

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 6 July 2007
Subject Seventy Second Council Meeting
Location LSC London North, Dumayne House
Time 08.30 - 10.30
LSC office London North
Publication intent Internal

Present

Peter Lyne	Colin Madden
Afzal Akram	David Plank
Surendra Deo	Ian Turner
Alison Dickens	Keith Weller
Nick Drane	Sarah Carrick
Carol Gibson	Hassan Shami
Grace Igbasi	Hazel Sheridan (note-taker)

**In attendance
(item 3 only)**

Sue Lakeman (Leyton Sixth Form College)
Alan Leak (Leyton Sixth Form College)
Bill Brand (Nightingale Associates)
Chris Way (Nightingale Associates)

LSC staff

Les Denny (item 3 only)
Ann Crago (item 4 only)

Apologies

Apologies have been received from:

Paul Butler	Mary Vine-Morris
Ian Ferguson	Yolande Burgess
Lenny Kinnear	

Item 1. Welcome and minutes of meetings 4 May and 1 June

1.1 The minutes of 4 May and 1 June were agreed as accurate records of the meetings.

Item 2. Matters arising

- 2.1 Action point 3.6 from 4 May – the letter from Peter Lyne has been sent to the Chair of the National Council Adult Learning Committee.
- 2.2 Item 6.1 from 1 June – it was queried if there was any progress on the IT budget shortfall at the Haringey Sixth Form Centre and if anything could be done.

Action: YB to investigate and feedback for Finance Sub-committee meeting on 20 July.

Item 3. Leyton Sixth Form College In-principle Capital Application

- 3.1 Sue Lakeman, Principal of Leyton Sixth Form College gave a presentation to members about the proposed development at the College (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 There has been a significant rise in the number of students (35% since 2000) which has resulted in overcrowding, a shortage of classrooms and study space and a lack of social space.
- 3.3 Feedback from students, external verifiers and the Ofsted Annual Assessment Visit have criticised the accommodation and facilities at the college.
 - a. Many buildings are no longer fit for purpose – they are noisy; use of rooms is inflexible; limited access for LLDD students; lack of small rooms for 1:1 student support; difficult to maintain correct temperature; and high maintenance and energy costs.
 - b. Current security of the buildings is an issue as although there is only one gate, there are many access doors due to the building configuration.
 - c. Mobile classrooms are being used for teaching and for examinations.
- 3.4 The planned solution is to replace some buildings with new ones to add space, refurbish and upgrade the accommodation in the main building and to have a single access point and internal 'street' space for improved security. The aim is a coherent capital development to provide high-quality teaching in an exciting, safe and inviting environment for young people and the community. The proposal complements the Borough's Building Schools for the Future plans for Leyton/Leytonstone.
- 3.5 The architects, Nightingale Associates, also gave a presentation on what buildings and facilities are to be replaced or moved.
 - a. Main 1929 building and Meridian Hall will be retained. A new forecourt area and glazed entrance will enhance the approach to the College. The new buildings will create an internal street linking access to all buildings and create a social space for students.
 - b. Room space on the second floor of the new building will be column free to enable flexibility with teaching options, e.g. teaching to two student groups simultaneously.
 - c. The sports hall will be moved to outside of the main College buildings and next to the football pitches which will consolidate sports facilities in one place and make it easier to manage community access.
 - d. The use of natural light, recycled products, rainwater harvesting and some solar control are planned where possible for sustainability.
- 3.6 *Comments/queries:*
 - *An inventive solution to 'bring-up' the area*
 - *Very good plan. Has the planning application been agreed? Were neighbours consulted? Is there any decrease in parking spaces? SL answered that original drainage issues had been resolved. Neighbours*

challenged the use of the College by the community and the application was approved with a condition about community use. Neighbours were consulted and the College are willing to consult with community groups to discuss any issues. There is no change to the number of car parking spaces but there are more cycle spaces.

- Do you have student feedback about this plan? There has not been a full student consultation, however groups of students have been involved and are very enthusiastic.*
- Are the costings robust? The costings are strong. The College has a full design team and surveyors and a vigorous review of all the costs has taken place. An actual costs contract will be used. 95% costs certainty with 5-7% contingency.*
- The movement of students and organisation of the College during construction work needs to be very well managed. All temporary buildings will be enhanced so the atmosphere of change is positive.*
- This is a good scheme. Have you looked at the demographic cohort forecast? The College proposal is not based on growth in numbers but the local authority forecasts do predict school under-capacity by 2015 so maintaining student numbers is realistic.*
- The scheme will take 2-2½ years to complete, which should keep costs certainty under control. Most of the demolition work will take place during Summer 2008.*

Decision: Council members approved the application in principle and agreed to delegate authority to the local Finance Sub-committee to complete the detailed assessment and make a recommendation to the National Capital Committee.

Item 4. Skills Campaign

- 4.1 Ann Crago introduced a DVD showing the ideas behind and the features of the Skills Campaign which is to be launched on 9 July. It is a 3-5 year campaign aimed at embedding the importance of skills in the public conscience.
- 4.2 The SSDA, ALP, AoC and LSC have been working together in the run-up to this campaign. (This is not exclusively an LSC campaign as only part of the skills offer is funded by the LSC.) Television and radio adverts and posters will be used nationally.
- 4.3 The idea behind the campaign is that individuals take responsibility for and can shape their own future. It is hoped that the painted hands, used in a metaphorical and physical sense, will be the talking point and make the advertisements memorable. Graphics from the campaign can be used by training providers on their marketing and information literature.
- 4.4 Further information can be found via the website www.lsc.gov.uk/inourhands or on telephone number 0800 011 30 30. The website has categorised information for adults, young people, employers and stakeholders.

Comments:

- *Do we know the volume of take-up of courses expected? Are providers ready for the uptake? Colleges have been informed of this campaign and are prepared for an increase in enquiries.*
- *The quality of the initial response from the telephone assistance or website is important so as not to lose or dishearten a potential learner.*
- *The longer term of view of Leitch was that all people will need to be skilled, however we are aiming short term at Level 2. There have been cuts in adult funding and some adults need to progress to get to Level 2. SC responded that the increased government focus is on adults in work – mainly through Train to Gain (the overall funding for adult provision has not been reduced). The LSC is aware of the importance of maintaining progression pathways to enable people to access Level 2 training and is working with partners, like the LDA, to secure funding for more pre-Level 2 provision in London.*
- *This is a great campaign. If all adult training enquiries are to go through Train to Gain there will be some cynicism from providers as some are brokering their own Train to Gain provision. Response: enquiries would be directed appropriately – employers would be referred to Train to Gain brokers but individuals would not.*

Item 5. Future of LSC London North Council

- 5.1 Royal Assent for the Further Education and Training Bill is expected in the autumn. Recruitment for the regional council has therefore not yet begun and local councils will remain in force until this legislation is passed.
- 5.2 The LSC was keen to maintain the experience and input of council members into the Learning & Skills sector. In the future there may be opportunities for council members to have input into education and skills matters by other means, such as becoming a Governor in a school or college, and task forces may be convened to deal with specific topics. Council members were requested to let Mary or Hazel know if they are interested in applying for regional Council membership or becoming a Governor.

Action: Members to note

- 5.3 A copy of the statement from John Denham on the recent Government department changes was distributed to members. Legislation will be required to transfer the responsibility for 14-19 funding from the LSC to Local Authorities. The LSC does not expect this legislation to be passed before autumn 2008 and implementation is likely to be 2009/10. In the meantime will be working closely with the new departments on these changes.

Item 6. Any other business

- 6.1 Carol Gibson is leaving the Council and Waltham Forest College to become Principal of Bolton Community College. PL thanked Carol for her excellent support and the common sense approach she has brought to the Council. Her answers and opinions from a provider's point of view were always put across in a very constructive and eloquent way, even under very challenging

circumstances. Council members would like to wish Carol all the best for the future.

6.2 A farewell dinner will be organised for past and present Council members for Friday 28 September.

Action: HS to organise venue and invitation list.

Item 7. Date of next meeting

7.1 The next meeting will be held on Friday 7 September, 8.30 – 10.30, at Dumayne House.

Meeting chair	Peter Lyne
Minute taker	Hazel Sheridan
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