

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 14 November 2006
Subject Council Meeting
Location Canius House
Time 18:00
LSC office London South
Publication intent Public

Present Caroline Allen OBE (Chair)
Professor David Miles
Lola Barrett
Dame Lorna Boreland-Kelly
Roger Mills (Vice Chair)
Robert Dilley
John Ball
Mark Lunn
Julita Pearson
Malcolm Brabon
Linda Taylor

In attendance Dr David Watkins, Principal of Carshalton College, (for Item 8)

LSC Staff Vic Grimes (Area Director – London South)
Laurence Downes (Partnership Director – Bromley)
Rachel Hodson (Partnership Director – Sutton)
Garth Taylor (Partnership Director – Croydon)
Mary Francis (Partnership Director – Kingston & Richmond)

Apologies Kevin Finnigan

Item 1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

Chair welcomed Council members and officers to the meeting. Apologies were given for those who were unable to attend.

1.1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct and accurate record.

1.2 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

1.3 Action Points

Action point 78 – The FE Forum meeting being scheduled for 5th December has now been deferred until the end of January.

1.4 Declarations of Interest

Item 8 – Carshalton College/Orchard Hill College – Capital Project. The Chair declared an interest in this item. Roger Mills, Vice Chair agreed to chair the meeting during this item.

Item 2. Regional Audit Committee

- 2.1 Council members were informed that the minutes of the Regional Audit Committee were not available.
- 2.2 Roger Mills tabled a brief summary report of the outcomes of the meeting which included details on the Special Investigation Unit, visits to providers, the Regional Provider Assurance Plan – progress report, risk register and timetable for internal audit.

Item 3. Skills Alliance

- 3.1 John Ball gave feedback on the outcome of the Skills Alliance meeting on 3 October 2006. Croydon College hosted the meeting and the Principal, Mariane Cavalli, gave a very useful presentation on how the college is responding to the needs of employers. There was also a discussion on Prevista's research findings into careers education and guidance which highlighted that young people lacked knowledge about job roles in priority skill sectors. Linda Taylor expressed her surprise about Prevista's report which referred to the Connexions Service but that her organisation, to her knowledge, had never had any formal approach about the project. John highlighted the London South Skills Conference which was scheduled to take place late February or March 2007.

Item 4. Equality Task Force

- 4.1 No meeting date had been fixed for the Equality and Diversity Task Force.

Item 5. IAG Strategic Board

- 5.1 John Ball gave Council an update on what was discussed at the last IAG Strategic Board. Mike Hill had given a very useful report on the work of the South London Lifelong Learning Network. Steve Crow, the LSC's Director for Skills Development, gave an overview of IAG and Skills Coaching

programme with some discussion about future planning and delivery structures. The Board expressed their concern about the Nextstep contract because it appeared to be below target.

Item 6. FE Forum

- 6.1 The FE Forum meeting that was scheduled for 5th December has now been deferred until the end of January.

Item 7. Area Director's Report

- 7.1 Vic Grimes presented his Area Director's report to Council. Good progress had been made by Partnership Teams across all boroughs. Other highlights were that that London South LSC had filled the majority of vacant posts, following the Theme 7 reorganisation. The Area Office had also successfully bid for an additional £1million to fund colleges and providers for level 2 and level 3 priority sector qualifications. The LSC's National Capital Committee had recently approved the Bromley College phase 2 capital application
- 7.2 The Chair, on behalf of Council, congratulated Vic and his team for their hard work and recent successes.
- 7.3 John Ball thought that the Area Directors report should have recognised Orpington College's Bus Garage project which had recently received a National Training Award.

Action: Laurence Downes, Partnership Director – Bromley, to write a letter of congratulations for the Chair to send to Oprington Bus Garage.

- 7.4 Dame Lorna suggested that Partnership Directors provide report work they are undertaking with Local Authority Young People Children Services.
- 7.5 Roger Mills encouraged Partnership Directors to e-mail him with LSC good news stories that he would publish through his local newspaper network.

Item 8. Carshalton College/Orchard Hill College – Capital Project

- 8.1 The Chair expressed an interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting.
- 8.2 Roger Mills reconvened the meeting as Chair and welcomed Dr David Watkins, Principal of Carshalton College. Dr Watkins presented the proposal for building an Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Vocational Progression Unit at Carshalton College. The capital project is a joint venture between Carshalton College and Orchard Hill College. A discussion followed before Dr Watkins was invited to leave the meeting so that Council could consider the LSC's detailed evaluation of the project proposal and to consider recommendations.
- 8.3 Rachel Hodson, Partnership Director – Sutton, presented her paper which detailed the LSC's evaluation of the education, property and financial cases. Council regarded the project as a good development for South London and

thought that it would help meet the increasing demand for high quality and accessible provision for young people with profound/severe learning difficulties.

Action: The LSC to review the covenant arrangements between the two colleges and the LSC to ensure that the integrity and assets of all three parties are safeguarded. This should form a condition of the grant letter.

Decision: Council approved the Application in Principle. A detailed application would be developed for Council's decision at the next meeting in February.

Item 9. Coulsdon 6th Form College – Capital Application

9.1 Garth Taylor reminded Council members that they had previously approved the College's 'Application in Principle' but that the LSC's National Capital Committee had referred the application back to Local Council for further information covering four areas relating to financial matters. All of these areas had been discussed with the College and had been fully resolved and the Area Office was recommending taking the application back to National Capital Committee on 19 December 2006.

Decision: Council agreed the three recommendations set out in Garth Taylor's paper.

Item 10. Hillcroft College – Capital Application

10.1 Mary Francis provided Council with an outline of the educational and property cases that will underpin a future Hillcroft College capital application.

Decision: Council noted the contents of the report and agreed the educational and property cases subject to agreement on the outstanding issues detailed in the report.

Item 11. Richmond 16-19 Competition

11.1 Council noted the latest developments regarding the Richmond 16-19 Competition. Members agreed that Council had a crucial role to play in the decision making process and that it was essential to ensure that the published process was adhered to at all times. The Chair requested that Vic Grimes should be supported on the panel by a senior colleague from another LSC Area Office

Action: Mary Francis to approach the Area Director of London Central or London West to participate on the stakeholder panel with Vic Grimes.

Item 12. 06/07 Business Cycle

12.1 Council reviewed the key tasks facing LSC London South and their role in 2006/2007 business cycle. Future Council Meetings are expected to be held in late January, March and June. They will be kept to a Tuesday evening.

Action: The Chair asked for future Council meeting dates to be circulated as soon as possible.

Item 13. Priorities for Success

13.1 Council noted the contents of Lawrence Downes paper, the 'Grant Letter' and Raising Our Game document.

Item 14. Autumn Review

14.1 Council noted the report for information.

Item 15. London Review of Education Business Links

15.1 Council noted the report for information.

Item 16. ESF/EQUAL Programme Update

16.1 Council noted the report for information.

Item 17. Any other Business

17.1 London South – Accommodation – Vic Grimes informed Council that there was interest in Canius House and that he would also be visiting suitable premises for relocation.

17.2 The Chair announced that David Miles is now the lead Council member for the London Borough of Kingston.

17.2 Meeting closed, 8pm

Publication no.

Meeting chair

Caroline Allen

Minute taker

Christina Evangelini

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