

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 14 March 2006
Subject London Regional Board
Location Centre Point
Time 14.00 - 16.00
LSC office London Region
Publication intent Internal

Present

Council members:-

Rod Kenyon
Frances O'Grady National Council
Peter Lyne London North
Clare Igidaro National Council
Richard Carter London South
Yvonne Thompson London Central
Ken Coello London East

LSC staff

David Hughes Regional Director
Philippa Langton London North
Jill Lowery London Central
Peter Pledger London West
Mary Conneely Regeneration
Jay Mercer London South

In Attendance

Doug Norris
Brian Godbold Regional Finance Director
Jon Thorn Regional Office
Alan Parnum Regional Office

Apologies

Vivien Cutler London East

Item 1. Matters Arising

1.1 None. The minutes were agreed as accurate.

Item 2. Mayoral Consultation

2.1 DH summarised developments. There have been 160 responses, only 60 of which supported option 4. This is not a clear-cut result. The final decision is likely to be primarily based upon political considerations.

2.2 DH circulated the LDA paper on reform of the London Skills Commission and explained the background. He proposed a joint discussion with LDA on the purpose of the Skills Commission once the ODPM review outcome is known.

2.3 DH's proposed course of action was AGREED.

Action: Any LRB member with comments on the LDA paper should send them to DH by 21 March

Item 3. London Learning and Skills Plan

3.1 DH explained the contents and purpose of the draft LLSP. Ken Livingstone has commented on it.

Item 4. Local Annual Plans

4.1 DH highlighted the key regional themes of the five local Annual Plans, drawn from his presentation to Mark Haysom.

4.2 CI asked about the extent to which the regional plan adequately summarises the local versions. Peter Lyne said that he thought it is as good as we are going to get. DN explained that some of the differences in terminology are due to differing target audiences. DH said that it is proving to be a powerful document and will need to be further developed in future years.

4.3 DH went through his presentation in detail. Questions arising:

- What about engagement with unions? Brokers will be expected to work with TUs as well as employers.
- What about getting enough qualified trainers, particularly in construction? This is covered in some of the local detail but is not in the regional version.
- Should both LDA and JCP be included as partners? We will look at this.
- Should the work on the East London line be highlighted? MC will be working on this with partners to secure effective future action.
- Who leads on the Olympics for the LSC? Mary Conneely.
- What about public procurement? New regulations are now in place and this will be a priority for 2006/07.
- Will the LSC be reviewing its procedures for tackling failing colleges? We will be looking at the lessons learnt from recent cases (e.g. Enfield, Southgate, Bexley). The new White Paper may include additional powers for the LSC.
- What about women and occupational segregation? This is important to the LSC and a more aspirational approach is being considered.

4.4 Several LRB members highlighted the risks associated with Theme 7 and praised staff for continuing to deliver 'business as usual'. RC stressed the need for active engagement with chairs. CI pointed out the prevalence of large scale restructuring throughout the public and private sectors. KC criticised LSC HR processes and suggested that these should be devolved to regions.

4.5 Peter Lyne emphasised the importance of targets for Section 106 Agreements. He also raised some concerns about the role of brokers in Train to Gain; PP explained how this will work. DH said that a full briefing for LRB may be useful.

Action: DH to circulate TTG details to LRB members and include this on a subsequent agenda

4.6 RC said that, once the outcome of the ODPM review is known, the LRB needs to review its role and purpose.

Action: DH to compile a paper for discussion at the next LRB

4.7 RK summarised the discussion and proposed endorsement of the local Annual Plans; this was AGREED.

4.8 RK thanked DN, AP and JT for their work on the regional plan.

Item 5. Regional Audit Committees

5.1 DH explained the recent NO letter on this topic. RC asked about the relationship between local Councils and the new regional functions; for example finance specialists could attend local Council meetings. PL said that LN has voted to disband its Audit Committee. DH suggested that structural issues need to be examined holistically. CI emphasised the key function of risk management.

Action: All local offices to pass nominations for Regional Audit Committee members to DH and RK by 24 March

Item 6. Any Other Business

LDA Review

6.1 RC re-emphasised the need for an extraordinary LRB meeting following the ODPM review.

Staff profile

6.2 YT requested a report on the composition of LSC staff post-Theme 7 at the next meeting.

Action: DN to include this on the next agenda

Item 7. Next Meeting

7.1 12 May, 0900-1100 at Centre Point.

Meeting chair	Rod Kenyon
Minute taker	Doug Norris
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