

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 26 September 2006
Subject London East Council
Location Boardroom
Time 09:00
LSC office London East
Publication intent Internal

Present Sandra Moore – Interim Chair
Ken Coello
Mick Connolly
Mohamed Omer
Mike Pettifer

In attendance Observers:
Jane Murray - London East Connexions Partnership
Cecily Wint – JobCentre Plus

LSC staff Trevor Cook
Nicole Francis
Jim Lewis
Richard Livingstone
Tony Oliva
Malcolm Rodrigues
Karen Powell

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Geoff Pine
Roger Tucker
Andy Johnson
Duncan Kent
Mark Elliott
Kenny Frederick
Sarah Leonard - Government Office for London

Item 1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 Ken Coello advised that this was his last meeting and handed over to Sandra Moore, Interim Chair. Sandra Moore formally thanked Ken Coello for his support and mentoring over the last few months and his great contribution to the Council since its inception.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record.

Item 3. Matters arising

- 3.1 Ken Coello has communicated with Kenny Fredericks.
- 3.2 Sandra Moore will pick up the possibility of inviting David Hughes to attend a Council meeting – will depend on new arrangements.

Action: Sandra Moore

- 3.3 Jim Lewis reported that the Strategic Framework for the Thames Gateway was ready and now 'interim' – a fully costed programme would be published in July/August 2007 and Jim would have a major role in shaping it.
- 3.4 Ken Coello stressed that the role of the LSC/Partnership Directors was vital regarding inspections. Mike Pettifer advised that the DTZ Report of Southern Boroughs was a prelude to inspections and that he had changed the direction of the report following comments by Geoff Pine. Mike Pettifer met with all three principals and the report is now focussed on the big strategic issues. The principals will then suggest options themselves, and consider how the three colleges can work more closely together – the meeting was very productive and there was agreement that things needed to change in the long term. There is a meeting on 6th October when they will be talking to the Governors and the Principals. Mike Pettifer is attending the Governors meetings too, which is an important step. Hackney Community College inspection is due week commencing 9th October. Mohamed Omer asked if the LSC was confident that Bexley was on the right path. Mike Pettifer replied that the quality issues were moving in the right direction, but the infrastructure of the building was cause for serious concern. The proposed move to Bexleyheath would help.

Item 4. Chair's update

- 4.1 A discussion followed on the Streamlining of LSC Accountability paper from Chris Banks. If the Act of Parliament goes through, there will be no need for local Councils, but this is likely to take about 18 months. In the meantime, the responsibilities will remain the same, unless the local Council want to change anything.
- 4.2 Sandra Moore is attending a Chairs meeting on 10th and 11th October and will take any comments along. Concern was expressed regarding losing local representation, particularly in London East with the Olympics in 2012. The subject of an exit strategy was also discussed. It was felt that London East

has always had a strong local Council and that there was a need to capture those skills/abilities.

Action: Sandra Moore

- 4.3 Mike Pettifer stressed that from the LSC's perspective the Council was still needed as part of the Business Cycle, Planning and Performance, which has been re-calibrated to involve the Council more. The Regional role is predominantly governance and the Skills Board will be about adult skills, not 14-19. The Regional role is strategic.
- 4.4 Jim Lewis expressed concern that the new arrangements would reduce the LSC's influence across the Thames Gateway area and felt that the Chairs of the three local LSC's should be brought together. Sandra Moore suggested having an away day to discuss the issue more fully – she will send out a summary to members inviting them to attend, possibly on 31st October, as this date is still in Council member's diaries. David Hughes will also be invited to attend for an hour.

Action: Sandra Moore

Item 5. Area Director's update

- 5.1 **Theme 7** - Mike Pettifer advised that there was still a high vacancy rate of 43/44%, which was of concern both Regionally and locally. The Senior Team is still the same, with 4 Partnership Director vacancies and 1 Deputy Area Director vacancy. Interviews have taken place recently for Partnership Directors, so some may get appointed soon. Recruitment for the Deputy Area Director will take place over the next 3 months. At Partnership Manager level, there are 12 vacancies out of 24, but there should be some internal promotions soon. Partnership Adviser and Administrative posts are 95% filled. Mike advised that the position should be better by January 2007, as an external recruitment campaign was currently underway, but he still did not expect the office to be fully staffed.
- 5.2 Mohamed Omer asked about BME representation and Mike Pettifer confirmed that there was a lot of work going on to encourage applicants and Sally Stewart, the HR Director was taking this forward. It was suggested that a brief paper on the targets at different levels and how the LSC is trying to reach them would be useful.
- 5.3 **Business Cycle Update** – Mike Pettifer delivered a powerpoint presentation refresher on what the LSC is about, budgets and performance. He also outlined the London Business Cycle, which was developed from the National Core Business Cycle by LSC London East and adopted across London. The key Council meetings as part of this cycle are in September, December and February, so that the Council and partners can effect change.
- 5.4 A discussion then followed on the cross cutting priorities for London East across all boroughs, as discussed at the All Staff Away day on 19th September – this covered in particular the NEET group and ESOL issues. Sandra Moore congratulated Mike Pettifer and his team in getting the Business Cycle adopted for London.

Item 6. Performance overview and report on 05/06

- 6.1 This was covered in Item 5, and backed up by the paper from Richard Livingstone – he was hoping to have more up to date FE data to include. Both London East and London Central overachieved on WBL, the others were on target. Ken Coello asked about construction - Jim Lewis reported that in some areas such as plumbing they were over, but in others such as bricklaying, they were under, and the genders were still not switching. All boroughs want more WBL, but the quality of it is the challenge for the LSC.

Item 7. Final Allocations 06/07

- 7.1 Richard Livingstone handed out a table on funding, which was missing from the papers. The biggest increases are in School Sixth Forms, which the LSC has little control over – with the others, there is a dialogue with providers. Academies are independent. WBL – there is no reduction in the E2E budget. This is due to EMA, which is outside of the LSC budget.

Item 8. Emerging Priorities 08/08

- 8.1 This item was covered by Mike Pettifer's presentation in item 5.

Item 9. Capital Strategy 06/07

- 9.1 Trevor Cook presented this, for information only at this stage. He explained that London is on a slightly different timeline – strategies are being drafted locally, which will form part of the wider regional strategy, with consultation in October.
- 9.2 The information in the second paper provided to the Council is more detailed than the summaries which will be in the final consultation documents, and the confidentiality of this was stressed to the Council. The consultation would be out in two weeks, with the results going to LRB, then the National Capital Committee in the New Year. Some projects are ready for approval, some are being discussed.
- 9.3 The Council will have the opportunity to respond to the final consultation document, which may include competitions. Strategic options will be looked at to steer the next stage of the dialogue. All capital projects have to be approved by the LSC. There is a National Capital Budget too and it depends on the financial viability of the project as to how much the LSC will contribute. Even if there is no cash contribution, the LSC are still involved. Sandra Moore asked about neighbouring boroughs – part of the application process is to look at local need/provision.

Item 10. Capital Approvals

- 10.1 **Newham College – Fashion & Textiles Museum** – this is a regional specialism in a flagship building, which Zandra Rhodes is in. There are technical issues regarding the use of space and it is an entrepreneurial move – more detail is contained on page 23 of the Capital Strategy Paper. This will go to Mark Haysom.

10.2 **Greenwich Community College – Eltham Centre** – this went through the Urgent Committee Approval process and has been signed off locally and forwarded to Regional Office for National Capital Committee approval.

Item 11. Any Other Business

11.1 Sandra Moore thanked everyone for their support. She suggested that 31st October should be kept in everyone's diaries as a possible date for the Away day, although this could be a bit too soon, and it could be at the end of November if not. Sandra Moore will send a note about this to all the members – location and structure to be decided. Interim members can be appointed.

Action: Sandra Moore

Date of next meeting: 19th December 2006.

Meeting chair	Sandra Moore
Minute taker	Karen Powell
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