

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

<b>Subject</b>	<b>LSC Norfolk Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date</b>	31 January 2008
<b>Location</b>	Easton College
<b>Time</b>	5.00pm
<b>LSC office</b>	Norfolk
<b>Publication intent</b>	External

**Present**

Edward Libbey (chair)  
Peter Stewart  
Pat Holtom  
Peter Townroe  
John Holmes  
John Elliott  
Gordon Boyd  
Peter Medhurst  
Vivienne Clifford-Jackson  
David Lawrence  
Dick Palmer

**In attendance**

Marion Nobbs

**LSC staff**

Graham Brough  
Caroline Neville

**Apologies**

Mike Burrows  
Caroline Jarrold  
John Farley  
Rob Hetherington  
Fred Corbett

## **Item 1. Welcome and apologies**

1.1 The apologies were noted.

## **Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

2.1 The minutes of 25 October 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 Mr Brough reported that he had met with Mr Mayne to discuss Paston's capital bid which was progressing and Mr Mayne was confident that an AIP would be completed by early Autumn 2008.

2.3 Regarding the Thetford competition, Mr Brough advised that a single bid had been received from a partnership comprising the two Thetford Schools, West Suffolk

College and Easton College. The next steps would be to call a competition panel to consider the proposal against the criteria. Mr Libbey agreed to chair the panel.

### **Item 3. Capital plans – initial briefings**

#### **3.1 City College Norwich**

- 3.2 Mr Palmer presented his capital plan and thanked the LSC for their continued support.
- 3.3 Mr Palmer outlined the rationale for the proposal and explained that it would comprise several phases.
- 3.4 There was some discussion regarding the merits of developing the whole site in the way proposed and particularly the proposed demolition of the Norwich Building. Mr Palmer explained that the costs associated with refurbishing some of the existing buildings would be prohibitive and that, despite any substantial investment, they would not offer the sort of flexibility and space utilisation required.
- 3.5 **Agreed - It was agreed that the full bid would go to the Regional Board with LSC Norfolk's endorsement.**

#### **3.6 Easton College**

- 3.7 Mr Lawrence presented his capital plan. He advised that they were planning to go to AIP in April. The capital programme consisted of: (i) Norfolk Centre of Excellence for Tennis; (ii) an Equine Centre and New Animal Care Facilities ; (iii) a Jubilee 3 Building; and (iv) a Golf and All Weather Surface.
- 3.8 Mr Elliott asked if there was any provision made in the plans for local people to go into the brewing industry. Mr Lawrence advised that they were going to set up a rural business advice service with the aim of creating 250 jobs and £13m worth of business. In terms of brewing – Easton did not have those particular curriculum skills.
- 3.9 **Agreed - It was agreed that the full bid should proceed with LSC Norfolk's endorsement.**

### **Item 4. Machinery of Government changes**

- 4.1 Mr Libbey advised that it was expected that within the next 30 days, local Council powers would be transferred to the Regional Board and that the interim Regional Board would adopt the statutory responsibility of the local Council. There would then be a recruitment round and the local Council would be demised.
- 4.2 He applauded all staff for maintaining delivery though he was also aware that there was still much to be done including completing the Thetford Competition, launching the Skills Conference and Big Skill Event at the Forum in May 2008.
- 4.3 Mr Libbey thanked the Council for their support and hoped to rely on their support in the future.
- 4.4 Ms Clifford-Jackson asked whether Norfolk's voice would not be represented on the regional body. Ms Neville advised that each area should be represented on the new regional Board.
- 4.5 Ms Neville thanked the Council and added that Mr Libbey's support had been profound both locally and regionally.

- 4.6 Mr Elliott instigated a discussion around the lack of consultation for the Heartsease Academy. He expressed his concern that the academy would pose a threat to the Kett Sixth Form Centre.
- 4.7 Mr Brough advised that he had been in discussions with National Office and the new department and had been asked to advise on the extent to which the Kett partnership could be sustained within the context of the new proposed arrangements.
- 4.8 Mr Medhurst asked how the work and drive of the LSC would be maintained once the LSC ceased managing the 16 to 19 budget. Mr Brough advised that the 14-19 Strategy Group would continue to oversee the implementation of the 14-19 Plan through to 2011 and he also believed that there was now a strong and shared sense of momentum across the County. The LSC was currently working with Paul Fisher from Children's Services to help ensure funding lines for 14 to 19 were clear.

#### **Item 5. Progress report**

- 5.1 Mr Libbey commented that Mr Brough's report could not have been written five years ago and thought the LSC Council had helped to ensure that much had been achieved.
- 5.2 Mr Brough thanked the council for their support and believed that three things had come together over that period: (i) John Brierley and Edward Libbey had established a culture of trust with providers and partners; (ii) Norfolk had been fortunate in having ambitious and talented providers; and (iii) the Council had played an important role in encouraging, challenging and supporting the work of the LSC in Norfolk.
- 5.3 The progress report was noted.

#### **Item 6. Planning for 2008/09**

- 6.1 This item was discussed previously.

#### **Item 7. Any other business**

- 7.1 On behalf of the Council, Mr Medhurst showed their appreciation for the work of Mr Libbey and Mr Brough, especially considering the uncertainty they had faced and concluded that their efforts had been good for the Council and for Norfolk.

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