

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	9 October 2007
Subject	Council Meeting (04/07)
Location	Audio Visual Room, Canius House
Time	18:00
LSC office	London South
Publication intent	Internal

Present	Caroline Allen OBE, Vic Grimes, John Ball, Lola Barrett, Kevin Finnigan, Professor David Miles, Roger Mills, Julita Pearson, Peter Wylie
LSC staff	Mary Francis, Don King, Garth Taylor
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: Rita Bailey, Dame Lorna Boreland Kelly, Robert Dilly, Mark Lunn

Item 1. Welcome, apologies and introduction

The 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 an accurate and correct record.

1.2 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

1.3 Action Points

No outstanding actions.

1.4 Declarations of Interest

Peter Wylie declared an interest in Item 10, Norbury Manor Capital Bid. Lola Barratt declared at interest in Item 9, Merton College Capital Application in principle.

Item 2. Regional Audit Committee

- 2.1 Roger Mills advised members that no minutes of the last meeting were available. The next Regional Audit Committee meeting is taking place next week.

Item 3. Skills Alliance

- 3.1 Council was informed that the Skills Alliance transition plan had been finalised and that South London Business had taken on the responsibility for governance.

Item 4. IAG Strategic Board

- 4.1 Garth Taylor, Partnership Director for Croydon, said that the IAG meeting scheduled for end of September had been postponed due to many members being unable to make the meeting.

Item 5. Area Director's Report

- 5.1 Vic Grimes presented his paper to Council. Vic thanked the following Council members:
- Robert Dilley - for attending London South's Staff Development Awayday and for his excellent presentation.
 - John Ball – for his work with Skills Alliance and IAG; help and support with the very successful EQUAL Transnational event held at Congress House.
 - Roger Mills – for helping Orpington College's with their Capital project.
 - Caroline Allen – for attending a recent Area Office all staff meeting and giving support following the recent announcements about changes to the machinery of Government; her attendance and support at London South's McMillan Coffee morning; and with the launch of 'Staying the Course' project/dissemination toolkit.

Item 6. Delegation to Local Councils & Regional Boards

- 6.1 The Chair updated Council with news of the FE Bill, future of Local Councils and associated developments. The responsibilities of Local Council would be delegated to the London Regional Board on 1 November 2007 and then to a London Region Council once this had been established.
- 6.2 The Chair stated that she would like to formally close the Council's work by holding an event in early December which would be used to thank Council and Officers for their support and commitment over the last eight years and also to celebrate the achievements of learners and employers.
- 6.3 The Chair and Roger Mills would continue to represent the interest of London South as members of the London Regional Board, Capital Sub Committee and Regional Audit Committee. However, the Chair said that she would continue to maintain links with members and draw on their considerable experience and expertise when considering important issues. developments

that impact on London South.

Action: Formal Closing of Council event to be arranged for December 2007. The Chair to also maintain communication with current members to ensure the interests of London South are being met within the new Council body.

6.4 John Ball said that the event in December should be inclusive of Area Office staff in addition to Council members as they have all worked together. The event should be arranged so that it is inclusive and convenient for all.

Item 7. RUTC Capital Educational

- 7.1 Chair welcomed Kevin Watson, Principal of Richmond Upon Thames College, (RUTC) to the meeting along with Dennis Sergent, Deputy Vice Principal. Kevin's presentation was broken down into three key areas detailing the proposal, how this project was a good investment and how it was essential. The presentation showed how the investment would contribute to the LSC's strategic goals and in delivering 14-19 policy. The College's current buildings were built in the 1930s and are in a poor state; in addition, they are not DDA compliant. The new development would encourage better community links and integration. Kevin advised Council that there would be no sale of land as land is needed for sporting excellence activities and that the proposal is to completely rebuild the college.
- 7.2 Council members questioned whether the volume of 14-19 and level of service in levels 1 and 2 had changed. Kevin Watson informed Council that levels were reasonably consistent. RUTC is the only post 16 provider in the borough with 80% of its students undertaking a level 3 qualification. Monies spent on adult provision would not duplicate the functions of Richmond Adult and Community College.
- 7.3 The project's timescale is dependant on local planning support and is ideally ???by 2010. Council was informed that the Richmond local authority is more supportive of this project than the previous one, especially with the changes of land use and design.
- 7.4 Council were advised that during the rebuild, the project would be phased to accommodate students.
- 7.5 Chair thanked Kevin Watson for his presentation.
- 7.6 Mary Francis, Partnership Director for Richmond presented her paper to Council following Kevin Watson's presentation. This outlined the Educational case underpinning the RUTC capital application, updating Council on outstanding issues around the development of the proposal to rebuild the college. Council was asked to endorse the educational case. The full application would be presented to Regional Council at a later date.

Decision: Council agreed to endorse the recommendation.

Item 8. RACC Capital Educational

- 8.1 The Chair welcomed Christina Conroy, Principal of Richmond Adult and Community College to the meeting. Christina introduced the Chief Officers of RACC's Business Divisions: Drew Burns, Andrew Slade and Gabrielle Flint together with the AYH consultant for the capital project.
- 8.2 Christina presented the educational case for RACC's intended capital project to Council in the context of RACC's new strategy and mission'. The project is expected to cost £30million; RACC are looking for a 15% investment from the LSC. Christina informed Council that RACC had been offered FE Presumption and is exploring whether to develop 16-19 provision.
- 8.3 Council expressed their concern about mission drift and the possible risk with the number of projects and investments running simultaneously. Christina Conroy reminded Council that RACC has good management strategies; advised Council that RACC has invested in a capital consultant and offered assurance that a project team would be put in place to support any 16-19 developments.
- 8.4 Council raised concerns about the proposed development of Parkshot and investment in learning. Christina explained that there is a community covenant on this site, the income from the facilities on this site would be used to generate income from the paying public, PCDL and to meet the skills agenda. The focus would be on courses for the service industry, for example security, car parking and cleaning.
- 8.5 The Chair thanked Christina and her team for their presentation. Mary Francis then presented her paper to Council summarising the educational case underpinning the RACC capital application. Council was asked to endorse the recommendation in the paper.
- 8.6 Council noted that, whilst RACC had explained it was exploring the new option of FE presumption, Council did not consider it had been consulted on this issue. Council noted its serious concern that FE presumption to expand 14-19 has potential to cut across any Competition outcomes and its intention to highlight this to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in the context of Richmond.

Decision: Council broadly accepted the educational case for RACC's capital project. It would consider a detailed educational case and application in principle subject to RACC addressing significant issues and LSC officers agreeing resolution to these:

- How investment in learning and training is central to the Parkshot development
- Clarification of proposed increases in learner numbers, guided learning hours and space utilisation
- Further development of the proposed centre for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities
- How the monies raised by the sale of the Shaftesbury Centre will contribute to the overall cost of the development

- Complementarity of curriculum provision and facilities with other local providers, particularly RUTC and Hawk Training, with emphasis on sector skills areas and professional development.
- Implications for the RACC's educational case and application in principle of redefining mission and assessment of risk if FE Presumption goes ahead

Action: DCSF to be informed of the potential impact of FE Presumption for an Adult College in the borough and the difficulty of implementing Competition outcomes in a context of conflicting policies

Item 9. Merton College Capital Application in Principle

- 9.1 Chair welcomed Sally McEnhill, Principal of Merton College to the meeting. Sally started by thanking LSC colleagues (including Pravin Parmar and Basheer Dilmahomed) for taking this project forward. Sally's presentation provided Council with an update on the historical path of the project; the need for rebuilding and the areas requiring improvement.
- 9.2 Don King, Partnership Director for Merton presented his paper to Council detailing the outline of the Educational, Financial and property cases underpinning the capital application. It was recommended that Council endorses the project for consideration by National Capital Committee, subject to a satisfactory finance report. Council accepted the recommendation and gave the Chair, Vice Chair and Area Director the authority to consider the financial case on receipt of a report from the regional finance team.

Decision: Council fully endorsed the education case and agreed to the recommendation to delegate authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Area Director the authority to consider the financial case on receipt of a report from the regional finance team.

Item 10. Norbury Manor Capital Bid

- 10.1 Peter Wylie declared an interest and was excused from the meeting. Garth Taylor presented his paper to Council seeking approval in principle for Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise College's application for funding from the 16-19 Capital Fund.
- 10.2 Garth explained the background to this proposal and highlighted the issues of timing and eligibility that need to be resolved. The key point is that NMBEC became an 11-18 school in September 2007 before the presumption could come into effect and this has called into question whether or not the presumption should apply at all.

10.3 Officers have taken the view locally that given the difficulties the school has faced in developing its proposals and the importance of the project, it should not be penalised because of what is essentially a timing issue beyond its control. This view was endorsed by Council, however it was noted that it may be necessary for London South to put forward a test case to LSC National Office to secure a ruling on this issue

Decision: Council agreed to the recommendation subject to satisfactory resolution of outstanding eligibility, property and finance issues.

Item 11. Richmond 16-19 Competition, the Partnership's response to Council

- 11.1 Mary Francis, Partnership Director for Richmond presented her paper to Council. Mary reminded those present that Council agreed the Competition entry with significant amendments in March 2007, and had invited the 14-19 Partnership to respond to these.
- 11.2 Council was asked to agree to the three recommendations noted in the paper.
- 11.3 Council noted that the proposal sent by the Chair of the Secondary Schools Forum on behalf of the partnership included support from 14-19 partners in the borough (all 11-16 schools in Richmond, Richmond upon Thames College, Hawk Training and the Director of Children's Services). Council voiced its appreciation of the partnership work that had resulted in this revised proposal and the significant changes that had been effected to take this forward.
- 11.4 Council supported the focus in the bid on developing diploma provision across the borough and expanding apprenticeships and considered this showed real progress in meeting the statement of need. Council wished the Partnership every success in implementing the proposed expanded post 16 curriculum in Richmond upon Thames to meet the needs of all learners in the borough.
- 11.5 The Chair thanked Vic Grimes, Mary Francis and the team for their contribution to the developments achieved.

Decision: Council accepted the amended proposal submitted by the Richmond 14-19 Partnership as meeting the significant conditions required by Council and endorsed the £474,500 resource requirements.

Item 12. Learning for Living and Work strategy – consultation outcomes

- 12.1 Council received this paper for information.

Item 13. ESF/EQUAL Update

- 13.1 John Ball congratulated staff on the recent successful EQUAL event staged. He commented that all those involved worked well with partners on a challenging project on disabilities and mental health. Chair also thanked John Ball and all those involved.

Item 14. Any Other Business

14.1 Kevin Finnigan formally thanked the Chair for her role in leading the Council and this was endorsed by all Council members.

Meeting Close: 8:00pm

Meeting chair	Caroline Allen
Minute taker	Christina Evangeli
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