roger Begy, Chair, LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland
Carol Chambers, Rutland Local Authority
John Crosby, Independent
Peter Duxbury, Lincolnshire Local Authority
Nev Jackson, Amicus
Heather Lee, Lincolnshire Co-Operative Society
Frances Mannsaker, University of Lincoln
Maureen O'Callaghan, Independent
Lynda Poole, Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School
Nick Rashley, Area Director
Pam Smith, EM & AP Smith
Tony Worth, QV Foods Ltd

In attendance Marion Blake, JobCentre Plus
Rachel Crookston, Government Office for the East Midlands
Rob Mayall, Connexions

LSC staff Chris Harris, Partnership Director
Sharon Ritchie, PA to Area Director

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
John Allen, Lincoln College
Haydn Biddle, George Bateman & Sons Ltd
John Kearsley, JobCentre Plus
Michael LeGoff, JSFM Consulting Ltd
Tina McEwan, Business Link
Joanne Oliver, National Probation Service: Lincolnshire Area
Alan Robson, Rural Chaplain

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the members of the local Council and Observers to the meeting and passed his congratulations to the following:
- Peter Duxbury – on completion of the Joint Area Review of Lincolnshire.
 - Carol Chambers – on Rutland Local Authority's Investors in People re-recognition.
 - Maureen O'Callaghan – on her recent award from Grantham College.
 - Heather Lee – on Lincolnshire Co-Operative Society's achievement of Investors in People recognition.

Item 2. Declaration of interests

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

Frances Mannsåker arrived 1712 hrs

Item 3. Apologies

- 3.1 Apologies for absence were noted as above.

Item 4. Minutes of the meeting of the local Council held on 12 October 2006

- 4.1 The local Council approved the minutes of the meeting of the local Council held on 12 October 2006.

Item 5. Actions since the meeting held on 12 October 2006

- 5.1 Members received a report on the actions arising from the meeting held on 12 October 2006:

Item 7: Sixth Form Presumptions

Members had serious reservations regarding the educational rationale for the proposals put forward by both Gleed Girls' Technology College and George Farmer Technology and Language College. LSC Directors discussed these with the Head teachers and further information is submitted as a paper for discussion.

The capital proposals agreed by the local Council have been approved by the LSC's National Capital Committee.

Item 6. Unconfirmed minutes of the local Audit Committee meeting held on 14 September 2006

- 6.1 Members **approved** the unconfirmed minutes of the local Audit Committee held on 14 September 2006.

Item 7. Local Risk Management

- 7.1 The Area Director advised members that this paper was for approval. In the past the local Audit Committee reviewed the risk register and had indicated that the risk register needed to be simplified.

The Area Director advised that the local risk register would now be brought to the local Council meeting quarterly prior to reporting through to the Regional Audit Committee. The local Council will be asked to concentrate on any changes to risks. It is the LSC's responsibility to safe-guard public funds.

7.2 Concerns by members of the local Council were raised with regard to the following:

- Impact of English Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) funding changes.
- The Chair set out that this would be discussed in depth at a future meeting as it was a key issue for the local area.

Action: Include in agenda 11 January 2007

Carol Chambers arrived 1729 hrs

- As there is a relationship between the risk register and the Regional Board, the minutes from the Regional Board meeting are to be added to future agendas.

Action: Include Regional Board meeting minutes on future agendas

Decision: Members of the local Council **approved** the approach to risk management and the draft risk register, and authorised the taking of the risk register to the Regional Board meeting.

Item 8. Academies in Lincoln – Presentation by Peter Duxbury, Director of Children's Services, Lincolnshire County Council

8.1 Nev Jackson declared an interest in this item.

8.2 The Director of Children's Services presented to members of the local Council, an update with regard to Academies in Lincoln. There is to be an expression of interest drafted covering three Academies governed by one Trust. The LSC will need to be consulted.

8.3 The Director of Children's Services tabled a report which was presented at a recent Lincolnshire County Council meeting. This explained the process to take forward an Academy in detail.

8.4 Points raised by members of the local Council included:

- Does an Academy cater for all abilities within an identified area?
 - Carol Chambers advised that Academies operate at arms length from local authorities; they can have their own admission policy, which should comply with set guidelines.
- Consideration should be given to vocational specialisms.
- Should ensure fit with the 14-19 partnership.
- Should ensure regular reporting as the proposal progresses.
- The local LSC should be closely involved in the development.

8.5 The Area Director stated that the local LSC should make the most of this development for learners of the wider community and advised members of the local Council that this led to the next item and discussion should continue taking this paper into account.

Item 9. Academies in Lincoln and the Learning and Skills Council

- 9.1 The Area Director stated that the local LSC should create the expectation that we should be engaged.
- 9.2 Points raised for discussion included the following:
- Will the local Council be consulted?
 - The Area Director advised that he would expect this to be discussed at a future meeting of the local Council.
 - Has the LSC been formally contacted by the consultant?
 - The Area Director advised that the LSC had not been contacted yet.
- 9.3 The Chair stated that the LSC would play an active role in the Academies development in Lincoln; and confirmed that this would be item for discussion at a future meeting of the local Council.

Action: Include in agenda 8 March 2007

Item 10. Update on Gleed Girls' Technology College and George Farmer Language and Technology College Proposals under the Sixth Form Presumption

- 10.1 Declarations of interest declared by Pam Smith and Tony Worth.
- 10.2 The Chair reminded members that at the previous meeting, members were not convinced by the educational case made. The local LSC Executive went back to the Head teachers with this information and gave them the opportunity to provide additional information to support the educational case.
- 10.3 Both establishments have provided full text responses to the concerns that were raised at the meeting on 12 October 2006.
- 10.4 Points that arose include the following:
- Feedback from both Stamford and Boston College Principals is encouraging.
 - Cost of providing specialist training increases daily and small facilities cannot meet this cost.
- 10.5 Council members felt it was appropriate to now withdraw the objections to the proposals.
- 10.6 The Chair stated that the approach of the local Council had set a high expectation regarding the appropriate level of collaboration for proposal under the sixth form presumption.

Decision: Members of the local Council agreed that the local LSC should vote in favour of the sixth form proposals from Gleed Girls' Technology College and George Farmer Language and Technology College at the forthcoming School Organisation Committee.

Item 11. Area Director's Report

- 11.1 The local Council received the Area Director's Report providing updates on the following items:
- Performance Report
 - Joint Area Review (Lincolnshire)

- Stamford / Rutland Options Review
- 16-19 Competition
- Train to Gain
- Train in Work
- Centres of Vocational Excellence
- Adult Learning Offer
- Regional Audit Committee Report
- Management Accounts April to October 2006
- Stamford College Name Change
- Lincoln College and Newark and Sherwood College Merger

11.2 The Area Director wished to highlight to members the performance report and give an update which included the following:

- 16-18 provision participation has been enhanced but there is reduced participation in work based learning (WBL).
- WBL – the local LSC have one of the highest achievement rates in the country.
- Entry to Employment (E2E) is about progression, these young people are not ready for full programmes. The progression figures are high against the regional and national average and this is a strong result, but there is room for improvement.

11.3 The Area Director stated that he is concerned about a gap between May 2007 to January 2008 for projects funded under European Social Funds (ESF). The Chair confirmed that ESF funds would be an item for discussion at the meeting of the local Council in January.

Action: Include in agenda 11 January 2007

11.4 The Area Director advised that with Skills for Life, performance information is above our target level; however it is worth noting the distinction between target and need.

Rob Mayall left 1835 hrs

11.5 Peter Duxbury gave an overview to the local Council of the Joint Area Review of Lincolnshire and advised that it had brought together various partners, and this was beneficial to all. The focus is on key issues and to push forward and utilise the benefit of joint working. He continued to say that he had received verbal feedback from the inspectors and will produce a short document from this in advance of the final feedback. There had been no surprises, but there was some work to do.

11.6 Stamford / Rutland Options Review – The Area Director advised that this review involves both Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Authorities, the local colleges and schools. The Partnership Director chairs the advisory group, which will progress through to a report around February 2007.

11.7 16-19 Competition – the Partnership Director advised of the complexity of the proposal. There are detailed discussions with the cluster, Local Authority and LSC regional property service. The item will need to return to the local

Council with summaries of educational, property and finance aspects. After this it will go to the National Capital Committee.

11.8 The Chair updated the members with regard to a recent Train in Work event he attended and concluded that it had been inspiring to see an employer demonstrating a commercial return from participation on the programme.

11.9 John Crosby declared an interest regarding Train in Work. He had received queries with regard to unemployed people who would like to take the assessor award and asked if this could be LSC funded.

Action: Chris Harris to investigate

John Crosby left 1847

11.10 The Area Director confirmed that there were no areas of concern to report from the Management Accounts.

John Crosby returned 1849

Decision: The local Council:

- **Noted** the Area Director's Report.

Item 12. Any other business

12.1 The Chair advised that the Lincoln College and Newark and Sherwood College Newark Merger had been approved by the Secretary of State and he had received a letter to that effect.

12.2 Nev Jackson advised members that the Regional Audit Committee were pleased with our local risk reporting as it was concise.

12.3 The Chair asked members to attend the next meeting as this was the local Council's opportunity to develop the plan for the local office. Carol Chambers submitted her apologies.

12.4 The Chair thanked all the members for their contributions and wished them a Merry Christmas.

Meeting ended at 1852 hrs

Item 13. Date of next meeting

13.1 The dates of the next meetings are confirmed as:

Thursday 11 January 2007, 1500 hrs (extended meeting to discuss the Local Annual Plan)

Thursday 8 March 2007, 1700 hrs

Publication no.

Meeting chair Roger Begy

Minute taker Sharon Ritchie

Date created 13 December 2006

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