

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 12 October 2006
Subject Local Council Meeting
Location Lindum Business Park
Time 09:40
LSC office Lincolnshire and Rutland
Publication intent Public

Present Roger Begy, Chair, LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland
John Allen, Lincoln College
Carol Chambers, Rutland Local Authority
John Crosby, Independent
Nick Rashley, Area Director
Pam Smith, EM & AP Smith
Heather Lee, Lincolnshire Co-Operative Society
Frances Mannsaker, University of Lincoln

In attendance Joanne Oliver, National Probation Service, Lincolnshire Area

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

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Haydn Biddle, George Bateman & Sons Ltd
Peter Duxbury, Lincolnshire Local Authority
Tina McEwen, Business Link
Michael LeGoff, JSFM Consulting Ltd
Rob Mayall, Connexions
Rachel Crookston, Government Office for the East Midlands
Maureen O' Callaghan, Independent
Nev Jackson, Amicus
Tony Worth, QV Foods
Lynda Poole, Kesteven and Grantham Girls School
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.

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.
- Pam Smith declared an Interest in Item 7.

Item 3. Apologies

- 3.1 Apologies for absence were noted as above.

Item 4. Minutes of the meeting of the local Council held on 14 September 2006

- 4.1 The local Council approved the minutes of the meeting of the local Council held on 14 September 2006.

Item 5. Actions since the meeting held on 14 September 2006

- 5.1 Members received a report on the action arising from the meeting held on 14 September 2006:
- a. Item 12.3: Draft Agenda for the Local Council Away Day.**
 - The local Council requested an up to dated list of future Council Meetings. Confirmation letter to update changes to forthcoming meetings and a new schedule of meetings to September 2007 was posted to local Council Members and Observers on 25 September 2006.

Item 6. Unconfirmed minutes of the local Capital Committee meeting held on 28 September 2006

- 6.1 Members noted the unconfirmed minutes of the Capital Committee held on 28 September 2006.

Item 7. Sixth Form Presumption – Gleed Girl's Technology College and George Farmer Technology and Language College

- 7.1 Nick Rashley introduced this item and Chris Harris gave an update regarding the background to these proposals. Because of the tight timescales 2 papers were tabled at this meeting. A replacement Annex 2 for Gleed Girls Technology College and an Addendum to the main paper (Item 7) with responses to issues raised by the Capital Committee. These two papers bring the local Council up to date with current issues.
- 7.2 The paper provided information relating to the 'Sixth Form Presumption' and the proposals to the LSC to access capital drawing upon the '16-19 Capital Fund'.
- 7.3 The Department for Education and Skills' (DfES) '*Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners*' (HM Government, 2004) creates a right for high-performing schools with specialist status to establish sixth form provision where there is pupil and parent demand to extend quality and choice for local students.

- 7.4 If a school meets the published criteria, it can apply to the 16-19 Capital Fund prior to a decision being made by a School Organisation Committee (SOC).
- 7.5 The sixth form presumption applies to two 11-16 schools in Lincolnshire and Rutland:
- Glead Girls Technology College based in the Spalding area.
 - George Farmer Technology and Language College based in the Holbeach area.
- 7.6 The LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland has received capital proposals from both institutions
- 7.7 Local Authority and Learning and Skills Council staff have worked with both schools to take forward their proposals and to ensure that the educational offer is in line with the Lincolnshire and Rutland 14-19 Learner Entitlement as developed within the South Holland Cluster.
- 7.8 The timescales for the receipt of proposals are extremely tight and there will be a need for them to be considered by the LSC National Capital Committee at its meeting of the 9 November 2006 and subsequently to be accepted at a Lincolnshire Schools Organisation Committee before final submission to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).
- 7.9 The Local LSC Capital Committee met on 28 September 2006 to consider the proposals in detail and their recommendations and areas of concern were considered by the Council

Validation Criteria

- 7.10 The criteria in assessing and prioritising applications to the 16-19 Capital Fund can be split into two parts: validation criteria and prioritisation criteria.
- 7.11 The validation criteria is split into three parts.

Education

- 7.12 "All applications that come forward as a result of having met the '16-19 presumption criteria' for a new sixth form...will usually be regarded as meeting the education validation criteria for capital funding." (Annex A, '16-19 Capital Fund Guidance: 2006-07 Onwards').
- 7.13 "Applications that are eligible under the presumption will normally be processed for approval... if the local LSC has concerns on education grounds about a school setting up a sixth form then these concerns will be noted but will not prevent the proposal being approved. However all applications will have to meet the property and finance parts of capital criteria and demonstrate value for money or the project proposal will not be approved".

Property

- 7.14 "All applications will be subject to satisfying the LSC's projects criteria including those addressing:
- Building costs and value for money.
 - Floor space utilisation.
 - Design, quality and sustainability.

- Arrangements for the procurement and administration of the project.
- Confirmation of planning consent arrangements.
- Project design and costing.
- Eligibility of the proposed works.

Financial

7.15 “All applications will be subject to satisfying the LSC’s financial criteria. Applications will need to include:

- A completed investment appraisal.
- Confirmation that the project can be financed over the construction period.
- Confirmation that alternative funding routes have been considered (e.g. Building Schools for the Future).
- That the remainder of the funding is available if the level of grant support is less than 100 per cent of the cost.
- Confirmation of future financial solvency of the applicant.”

7.16 The prioritisation criteria are applied by the National Capital Committee if there are insufficient funds to meet proposals in any one financial year. Funding of capital investment needed to meet a 16-19 presumption is the priority.

Gleed Girls Technology College

7.17 Gleed Girls Technology College proposes to construct a free standing post-16 Vocational Learning Centre to “serve all students within South Holland, not just those from The Gleed Girls’ Technology College.

7.18 The centre will be on the current site to accommodate approximately 280 16-19 year olds. The curriculum offer will provide for vocational diplomas at levels 1, 2 and 3 in Health and Social Care; ICT; Creative and Media (2008); followed by Travel & Tourism and Retail (2010). The core learning of ICT and key skills including application of number.

7.19 “The close proximity to other secondary schools in Spalding and to the town centre will facilitate collaboration and enable joint-use to meet the educational needs of 16-19...learners locally...”.

Sixth Form Presumption – George Farmer Technology and Language College

7.20 George Farmer Technology and Language College proposes to construct two storey accommodation to provide for the educational needs of 180 new 16-18 learner places. The facilities will provide for the delivery of vocational curriculum (including the new Vocational Diplomas) in Construction and Built Environment – Joinery; Construction and Built Environment – Electrical Installations; Engineering – Motor Vehicle Modules; ICT; the core learning of ICT, key skills including application of number. Future developments planned in Land Based and Environment – Horticulture.

- 7.21 'The development of vocational facilities at Holbeach George Farmer will increase curriculum diversity and complement the facilities proposed at Spalding Gleed Girls Technology College.'
- 7.22 The local Council accepted the recommendation of the Capital Committee as to the meeting of the Property and Financial Criteria for the '16-19 Capital Fund' for both the proposal from George Farmer Technology and Language College and Gleed Girls Technology College
- 7.23 The local Council raised a number of concerns and issues relating to the Educational Criteria:

Key points and Issues raised by the local Council

- a. Concerns were explored around the educational criteria and impact on other providers in the area.
 - b. Concerns were raised around the long term impact on existing providers in terms of learner numbers
 - c. Concern was raised as to the ability of the proposers to deliver the quality of provision in specialist areas, especially around motor vehicle, construction, agriculture.
 - d. Concern was expressed around keeping specialist equipment up to date, especially around motor vehicle, construction and agriculture.
 - e. Concern was raised relating to the recruitment of specialist staff to teach the vocational curriculum
 - f. Concern as to whether the provision (based on a school) would attract young people especially the NEET group, being the less likely group who want to return to a school based learning environment.
 - g. The question was raised as to whether the distance of travel for students to existing provision is a real issue in terms of access and participation
 - h. Concern around collaboration, especially with the FE sector (including progression opportunities), local CoVEs and local employers.
 - i. Concern around the lack of fit between the training and education that is being proposed and what local employers need.
 - j. The question was raised as to whether this the best use of very small resources and whether the money would be better spent building one larger provision in the area.
 - k. The question was raised as to whether the applications are being recommended in response to issues issues raised within the Area Review.
- 7.24 Chris Harris talked through the Item 7 Addendum for Gleed Girls Technology College and George Farmer Technology and Language College.
- 7.25 Chris Harris talked through the revised Financial Assessment for Gleed Girls Technology College.

Heather Lee left the room 11.14

Heather Lee rejoined the meeting 11.16

Decision: The local Council:

- Has serious reservations around the educational proposals for both Glead Girls Technology College and George Farmer Technology and Language College.
- Has serious concerns and that these should be expressed through the LSC abstaining from any vote with the School Organisation Committee.

Item 8. Area Director's Update

8.1 The local Council received the Area Director's Report providing updates on the following items:

- 16-19 Competition – Lincolnshire Wolds Update.
- Lincolnshire East Update.

Issues Raised:

- a. Whether there will be confusion among the client group around the names of all the new vocational centres within the Lincolnshire and Rutland area.

Decision: The local Council:

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

Item 9. Date of next meeting

9.1 The dates of the next meetings are confirmed as:

Thursday 14 December 2006, 1700

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

The meeting ended at 11.32

Publication no.

Meeting chair Roger Begy

Minute taker Lorraine Howard

Date created

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Signed: **Date:**

Roger Begy
Chair