

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date 20 September 2005
Subject Council Meeting
Location Chamber Business - Bedford Office
Time 16:00
LSC office Bedfordshire and Luton
Publication intent Internal

Present Jim McGivern
Linda Hockey
Kay Burley
Lorene Fabian
Keith Hamilton
Derek Ludlow
David Doran
Nazia Khanum
Karen Livingstone
Simon Kitchener
Tony Dessent
Lawrence Patterson
Richard Ciechan

In attendance David Marlow – EEDA (Items 1 and 2 only)
Andrew Elvin
Richard Lacy
John Gelder

LSC staff Graham Moores
Martin Cooke
Alison Batten
Paul Walton
Hemant Mistry
Rupinder Lotay

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Geoffrey Farr
Ian Greenley
Les Ebdon
Tim Barber
Malcolm Newman

Item 1. Minutes of last meeting

- 1.1 JM summarised last meeting's focus on funding
- 1.2 TD asked if a resolution to the funding issues had been forthcoming
- 1.3 JM Colleges were invited to feedback to Mark Haysom directly
- 1.4 LH A review of the 05/06 process has been conducted and the results are awaited. Negotiations with 1 college are ongoing.

14 – 19

- 1.5 TD stated that a deputation from the DfES to Luton had had good outcomes in achievement, NEET and participation amongst others
- 1.6 JM congratulated TD for this
- 1.7 TD continued that a ministerial visit was due in November to open Campus Luton.

Item 2. Matters arising

- 2.1 Covered under item 1

Item 3. Presentation by David Marlow (EEDA)

- 3.1 David Marlow thanked the Council for their invitation and then outlined the objectives of EEDA, the strengths, issues and opportunities for Bedfordshire and Luton as seen by EEDA. He felt that Bedfordshire and Luton would play a major role in the region and that the relationship between the LSC and EEDA is very good and essential going forward.
- 3.2 The challenges he felt EEDA would need to address are:
 - Making the RSCP really work
 - Business Support in light of the skills paper
 - Business Engagement at all levels
 - Alignment of sectors
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Strategic alignment and
 - Lobbying during the spending review of 2007
- 3.3 LH endorsed DM's comments especially that the RSCP is now making a real difference.
- 3.4 JM stated that the LSC and EEDA are working together to improve mutual benefit and the challenges ahead are good challenges to have.
- 3.5 RL the challenges are actually opportunities which we need to take advantage of
- 3.6 DL stated that wealth creation is important and the enterprise culture still needs to be developed to create and grow business.
- 3.7 NK stated that Equality and Diversity issues were also important and that effective influence is important if we are to up skill people with limited resources. She recommended that the representation of the VCS and BME sectors be looked at given their importance eg within Investing in Communities.
- 3.8 KL stated that EEDA board has recognised both points and is discussing how to address them.
- 3.9 JG stated the challenge for the VCS is to convey to partners the economic value of the VCS sector.
- 3.10 JM suggested this could be brought forward at a later meeting for further debate.

3.11 DM stated that EEDA recognised and agreed with all the points raised but would feed them back.

Decision: JM suggested item 4 be moved to the end of the agenda to allow enough time for discussion without losing other items. This was agreed

Item 4. Agenda for Change

4.1 Deferred to the end of the meeting.

Item 5. 3-Tier Review in Bedfordshire

5.1 DD gave a short presentation, the slides of which are attached to these minutes.

5.2 JM and LH stated that they support the process.

5.3 JM asked if change is recommended could this be phased. It would it be a big bang approach.

5.4 DD stated the approach could be phased by area and by age group however a period of disruption would be inevitable either way.

5.5 DL asked if research would take account of south Bedfordshire.

5.6 DD said it would and that Luton would also be consulted.

Item 6. LSC Performance Scorecard

6.1 GM spoke to the paper

6.2 JM asked when will trends be available.

6.3 LH replied this is just to outline what can be measured, actual figures etc could now be produced.

6.4 DD asked where this is taking the LSC, ie were league tables expected?

6.5 GM answered that seemed to be likely

6.6 KH was concerned that we need to look beyond the measures

6.7 NK stated that simple graphs were required to see progress of particular groups

6.8 LH said that these represent core data which could be refined and that EDIMs are in place to do this already.

6.9 JG expressed a concern that first rung provision did not appear.

6.10 LH again reiterated that there are gaps which we know about and these are being fed back to colleagues in the LSC

6.11 TD wanted to know if comparison / statistical neighbours are being used.

6.12 LH said that there are cluster / statistical neighbours.

6.13 TD said that there appeared to be a gap with regard to Joint Area Review.

Item 7. Audit Committee

7.1 RC updated the meeting on the Audit Committee, which met 19th September 2005.

7.2 Generally everything is progressing well.

7.3 Audit light touch is going OK.

7.4 Performance Measurement may become an area in which the Audit Committee takes an interest in future.

7.5 Expected period of change leads to inevitable risks to the organisation, which need to be monitored closely.

Item 8. Local Area Agreements (LAA)

- 8.1 LH spoke to the paper.
- 8.2 DL raised concerns that the LAA will overlap and confuse regional policies.
- 8.3 LH stated that the guidance states “ you must take account of regional strategy”
- 8.4 RL stated that the opportunity to join the LAAs of Bedfordshire and Luton is being taken.
- 8.5 DL stated that engagement with the private sector is very important to help reduce confusion.
- 8.6 AE stated that the LAA should be seen as a tool to deliver existing priorities.

Item 9. Business Planning Cycle

- 9.1 PW spoke to the paper
- 9.2 SK suggested that earliest indications of funding would be welcomed.
- 9.3 PW had made that very point at a planning meeting which had been agreed by regional colleagues

Item 10. Local Capital Strategy

- 10.1 LH spoke to the paper in Malcolm Newman’s absence
- 10.2 DL proposed that the Council’s thanks be given to Malcolm for his work over the last 4 years. The Council echoed this.
- 10.3 JM invited Council members to attend a presentation for Malcolm at 1pm on the 30th September at Kempston

Action: Jim to convey thanks to MN on behalf of the Council

Item 11. Work Based Learning

- 11.1 Rupinder Lotay spoke to the paper
- 11.2 3 key success are the range, quality and Success Rates had been improved.
- 11.3 3 challenges going forward are lower participation in WBL
- 11.4 AE said this may be due to EMA
- 11.5 SK said L3 is also an attraction for Learners to stay at school
- 11.6 TD asked if this is the same nationally
- 11.7 AE said that this is a national trend and RL echoed that other offices are reporting similar trends.
- 11.8 RL stated that employer places are a difficulty; again Rupinder echoed this.
- 11.9 KH stated that he was pleased to see that traditional areas of learning had remained despite the inclusion of new ones.
- 11.10 E2E although positive outcomes had improved they are still 5% behind national figure.
- 11.11 BME groups are not participating as much as other groups.
- 11.12 AE stated that some young people although not achieving were seeing some real benefits at a personal level which was good news.
- 11.13 Rupinder stated that ESF funding is also be used to set up a pre E2E offering for just such people.
- 11.14 AB stated that the figures need to be treated with caution due to the small numbers involved relating to large percentages.

- 11.15NK stated that the report is informative and we need to see more of this sort of report. She asked how priorities suggested by the report would be taken forward.
- 11.16LF asked if gender issues were contained in the report.
- 11.17LH assured Council that the figures are reviewed and used by LSC staff and are fed back to regional and national colleagues.
- 11.18AE stated that Connexions were using the data and are aligning much more with LSC as a result.

Item 12. Finance Update

- 12.1 LH spoke to the paper and stated that more details were available if required and that FE figures were included, a point raised at a previous meeting.

Item 13. National Employer Training Programme

- 13.1 GM spoke to the paper.
- 13.2 DL asked if Bedfordshire and Luton could be included in the pilot.
- 13.3 GM said the Treasury would not allow this.
- 13.4 JG asked if the employer could access the money directly.
- 13.5 GM answered that this was not allowed. The funder, broker and employer had to be distinct and separate.

Item 14. Race Equality Scheme

- 14.1 HM thanked NK for her comments to the Council and spoke to the paper.
- 14.2 NK suggested it would be helpful to know how this is being delivered.
- 14.3 JM suggested this should be a future agenda item.

Item 15. Any Other Business

- 15.1 No further issues were raised.

Item 4. Agenda for Change

- 4.1 JM introduced the agenda for change document.
- 4.2 LH spoke to her presentation and invited council members to feedback to the local LSC.
- 4.3 RL asked if capital investment was only for the FE providers.
- 4.4 MC stated that we had received no guidance on this.
- 4.5 LH elaborated on theme 7 of the agenda for change which is the internal LSC transformation.
- 4.6 The key points are
- £40 million savings will be made (equal to 12,000 young people or 80,000 adult learners funding)
 - focus on local delivery and is not Regionalisation.
- 4.7 More detailed plans available in October.
- 4.8 1300 fewer posts (500 national office and 800 in the regions – 94 eastern region)
- 4.9 Staff to be consulted and supported throughout.
- 4.10 Business as usual.
- 4.11 Deadline end of March 06

- 4.12 Regional office to provide support services to local “areas” and roles named consistently nationally.
- 4.13 Local Council will remain although local LSCs will not.
- 4.14 “Areas” proposed with an “Area Director” and “Partnership teams”
- 4.15 DL, supported by others, felt that it was vital that Bedfordshire and Luton voice be heard to secure our interests.
- 4.16 LH assumed that this would be the case.
- 4.17 TD stated that this was a Gershon inspired transformation (as with Police and Primary Care Trusts etc) and we will need to work within it.
- 4.18 RL stated that the customer was the important factor in all these changes and the perception is that they are not being considered.
- 4.19 AE restated the audit committee’s concerns of the risks associated with the disruption.
- 4.20 LF stated that as a union person she was concerned that this is people’s lives which are being disrupted and it is very important that they are treated and considered carefully
- 4.21 NK stated the voluntary sector is not mentioned in any of the published Agenda for Change document.
- 4.22 TD stated that the key issue should be that whatever the organisation looks like in the future the funding should be divided according to need.
- 4.23 JG stated that partnership working and relationships which are important to our success would be disrupted.
- 4.24 JM ended the meeting by stating that the challenge for the Council is as big as it has ever been and the Council need to engage and respond to this challenge in order to best serve the people it represents.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Tuesday, 22nd November at 4.00pm. Venue to be confirmed

Publication no.

Meeting chair Jim McGivern

Minute taker Paul Walton

Document ref. G:\01 Corporate Management\1-3 Corp Gov'nce & Legal C'liance\1-3-1 Council & Sub-Cttes\1-3-1-1 Local Council Meetings\1-3-1-1-2 Local Council Minutes\1-3-1-1-2 MI LSpencer Localcouncilminutes 20Sep05.doc

Version 0.1

Date of version 22 September 2005

LSC office Learning and Skills Council Bedfordshire and Luton
Woburn Court 2 Railton Road Woburn Road Industrial Estate
Kempston Bedfordshire MK42 7PN
T 0845 019 4160 F 01234 843211 www.lsc.gov.uk/bedsandluton