

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	4 September 2007
Subject	Council Meeting
Location	Centre Point
Time	09:00 - 11:00
LSC office	London Central
Publication intent	Internal

Present	Satnam Gill, Working Men's College Roy Lockett, Bectu (retired) Janet Morrison, Education Consultant Su Thomas, PACE
LSC staff	Lindsay Bates, Partnership Director Mike Fenton, Partnership Director Zuzana Mandic, Partnership Manager Jill Lowery, Area Director Buki Oni, Secretariat Chris Wright, Partnership Director
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: David Congalton, Emprise Services Ltd Cllr Keith Cunningham, RBKC Keith Faulkner, Working Links John Fairclough, Government Office for London Amanda Howells, Youth Crime Consultant Mick Hickey, JobCentre Plus Chris Heaume, Connexions Peter Ibbetson, Natwest (retired) Raymond Madden, ICAEW Angela McConville, Vital Regeneration Sue Rimmer, South Thames College Yvonne Thompson, ASAP Communications

Note: there was travel disruption of the day of the meeting and a number of members were not able to attend, but sent comments on the papers.

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

- 1.1 Roy chaired the meeting and welcomed all who were able to make it to the meeting despite the tube strike.
- 1.2 Jill welcomed Zuzana Mandic, Partnership Manager for Camden.

Item 2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Janet declared an interest in item 5 as the former head of the school which used to occupy the decant site which City of Westminster College is now proposing to occupy.

Item 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 May and Matters Arising

- 3.1 These were approved.

Item 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 June and Matters Arising

- 4.1 These were approved.

Item 5. City of Westminster College Capital Application for approval

- 5.1 Chris presented the paper which detailed the application of Phase 1 of the scheme which was approved at the July Council meeting. This application relates to the lease and refurbishment of decant accommodation to temporarily house the provision to allow the reconstruction at the college main site. The Council was then invited to give approval for the recommendation as stated in the paper.
- 5.2 The main issue discussed by the Council was the level of LSC support which is significant at 78.9% of the total project cost. The quicker the building project is completed, the more cost effective it is for the LSC as the lease will be kept to a minimum.

Action: Chris to check with the College if it has agreed a fixed price with the building contractor.

Recommendation

- 5.3 The Council recommended the following;
 - a. detailed approval for the college to enter into a lease of decant accommodation in North Wharf Road from Westminster City Council for a period from September 2007 to no later than 31 July 2011. Total rent payable not to exceed £7,931,250 (including a contingency rental provision of £2,056,250) with LSC capital grant support of 78.9%
 - b. detailed approval for the refurbishment, adaptations and alterations of the decant space at a total cost of £4,772,703 with LSC grant support of 78.9%.
 - c. consent for the college to secure £2,680,534 of loan support to finance the application.

Item 6. Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities Review

6.1 The LLDD paper was not presented due to the low attendance out at the meeting, however the following comments and ensuing discussion were noted.

Comments and Discussion on the paper

- 6.2 An effective method of attracting applicants especially within the Black & Minority Ethnic Groups (BMEs) would be to organise job fairs and also interviews with employers. However a different approach is now adopted, where applicants are matched with employers and provided with whatever they may require to carry out the job effectively. An example of an organisation that does this is Remploy.
- 6.3 An area of concern is the accuracy of data held on the number of adults who fall into this category and the number of jobs available to them. Hopefully the anticipated LLDD strategy which is proposed as a London document will address data issues.
- 6.4 Another area of concern was the fact that there is no mention of funding in the strategy, although the LSC recognises that the issue of funding is a challenge.
- 6.5 ESF funding could provide another valuable resource.
- 6.6 Feedback on the strategy is currently ongoing and should be sent to the regional team. An implementation plan will be available in the New Year.

Item 7. 14-19 Reforms update

7.1 Mike introduced the paper which provided an update on progress in delivering the 14-19 reform agenda within the central London area.

Comments and Discussion on the paper

- 7.2 The effects of the new funding arrangements for schools with sixth forms were of major concern. Although no school will lose in absolute terms, it is still unclear what the full impact will be until after the comprehensive spending review in 2008/09.
- 7.3 There was also concern that funding for growth will be extremely limited.

Item 8. Skills Campaign in London

8.1 Zuzana who had previously worked in a marketing role with Lambeth College and is the matrix lead for communications and marketing introduced the paper which provided an update on some of the key activities of the campaign.

Comments and Discussion on the paper

- 8.2 The effectiveness of the campaign and how this will be monitored was discussed and it was agreed that it would be necessary for modifications along the line.
- 8.3 The relationship between the TUC and LSC as regards Train to Gain was discussed. It was felt that union learning representatives could be utilised to promote TTG, though it was noted that many colleges do already link effectively with learning representatives.

- 8.4 The effectiveness of the brokerage system was queried, though they do deliver based on targets set for them.
- 8.5 On the skills pledge, it was suggested it would be a good idea to have figures which show the level of commitment.

Action: Jill to follow this up with National office.

Item 9. Any Other Business and Date of next Meeting

- 9.1 Jill asked members to keep dates in their diaries as future meetings may be necessary pending the establishment of regional councils and also to discuss capital proposals as and when necessary.
- 9.2 Roy thanked Jill for the time spent with the Council which has been constructive and useful and asked her to convey this message to staff.
- 9.3 Dates currently scheduled for meetings in 2007 are:
- a. Council dinner 20th September
 - b. Council meeting 9th November
 - c. Council meeting 14th December

Meeting chair	Roy Lockett
Minute taker	Buki Oni
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