

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date	21 January 2005
Subject	Council Meeting
Location	Blue and Yellow Rooms
Time	09:00
LSC office	London Central
Publication intent	Public

Present

Yvonne Thompson (Chair)
Verity Bullough (Executive Director)
Satnam Gill (Working Mens College)
Roy Lockett (Bectu Deputy General Secretary (retired))
Maureen Salmon (Consultant)
Liz McGivern (Red Carnation Hotels)
Su Thomas (PACE)

In attendance: Tony Barritt

Observers

Rob Grover (Business Link)
Allen Manning (JobCentre Plus)
Chris Heaume (Connexions)

LSC staff

Steve Crow (Director of Development, London Central)
Jill Lowery (Director of Operations, London Central)
Tony Nelson (Director of Skills and Workforce Development, London Central)
Pam Bramidge (Head of Strategic Relationships, London Central)

Apologies

Apologies have been received from:
Cllr Keith Cunningham (RBKC)
Keith Faulkner (Working Links)
Marie-Louise Rossi (International Underwriters Association)
Paul Twyman (Political Strategy Ltd)
Richard Wragg (Government Office for London)

Item 1. Welcome

1.1 The Chair welcomed Tony Barritt back to LSC London Central Local Council after the end of his tenure as a Council Member. The Chair thanked him for his

contributions, particularly as a member of the Capital Review Group. Tony agreed to keep in touch with the Council and LSC London Central.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved. It was noted that the NEET figures that referenced at 5.3 were not attached; they were circulated at this meeting (see below for discussion).

Item 3. Matters arising

2.2 Presentation from Kings Cross regeneration project: Central London Learning Partnership (CLLP) have agreed to facilitate this. They are confident that they will be able to get the developers (Argent PLC) to come to LSC London Central.

Action: Secretariat to liaise with CLLP and report back to Council

2.3 Inspection Results: Jill Lowery updated Council on latest inspection: South Thames College was under inspection at time of meeting. The provisional feedback was that the inspection was going well.

4.5 Details on Regional Funding Allocation: This is not yet available.

5.3 NEET Monitoring report: Chris Heaume outlined the figures that were circulated. The figures show that Central London Connexions and LSC London Central are on track for achieving our target. However, the figures show that there are still nearly 4000 young people in our area who do not make a smooth transition from school to further education or employment. Discussion centred on the importance of ensuring that young people make the appropriate first choice. It was noted that the figures are encouraging, but that we need to maintain our focus on developing E2E.

7.3 Other Costs and Catering: Verity reported the feedback from the Finance team on the two questions raised at the last meeting:

'Other Costs' were identified as:

- Membership Subscriptions
- Travel for people who have transferred from other offices
- The share of overheads that can be recharged to ESF
- Hire of equipment and some small equipment purchases
- Archiving

The apparent overspend on the Catering budget was identified as being due to a number of factors:

- Increase in usage of meeting rooms, the replacement of obsolete coffee machines and some temporary staff costs that were coded to catering in error

- Some of these costs (including the temporary staff costs) will be recharged to programmes. The result of this recharge will be shown on the January Accounts.

Item 4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 There were no Declarations of Interest.

Item 5. Budget Update

5.1 Verity updated the Council on budgets for 2005/06. As yet we do not know what the regional allocation will be, however we may have the draft indicative regional FE budget next week.

5.2 Higher than anticipated learner participation is a key factor governing Regional allocations for 2005/06. This has also had a significant impact on this year's budget, with National Office asking all local offices to make savings. London Central has been asked to find savings of £855K. Verity asked for Council endorsement of the measures she is taking to achieve this saving. Working on the assumption that we will not go back on any existing commitments, these measures are:

- Identifying LIDF underspends due to projects that have not come to fruition.
- Using unallocated TEC legacy funds
- Slipping some essential expenditure into next year.

5.3 Council approved these measures, but noted concern over the risk of shifting commitment to next year, given we do not yet know what our LIDF budget will be.

Decision: Council approved measures to meet funding savings target

5.4 Council discussed the letter from Mark Haysom to all college principals, which was also copied to all members of Local Councils. This letter will form the background to discussions with colleges. The main points highlighted were:

- The unit price for FE is set to rise by 5% but, despite an actual increase in the amount of funding available, the settlement from the treasury puts restrictions on future growth.
- This will limit the amount of funding available for activity that doesn't meet our priorities or providers that are under performing.
- Detailed discussions will be held with each provider to identify how they can respond to these changes. This will mean looking at;
 - how they meet our priorities,
 - where they are with regard to growth and capital investment,
 - what measures they can take to increase the proportion of fees they raise from learners and employers

The Council noted that there are a number of other sources of funding in the London Central area, and that although we do have a clear strategy for working in partnership; we need to do it better. In particular LSCLC needs to put an emphasis on building partnerships to share funds and reduce duplication. This could include

innovation such as working through the Regional Skills Partnership to direct neighbourhood renewal funds towards funding 'first steps' learning.

Action: Verity welcomed any further feedback from the Council on Mark Haysom's letter.

Item 6. StAR Consultation Responses: Presentation

- 6.1 Steve Crow gave a presentation on the outcomes of the StAR Consultation, and outlined the next steps. Slides and supporting papers are attached (Annexes A-E).

Action: Steve Crow to circulate further analysis of StAR consultation responses when available.

Item 7. Annual Plan 2005-06 Update

- 7.1 Steve Crow tabled the first draft of the Annual Plan. Members were asked to provide Saskia with comments on this draft by the 28th of January. Council were asked to bear in mind that certain sections have been written by National Office (and therefore cannot be changed), and that there was still some detail to be added to the plan. The plan will be presented to the Council for approval on the 7th of February.

Action: Council to feedback any comments to Saskia by the 28th of January

Item 8. Council Membership

- 8.1 The Council were asked to give their views on inviting the L7 College Principal's group to send an observer to the Council.

Decision: The Council members present agreed.

Action: Secretariat to ask Council members not present for their views

Item 9. Any other business

- 9.1 Allen Manning informed the Council of two events in the London Central area:
- a. The launch of the King's Cross Working on 4th March. King's Cross Working is a new Construction jobs and training service for job seekers, employees and employers. Email KCWinfo@Camden.gov.uk
 - b. The Springboard Festival (March 7th – 11th 2005). The festival aims to promote opportunities in hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism to young people. More information at www.springboarduk.org.uk
- 9.2 Steve Crow brought the Information Sheet on the 2005/07 ESF Co-financing programme allocations to the attention of the Council (Annex F)

9.3 Verity brought the Consultation on the LSC Sustainable Development Policy to the attention of the Council and asked them to disseminate the consultation document via their contacts, and consider responding.

Item 10. Date of next meeting

10.1 The next ordinary meeting of the Council will take place on 18th of March. A special meeting of the Council will be held on the 7th of February, to approve the Annual Plan.

Publication no.

Meeting chair Yvonne Thompson

Minute taker Saskia Gretton

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