

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date	18 March 2005
Subject	Council Meeting
Location	Blue and Yellow
Time	09:00
LSC office	London Central
Publication intent	Public

Present	Yvonne Thompson (Chair) Verity Bullough (Executive Director) Roy Lockett (Bectu Deputy General Secretary (retired)) Maureen Salmon (Consultant) Liz McGivern (Red Carnation Hotels) Su Thomas (PACE) Cllr Keith Cunningham (RBKC) Keith Faulkner (Working Links) Maxine Jones (LDA) Marie-Louise Rossi (International Underwriters Association) Paul Twyman (Political Strategy Ltd)
In attendance	Rob Grover (Business Link) Liz Cierebiej (JobCentre Plus) Chris Heaume (Connexions) Richard Wragg (Government Office for London)
LSC staff	Jill Lowery (Director of Operations, LSCLC) Tony Nelson (Director of Skills and Workforce Development, LSCLC) Saskia Gretton (Clerk to the Council, LSCLC)
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: Steve Crow (Director of Development, LSCLC) Allen Manning (JobCentre Plus) Satnam Gill (Working Mens College)

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Yvonne Thompson welcomed the Council and introduced Maxine Jones, representing the London Development Agency, to her first meeting.

Item 2. Presentation on the King Cross Partnership

- 2.1 Robert Evans of Argent Group plc gave a presentation on the proposals for the redevelopment of the Kings Cross Goods Yard and surrounding area on the

completion of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. The slides of this presentation have been circulated to the Council.

- 2.2 The discussion following the presentation highlighted the importance of learning and skills in the regeneration project and the good practice example of the Paddington Basin Project.

The LSC, and LSC funded providers were identified as key partners in any learning and skills developments within the regeneration project.

The LDA are working with Argent, Camden and Islington on developing a Learning and Skills Strategy for the project and it was agreed that it is important for LSC London Central to play a role in these discussions.

Action: Secretariat to arrange meeting between Argent, LSC London Central and LDA to discuss links between our work and the regeneration of King's Cross

Item 3. Minutes of last meeting

- 3.1 The minutes of the last council meeting and the meeting to approve the annual plan were approved.

Item 4. Matters arising

- 4.1 Roy Lockett updated the Council on the recruitment of new Council members. The appointment of 6 new council members had been recommended to the National Appointment's Committee and whose response was awaited. Headteachers and University Senior Staff were in the process of being interviewed for the remaining Council places.

Item 5. Operational Plan: Risks and Resources

- 5.1 Verity presented the key alliances and resources needed to deliver our annual plan and the risks affecting this delivery. The paper followed the same format as the headline activities in the Annual Plan and its purpose was to assist in the formulation of the Operational plan.
- 5.2 The Council discussed the sections on Young People and Adults in some detail, but did not have time to discuss the Agenda for Change section of the paper.

Action: Council Members to forward additional comments to Saskia by 22nd April

- 5.3 Key points made in the discussion included::

- *Delivery:*
 - The Operational plan should outline how we deliver demand led learning for young people and how we balance our funding. It also needs to address how to manage the delivery of adult level 2, as we have no additional funding for the Adult Level 2 entitlement.
 - The Council discussed innovative approaches to flexible learning provision and The Young People's Activity Agreement and Allowance (announced in the budget). It was suggested that London Central would be a good pilot area for this project.

Action: Chris Heaume to email details to Verity for discussion with the Regional Director.

- When developing curriculum areas and identifying skills priorities, it is important to look not only at the current skills needs, but also likely future pinch points.

- *Employers:*
 - The success of engaging employers depends to some extent on marketing and communication, therefore this should be included in any 'resources' analysis of the operational plan.
 - It was noted that London Central LSC is not an Employer Training Pilot pilot area.
 - The Council also discussed how to work with the Sector Skills Councils. Concerns were expressed about the way that some of the SSCs were developing, however, it necessary to work through them to engage employers wherever possible.

Action: Saskia will circulate a briefing note on the Skills White paper, due out on the 22nd of March.

- *Collaboration*
 - Connexions should be identified as a key partner for the activity to widen the choice of vocational routes for young people (A1).
 - The Council discussed collaboration in some depth, as there are currently a number of areas of concern, in particular:
 - The independence of the City Academies is challenging borough collaboration
 - Although the LSC has been identified as a partner in the development of Children's Trusts, there are concerns that there will be a 'narrow' focus on child protection.
 - The 14-19 Forums are seen as the best mechanism for ensuring strong cross borough collaboration and they were identified as a priority for LIDF funding.
 - The development of 14-19 forums was also discussed. In particular the Council were concerned about ensuring that all the forums were of the highest standard. The Council discussed whether there were ways in which 'levers' could be used to promote involvement of partners, whether contractual relationships would be of benefit to the forums, and whether the reorganisation of Connexions could be used to their benefit.
- Other areas of work were discussed, including; the progress towards closer working with Jobcentre Plus and the Joint Action Plan, the transfer of Offender Learning, and the high number of Special Colleges for Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities with low inspection results.

Action: Saskia to circulate Jobcentre Plus/LSCLC joint action plan.

5.4 Verity stressed that further discussion on the fit between activities and resources (and budgets) would be a main agenda item for the next meeting.

Item 6. Financial Budget and Update

6.1 The financial update was noted.

- a. The paper highlights the good management of this year's budget. We have made the necessary saving of £855K through some under-spends and slipping Area Wide Inspection spending into next year.

- b. Jill Lowery drew the Council's attention to the line 3 of the paper, which shows that E2E budget is currently on profile.
- c. This led to a discussion of the current challenges to the work based learning budget. As success rates and demand have risen, we need to find more money to guarantee work based learning places for young people. We may have to make hard choices about what counts as essential activity and work with our partners, such as Connexions, to meet shared targets.

Item 7. Retiring Council Members.

- 7.1 Yvonne Thompson thanked Marie-Louise Rossi, Maureen Salmon and Paul Twyman for all their contributions to the work of the Council. They agreed to keep in touch with the Council and LSC London Central.

Item 8. Date of next meeting

- 8.1 The next meeting of the Committee will take place on 12th April 2005, this will be a Seminar on Equality and Diversity. The next full business meeting of the Council is on the 13th of May.

Publication no.

Meeting chair

Yvonne Thompson

Minute taker

Saskia Gretton

Document ref.

G:\ED Office\Council\Council Meetings\2005 Meetings\18 March 2005\loc-councilmeeting-publicminutes-18mar2005-v0-1.doc

Version

0.1

Date of version

18 March 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