

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

## Minutes of meeting

<b>Date</b>	13 May 2005
<b>Subject</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Location</b>	The Montague Hotel
<b>Time</b>	09:00
<b>LSC office</b>	London Central
<b>Publication intent</b>	Public

<b>Present</b>	Yvonne Thompson CBE (Chair) Verity Bullough (Executive Director) David Congalton (Emprise Services plc) Cllr Keith Cunningham (RBKC) Keith Faulkner CBE (Working Links) Satnam Gill (Working Mens College) Peter Ibbetson (NatWest UK Business Banking (retired)) Peter Ingram (St Ives Financial Ltd) Angela McConville (Haywards Property Services) Liz McGivern (Red Carnation Hotels) Su Thomas (PACE)
<b>In attendance</b>	Allen Manning (JobCentre Plus) Chris Heaume (Connexions) Richard Wragg (Government Office for London) Rob Grover (Business Link for London)
<b>LCLSC staff</b>	Steve Crow (Director of Development) Jill Lowery (Director of Operations) Saskia Gretton (Clerk to the Council)
<b>Apologies</b>	Raymond Madden (ABN AMRO Bank NV) Tony Nelson (Director of Skills and Workforce Development, LSCLC) Roy Lockett (Bectu Deputy General Secretary (retired)) Maxine Jones (LDA) Amanda Howells (Youth Crime Reduction Consultant)

## Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Yvonne Thompson welcomed the Council, particularly new members and thanked Liz McGivern for the hospitality.

## Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### **Item 3. Matters arising**

**2.2 Meeting with Argent Group plc:** Verity and Saskia have held a pre-meeting with the LDA to discuss the Kings Cross development. The main points from that meeting were:

- The current focus of LSCLC should be on continuing to support the Construction Training Facility (King's Cross Working) and continuing to make sure schools and colleges give local young people the best foundation they need.
- The LDA will be conducting a skills audit of the local area, and the specification will be shared with LSCLC
- LSCLC to meet with Argent Group as planned.

The Council briefly discussed the skills priorities for the regeneration area, in particular, the impact of the Eurostar terminal on the local area and the specific skills needs this will generate such as European languages.

**5.3 Young People's Activity Agreement and Allowance:** Verity discussed update from Chris Heaume with Jacqui Henderson. Jacqui is happy for this initiative to be piloted in London. Chris Heaume is now chairing the Connexions steering group for this initiative.

**Equality and Diversity Seminar, 12 April:** Yvonne updated members who did not attend: The session focused on working together with partners in London, and on benchmarking. There was a good turnout, the presentations were focused and the session was very successful.

### **Item 4. Post Election Round-Up: Implications for the LSC**

4.1 The Council discussed the new ministerial team in the DfES and other outcomes of the reshuffle:

- The small labour majority may prevent major shifts in policy
- Jacqui Smith, Bill Rammell and Phil Hope are all seen as people who will have a positive impact on the environment in which the LSC operates.
- In other departments, the presence of David Blunkett and Margaret Hodge in DWP strengthens the link between skills and disadvantage and there is a lot of focus coming through on strengthened links between the LSC and JCP.
- The youth green paper will almost certainly place emphasis on Academies, which the LSC (and local LSCs) aim to shape, rather than oppose.
- On a local level the new MPs are Justine Greening and Sir Malcolm Rifkind (both Conservative).

### **Item 5. LSC London Central Budgets 2005-06**

5.1 Verity outlined the current position on the 2005-06 budget, which has been confirmed by national office, picking out the following points:

- We have more money to spend on frontline services, but the administration budget has been frozen. Meeting increased demand for 14-19 learning and maintaining an adult offer is the key challenge.
- Workforce development funds are to be used on Investors in People, Working with Business Link and supporting economic development
- Funding for the 14-19 Pathfinder (scheme to extend stage 4 to give young people an extra chance to get 5 GCSEs) in Southwark is being continued due to the success of the programme. Southwark is the only borough in London to

receive this extra funding. The LSC will sustain the 14-19 Pathfinder programmes in Islington and Westminster through the LIDF programme.

- The 14-16 Increased Flexibility programme is being sustained but there is no additional money for development. While it has been highly successful, there are other priorities.

**Action: Verity to provide Council with Pan-London figure for reduction in Adult Skills budget when available.**

**Action: Saskia to coordinate confidential paper on Borough 14-19 Action Plans, outlining level of engagement, action agreed, progress made, remaining barriers.**

5.2 The Council discussed the Adult Information Advice and Guidance service:

- The LSC does not provide IAG directly but contracts with private service providers. We pay for enhanced services for priority groups, but the providers charge other users for these services.
- Our two main target groups are those who have basic skills needs or have qualifications below level 2. However, it is difficult (and counter productive) to turn away clients are not in the priority groups. Individuals may also not know what level they are qualified at.
- There is an argument in favour of not identifying priority groups, and providing the service free for all.
- The council was also interested in how success is measured in IAG services. It is relatively easy to measure what is delivered, but harder to measure how successful the service is. This is something that closer working with Jobcentre Plus could strengthen.

A strategy for the IAG service is nearly complete. The Council would like to have a seminar to look at the Adult IAG Service in detail.

**Action: Saskia to circulate IAG Strategy when available**

**Action: Secretariat to schedule a Council Seminar on the IAG Service**

5.3 The Council discussed the economies of scale that could be achieved by greater regionalisation. Any plans for closer regional working will be presented to the Secretary of State by Mark Haysom along with proposals for more efficient delivery.

## **Item 6. LIDF Allocations 2005-06**

- 6.1 Jill Lowery and Steve Crow outlined the proposed allocations for their Directorates. Verity acted for Tony and outlined the proposed allocations for Workforce Development.
- 6.2 Council were asked to note that a number of budget lines appeared to be higher than expected – for example work based learning, this is due to slipping commitments from last year.
- 6.3 The two LIDF spending priorities for Operations are meeting commitments made last year and continuing the Standards Fund. The Standards Fund allows providers to bid for funding for activities such as developing new provision and quality improvement. Since the introduction of the Standards fund, colleges and providers in the London Central area have achieved marked improvements in success rates and some of the best inspection results in the country.
- 6.4 Angela McConville questioned the inclusion of funding for the Credit Framework Project as she was on the steering group and the project had been wound up last year. Jill explained that this was due to an extension of aspects of the project and slipping of funding from 2004-05.

**Action: Jill Lowery to provide Angela McConville with further details on 'phase 3' of the Credit Framework project.**

6.5 The Council was interested in how the impact of LIDF projects is measured and whether the proposed projects build on success. An impact assessment of LIDF projects is being produced, which will be circulated to Council when available.

**Action: Saskia to circulate LIDF impact assessment to Council when available.**

6.6 LIDF funding is one of the few funding streams available to the Development Directorate.

6.7 The Council asked for more detail on the LLDD projects identified in the Development section of the paper.

- These projects will build on the recommendations of the review of provision in London that has just been completed.
- Their aim will be to develop the good practice that currently exists and enable us to place more learners in specialist provision within the London Region.
- This work will be conducted on a Regional basis.
- Elaine McWilliam, Head of Social Inclusion at LSC London Central is one of the region's experts in this area.

6.8 The biggest new area of work for Development is Offender Learning.

- At the moment this is taking up at least 2 days a week of Steve Crow's time. A regional strategic board has now been established.
- It is a huge challenge, particularly for London, as almost half of all offenders in custody and people on remand are held in London Prisons. Most have serious skills needs and most of those with skills needs commit another crime within 2 weeks of leaving prison.
- GoL, Jobcentre Plus and Connexions are all partners in this area of work.

**Action: Secretariat to schedule Council Seminar on Offender Learning**

6.9 The proposed projects for Workforce Development supplement activity undertaken using mainstream funding. This additional funding is needed as the Skills strategy is very demanding, all the Sector Skills Councils see London as one of their priority areas and the squeeze on the Adult Skills budget means we need to give colleges as much support as possible to work with employers.

6.10 A local budget for Marketing and Communications should be included here (circa £200K), as National Office has not yet confirmed whether there will be a direct allocation.

**Decision:** The Council approved the proposed allocations.

**Action: Review LIDF allocation and contract performance at next Council meeting**

## **Item 7. Any other business and information items**

7.1 Yvonne brought the information items to the attention of the Council and asked them to raise any questions with Saskia.

7.2 Verity asked for volunteers to join the Audit Committee and the Capital Committee. It was agreed that members would be able to attend one meeting then decide if they would like to continue.

**Action: Saskia to circulate formal invite to join the Committees.**

7.3 The Council were invited to attend a number of events:

- 21 June: the Annual Public Meeting
- 28<sup>th</sup> of June: 14-19 Strategy Summer conference [check with Paul Jeffrey]
- We would also like to invite one Council Member to the Young Enterprise Regional Finals on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June.

**Action: Council members to express interest in this event.**

#### **Item 8. Date of next meeting**

8.1 The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> of July. The venue is still to be confirmed.

**Action: Council members to contact Saskia if they would be willing to host future meetings.**

#### **Publication no.**

#### **Meeting chair**

Yvonne Thompson

#### **Minute taker**

Saskia Gretton

#### **Document ref.**

G:\ED Office\Council\Council Meetings\2005 Meetings\13 May 2005\loc-councilmeeting-publicminutes-13may2005-v0-1.doc

#### **Version**

0.1

#### **Date of version**

17 May 2005

#### **LSC office**

Learning and Skills Council London Central  
Centre Point 103 New Oxford Street London WC1A 1DR  
T 0845 019 4144 F 020 7896 8686  
[www.lsc.gov.uk/londoncentral](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/londoncentral)