

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 17th May 2006
Subject Council Meeting
Location Leicestershire LSC
Time 15:00
LSC office Leicestershire
Publication intent Internal

Present Mark Mabey (Acting Chair)
Maggie Galliers
Chris Hall
Ann Height
Mir Juma
Parvin Ali
David Nelson
Pravin Parmar
Les Price

In attendance Rosemary Beard - Connexions
Jim Connelly- Jobcentre Plus
Mike Jewitt - Business Link
Ian Wilson – Principal Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I
Sixth Form College
Nick Goffin – Principal Gateway Sixth Form College

LSC staff Di Bentley (minutes)
Mary Rogers
Andrew Martin (Regional Finance Director)
Dianne Brown (Regional Capital Advisor)

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Barry Martin
Maureen Milgram Forrest
Debbie Fern

Item 1. Declarations of interest

1.1 Four members of Council declared an interest in items 3,4 and 5 on the agenda. Maggie Galliers, Mark Mabey, Ann Height, Parvin Ali.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 29 March 2006 were agreed as a true and accurate record.
- 2.2 Item 4 - The Executive Director updated Council Members on the progress on the setting up of the 14-19 task and finish group.
- 2.3 Item 6 - The Executive Director updated Council Members on the interviews for new members of the Council – Sheila Locke and Gareth Williams. The interviews had taken place and the process was proceeding on schedule.

Item 3. Feasibility study relating to the re-location of Gateway College

- 3.1 Professor Bentley outlined the recommendations of the Feasibility study report for the Council Members.
- 3.2 The Executive Director reminded Council Members that although the Feasibility study report from the consultants made particular recommendations with regard to collaboration with other providers and suggested that conditions be put on the re-location of Gateway College to this effect, there could be no legal requirement for collaboration. He informed Council members that they had limited powers in this area where the colleges were all successful. Only if one or more colleges are failing do the Council have the powers to require merger. Collaborative activity between Colleges can only be by exhortation.
- 3.3 A series of questions and concerns were aired by Council members relating to the accuracy of housing predictions in the north; the need for treating all three sixth form colleges equitably with regard to growth and capital expenditure; concern for the effects of the Gateway move on other colleges; concern for the move into an area where Regent College recruited more students than Gateway currently and the effects this might have on the viability of Gateway College.
- 3.4 In consideration of items 4 and 5 on the agenda, the Council resolved to address similar questions to both Wygggeston and Queen Elizabeth I and Gateway Sixth Form Colleges in relation to their Capital Applications in Principle, in the light of the findings from the feasibility study. A list of questions was discussed and allocated to particular Council members.
- 3.5 The Council agreed that the recommendation in the paper relating to the Feasibility study could not be undertaken, since they had no power to ensure that collaboration took place. They resolved therefore to support the move of Gateway College to the Northern location.

Item 4. Application in Principle: Wygggeston and Queen Elizabeth I Sixth Form College

- 4.1 A presentation from the Principal of Wygggeston and Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College relating to its Application in Principle took place.
- 4.2 Following the excellent presentation, for which the Council expressed their appreciation, Council members asked the questions agreed earlier. These focused on:
 - Collaboration

- Sustainability of demand for places
- Management of financial risks and the Capital project .

Item 5. Application in Principle: Gateway Sixth Form College

5.1 A presentation from the Principal of Gateway Sixth Form College relating to its Application in Principle took place.

5.2 Following the excellent presentation, for which the Council expressed their appreciation, Council members asked the questions agreed earlier. These focused on:

- Collaboration
- Sustainability of demand for places
- Management of financial risks and the Capital project .

5.3 Following the presentations and question and answer sessions, the Council heard the views of the regional experts who were in attendance at the meeting and further discussion ensued.

5.4 **In relation to Gateway College** Mr Martin stated that this was a good application which was well considered. It was however a large project for a small College which would weaken it financially and occasion very high levels of interim debt. He expressed some concern with regard to the attitude to risk and advised that the Council would need to be firm with regard to holding the numbers at a particular level if the financial; risk was to be managed and Regent College's position was not to be undermined. He suggested that the Council asked Capital Committee to push the College hard on the extent of its active collaborative work with Regent College and future plans for specialisms.

5.5 The Council voted on the Gateway Application in Principle and resolved unanimously to support it to the Capital Committee.

5.6 In relation to **Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I Sixth Form College** Mr Martin advised the Council that this was a good application which was realistic and well considered. There was a very realistic attitude to both risk and project management and the College were clear about its capacity to fund the project.

5.7 The Council voted on the Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I Sixth Form College Application in Principle and resolved unanimously to support it to the Capital Committee.

5.8 In view of the time, the Executive Director suggested that items six and seven on the agenda – the Chairs report and the Executive Directors report - should be sent out with the minutes. This was agreed by the Council.

Item 6. Feedback from Partner Members

6.1 The Acting Chair invited partner members to bring issues to the attention the Council. In view of the time, both Rosemary Beard and Jim Connelly declined.

Item 7. Date and time of next meeting

7.1 The next formal meeting will be on

Meeting chair	Maureen Milgram Forrest
Minute taker	Diana Bentley
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