

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 14 June 2007  
**Subject** Council Meeting  
**Location** West Nottinghamshire College  
**Time** 16:00  
**LSC office** Nottinghamshire  
**Publication intent** Internal

**Present:** Keith Stanyard (Chair)  
Mick Brown  
Elaine Clark  
Graham Chapman  
Roger Hursthouse  
Barbara McKenna  
Pat Woodfield  
Deborah White

**LSC Staff:** Nigel Jackson  
Paula Webber  
Kathy White

**Apologies:** Stuart Anthony  
Sarah Bartlett  
Milton Crosdale  
Chris Hasty  
Jon McLeod  
Jean Pardoe  
David Sadler  
Tom Stockwell  
Mick Storey

**ITEM 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Keith Stanyard welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

**ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 April were agreed as a true record.

**ITEM 3. CASTLE COLLEGE: CONFIRMATION OF CAPITAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

The capital bid for Castle College was discussed at the FE Committee meeting on 18 October 2006 and approved 'in principle'. The Council received the college's overall accommodation strategy at its meeting on 30 April and the detailed scheme for Beeston was supported by Council members.

Paula Webber reported that Castle College had provided all the information as requested in Andrew Martin's paper. The information is now being reviewed by the LSC property team.

**ITEM 4. VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR WORKING**

Nigel Jackson presented this paper which provides an overview of Nottinghamshire LSC's relationship with the voluntary and community sector. Council members were asked to note the contents and consider ways to further develop the partnership.

4.1 The role of the voluntary sector is seen by LSC national office as underdeveloped. The 'Working Together' strategy promotes the consortia method and encourages capacity building to support organisations in accessing mainstream provision. Enable is the V&CS consortia organisation working with Nottinghamshire LSC.

4.2 In response to a question from Deborah White regarding the amount of money available in Nottinghamshire, Nigel Jackson replied that this was in the region of £2.5m. As this amount is less than in recent years, V&CS organisations will increasingly need to access other budgets and mainstream provision.

**Roger Hursthouse declared an interest in the Community Foundation Network**

Roger Hursthouse queried how organisations, such as the Community Foundations Network, could access funding. Nigel Jackson replied that the LSC is trying to encourage all V&CS organisations to join the consortia and work together. However, organisations that choose not to join will still have access to funding.

In response to a question from Elaine Clark regarding how success in this sector could be measured, Mick Brown replied that Enable is expected to achieve tangible outcomes and these are reviewed on a regular basis. He acknowledged that it was very difficult to record outcomes in this sector and we continued to seek ways to address this.

Graham Chapman suggested that, in terms of NLDC funding, it would be beneficial to target this money towards engaging parents

and developing parental skills. Nigel Jackson replied that, as part of the Local Area Agreement, NRF and NLDC funding is aligned to support partnership priorities to achieve maximum impact.

**The Council endorsed the recommendations to support and develop the capacity of the V&CS in line with national and regional policy.**

**ITEM 5. AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**FE Allocations** – Mick Brown advised that this was the definitive position on allocations. The required target volumes have been secured at a modest increase in cost per unit and Nottinghamshire LSC is scheduled to exceed the full level 2 target by 1049 learners.

**ACL** – Mick Brown expressed disappointment that ACL allocations have been distributed on the basis of historical evidence and therefore Nottinghamshire LSC would receive less than both Derbyshire and Leicestershire local offices. He was however, optimistic about resolving the situation for 2008/09 allocations.

**ITEM 6. CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TRAINING IN GREATER NOTTINGHAM**

**Elaine Clark declared an interest**

Nigel Jackson spoke to this paper which was produced by the LSC and the Making The Connection (MTC) partnership on behalf of the Greater Nottingham Employment and Skills Board. The aim was to undertake an analysis of the construction sector and subsequently develop a strategy to ensure that individuals recognise the opportunities available within the sector and engage in a process to develop their skills to gain employment.

The paper identifies some of the barriers to training and employment within the sector and makes a number of recommendations on the action to be taken.

Nigel Jackson reported that the data shows that the quality of construction provision at both NCN and Castle College exhibits success rates below average.

Roger Hursthouse commented that colleges sometimes failed to enrol young people on the right course in terms of the qualifications required.

Nigel went on to say that the construction industry itself is also driving forward the need for a qualified workforce on all sites and has implemented the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) to

extend skills and knowledge across the industry. It is essential for FE colleges to interact more with the industry to ensure that all training is in accordance with the recognised industry standards.

Graham Chapman commented that, in his opinion, MTC was not fulfilling its potential. He suggested more detailed discussions with developers at the planning application stage and possibly implementing a robust Section 106 agreement between local councils and construction contractors. He referred to the number of forthcoming sizeable developments within the city and the need to support the recruitment and training of a local labour force.

Council members thanked Nigel Jackson for the report and were pleased with the actions being taken. Some concerns were expressed with the apparent lack of drive by MTC and Council members recommended that more interaction should be encouraged between FE colleges and the construction industry.

#### **ITEM 7 FE IN GREATER NOTTINGHAM**

The Chairman reported that unfortunately, the WNC capital bid had not reached the appropriate stage of the RIBA process to enable it to be considered at this meeting.

The bid is expected to be ready for submission to the National Capital Committee on 5 September. The Council has agreed to convene an extraordinary meeting in early September to consider the bid.

**This meeting was scheduled for 3 September, 6pm at a venue in Nottingham.**

The Chairman advised that it was unlikely that the Castle College capital bid would be completed in time for the next Council meeting. The bid will now be considered at the Council meeting on 12 September together with bids from SNC and possibly Bilborough College.

**It was agreed to cancel the Council meeting arranged for 24 July and to replace it with a meeting of the FE Committee.**

In response to a question from Graham Chapman regarding the amount of capital funding available, Mick Brown replied that he had indicated to LSC National Office some time ago that Nottinghamshire LSC would be seeking a significant amount of funding (c £200m) from the national capital budget.

In response to a question from Graham Chapman regarding 14-16 issues, Mick Brown advised that these issues have to be dealt with

within the 14-19 strategy; capital funding is not available for 14-16 year olds from the LSC. A 14-19 strategy is currently being drawn up between the LA and the LSC which should be available by the end of October.

**ACTION: Mick Brown to provide an updated schedule of capital fund projects for the next meeting.**

Paula Webber provided an update on FE developments in Greater Nottingham.

**SNC** – The outline accommodation strategy was received at the FE committee meeting on 6 June. Three options are currently being considered for development in the West Bridgford area. Estimated costs are in the region of £45m for the overall strategy of which SNC would contribute approx. £12m. The college is seeking approval for the first phase of the development at Clifton with costs in the region of £2.5m.

The college will also be submitting a small proposal to convert existing football pitches to FA standard.

**Council members were happy to delegate financial approval, if necessary, for this proposal to the Area Director and Chair.**

**NCN** - Mick Brown and Paula Webber will attend the NCN Governors Residential event on 22/23 July. At this meeting it is expected that governors will reach a decision regarding the development of the Basford Hall campus and a proposed move from Clarendon to a city centre site.

**ACTION: Mick Brown and Paula Webber to prepare a common brief for the event.**

Mick Brown commented that, in terms of construction, there was a strong case to justify the transfer of all provision to Castle College but the LSC has no statutory powers to move provision between providers unless there are issues of quality. However, the LSC could use capital funding support as leverage in identifying the kind of configuration it would wish to see.

## **TRAIN TO GAIN PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Elaine Clark registered an interest**

Nigel Jackson reported on the improved TTG performance in the Nottinghamshire area but highlighted the fact that this was still behind profile. Council members welcomed the decision to move the management of Train to Gain to local offices.

Deborah White questioned if existing staff would take on this responsibility and, if so, would this be reflected in a reduction in staffing levels in the regional Train to Gain team. Mick Brown replied that Nottinghamshire LSC staff currently have the capacity to deal with this additional work. However, he believed that the forthcoming work with schools 6<sup>th</sup> forms would have an impact on staff.

Elaine Clark stated that working with the local college on Train to Gain had been very challenging but was improving. There were still a number of issues to be addressed with the brokerage service process which to date, had not yielded any leads.

#### **ITEM 9**

##### **PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Mick Brown advised Council members that there had been a delay in the second reading of the FE Bill which would mean that recruitment to the new Council would not take place until October. Verity Bullough has asked local Chairs to submit names of people or organisations who may be interested in becoming members of the regional Council.

**ACTION: Council members to put forward their suggestions by mid July. It was agreed to convene a small sub group comprising the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Area Director to consider the suggestions.**

#### **ITEM 10**

##### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were no matters arising which were not previously covered by the agenda.

##### **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 3rd September at 6pm to consider capital development proposals from West Notts College, venue in Nottingham to be confirmed.

There will also be a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm to consider capital development proposals from other colleges together with any other issues. Venue to be confirmed.