

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	24 April 2006
Subject	London West Learning and Skills Council Meeting
Location	London West
Time	14:00
LSC office	London West
Publication intent	Internal

Present	Rod Kenyon - Director British Gas Engineering Academy Peter Pledger - Executive Director London West LSC Paul Raina - MD, Training and Assessment Services John Hensley - Engineering Systems Manager John Guest Ltd Saeed Gillani - Principal Accountant Gee Kay Farrar Andrea Berkeley - Headteacher Preston Manor High School Sue Ferns - Head of Research & Specialist Services Prospect John Stone - Principal Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College Jeremy Crook - Director Black Training & Enterprise Group Brian Noble - Network Manager Business Link for London Sailesh Devani - General Manager Connexions London West
In attendance	Heather Clement - Deputy Director Children's Services Johanna Morgan - Group Manager Policy and Development Brenda Rayson - Senior Professional Inclusion and Achievement Group Alan Gibbons - Service Manager Capital and Development Bruce Goddard - Headteacher Canons High Patrick Harty - Principal St Dominics
LSC staff	Clare Arnold - Director of Operations and Quality Peter Holmes - Director of Planning and Development Pravin Parmer - Senior Property Advisor
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: Vijay Amin - Director ABi Associates Rachel Davies - Principal Uxbridge College Frank Wingate - Chief Executive West London Business

Geoff Crispin - Vice Chancellor Thames Valley University
Javed Khan - Director of Learning and Community
Development Harrow Council
Andy Mitchell - Team Leader Education and Skills N & W
Div, GOL

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 Rod welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 2. Minutes and Matters arising of meeting held on 7th February.

2.1 The minutes were approved with amendments on page 5.

2.2 It was noted that amendments relating to the Annual Plan were done.

Item 3. Harrow Collegiate – Capital Bid

3.1 Rod reminded Council members that they need to declare an interest, if they have one, for this agenda item.

John Hensley declared an interest as he sits on a School Organisational Committee and the Education Committee in Hillingdon.

Andrea declared an interest as Head of a School with a Sixth Form in a neighbouring borough and also as the representative of School Sixth Form Heads on London West LSC.

3.2 Peter gave Council members a background on the Harrow bid. It was noted that:

- Harrow is one of only two boroughs in London to have no post 16 provision in schools.
- Harrow is the most successful borough in London West with its high performing schools.
- Parents and students in Harrow wishing to choose school sixth form provision either seek out-borough places at 11 or out-borough sixth forms at 16.
- It has been an aspiration of the current Council to see some sixth form provision introduced in Harrow in response to parental preferences.
- Harrow has worked with local schools and colleges to deliver a proposal to expand capacity to meet the need for 1,000 additional spaces.
- At the November London West LSC meeting Council members agreed the specification of educational need for post 16 provision in schools and agreed to consider a bid for capital funding.

3.3 John Hensley asked if Harrow has consulted with local boroughs and taken into consideration their views when making the proposal for the Harrow Collegiate.

Peter said that Harrow Council published a notice in February, which is due to run until May. This is the main form of consultation where objections would be noted.

3.4 Pravin said that it was very important for London West LSC to satisfy themselves that there is a sound education case for the Harrow collegiate before endorsing the capital bid.

3.5 John Hensley said that schools in Hillingdon that border Harrow will be directly impacted by this proposal, namely Nothwood and Haydon.

3.6 Andrea asked if it is possible for London West LSC to carry out more research on the proposal and its impact on surrounding boroughs before a decision is made.

Peter said at the November Council meeting Council members were presented with research and background to the Harrow Collegiate proposal. Council members satisfied themselves that the work already done in Harrow meant that the specification should not be opened up to the emerging 16-19 Competition process. The specification of need for post 16 provision in schools was also agreed and we asked Harrow, on behalf of all providers, to make a proposal in response to the specification. It will not be fair on Harrow to delay the decision further as we have written to them asking for the final specification.

3.7 John Hensley said that he endorses Andrea's suggestion of more research as Council members should look at the whole picture before making an important decision as this.

3.8 Rod asked Council members that we should allow the representatives from the Harrow Collegiate to make their presentation and direct some of these questions before making a decision.

3.9 Heather Clement – Deputy Director of Children's Services introduced her team and did a presentation on the Harrow Collegiate. It was noted that:

- There was a borough wide partnership with full support of the Local Authority.
- The Collegiate was responding to the wishes of parents and the community
- Proposal puts the needs of every learner at the centre and lays the foundations to fully deliver the national 14-19 Plan.
- The Harrow Collegiate will cost £18.9 million, of which £17.1 million is sought from the LSC, substantially cheaper than having a separate sixth form college or stand alone sixth forms.
- Collegiate built on existing sites minimising impact on existing structure
- A Director will be appointed to run the Collegiate
- Planning consent agreed in principle with financial commitment and support from all partners.

3.10 Rod thanked Heather Clement and colleagues representing the Harrow Collegiate. He asked if Harrow had consulted with neighbouring boroughs on its plans.

Joanna Morgan said that a statutory notice had been published, which allows people to give views about the proposal. This notice was published in February and is due to end in May.

3.11 John Hensley asked if Harrow had consulted with local businesses.

Brenda Rayson said that the local Chamber of Commerce person is a member of the Harrow 14-19 Strategic Group and is there to feedback to local businesses.

3.12 Andrea asked if Harrow has any plans to change the structure of the schools.

Geoff Wingrove said that there is strong support for change at 11+, Harrow Council need to carry out further consultation on this.

3.13 Andrea asked if the Harrow Collegiate was value for money.

Alan Gibbons said it was compared to setting up a separate sixth form college or stand alone sixth forms.

3.14 Patrick Harty said that the Harrow Colleges support the Harrow Collegiate bid.

3.15 Sue asked if there was any commitment below Headteachers and College Principals for the Collegiate.

Brenda said there was full support from all of the Harrow Providers.

3.16 John Stone said that the proposal was not very detailed; it does not mention how the NEET students will be dealt with. The Harrow Skills Centre is already up and running and the Collegiate will bring the students, who leave for sixth forms outside the borough, back to Harrow. This would have implications for school sixth forms and colleges who already cater for this outside of Harrow.

Geoff Wingrove said that the present system does not meet the needs of Harrow parents and students. The Collegiate is a vision for the learner not the institution.

3.17 Heather Clement informed Council members that the Harrow Collegiate is an undertaking not to be taken lightly. We need to put the learner at the heart of learning.

3.18 Rod thanked Heather and her team for the presentation and questions answered. He asked them to leave the room as so that Council members could discuss the bid and come to a decision.

3.19 Rod asked as Harrow is a successful borough do we really need to invest more money into it or should we be looking at investing money in the other boroughs to increase participation.

Peter said that we need to consider the proposals as they come to us; Harrow has not got one single solution. The Collegiate has the support of many partners in Harrow.

- 3.20 Peter Holmes said that age of transfer is clearly an issue for Harrow. If Council members agree there is an educational case and approve the Capital bid this decision may impact on the proposed future bid from Stanmore College. We are also expecting a bid from Harrow College at the May Council meeting. If all the proposed bids are approved we are potentially looking at an LSC contribution of £100 million into Harrow.
- 3.21 Andrea said that the presentation was poor on detail. The education argument was weak, the quality of the argument was poor and there was no substance as to why the Collegiate option was followed rather than any other solution.
- 3.22 John Stone said the Collegiate mentions appointing a director to oversee development, but did not specify the role or powers this person will hold. Peter said that one of the outcomes of the Harrow 14-19 meetings was to insist on the appointment of a Director to oversee this development. Once appointed a Memorandum of Understanding would be drafted.
- 3.23 Sailesh said that he was concerned that Harrow had not fully engaged with Connexions on how best to deal with the NEET group.
- 3.24 John Stone asked that if we fund this capital bid, how do we know that schools will not come back to us for further funding and development. Peter said that the capital bid is at £17.1 million, the Harrow Collegiate are fully aware that no more funding will be made available from the LSC.
- 3.25 Rod informed Council members that we now need to make a decision on whether or not to endorse the Harrow Collegiate Capital bid. The decision has to be made on the merits of the educational case. He asked Council members to approve the recommendations as set out in the Council paper – Expanding post 16 Capacity in Harrow.
- 3.26 Four Council members approved the recommendations (Peter Pledger, Rod Kenyon, Saeed Gillani and Jeremy Crook). Two Council members voted against approving the recommendations (Paul Raina and John Hensley). Three Council members decided to abstain (Andrea Berkeley, John Stone and Sue Ferns)
- 3.27 Rod thanked Council members and asked Peter to inform the Harrow Collegiate delegation.

Item 4. Theme 7 – London Structure

- 4.1 Rod informed Council members that Peter Pledger will be leaving the Learning and Skills Council at the end of April. He thanked Peter on behalf of the Council for his leadership, guidance and expertise and wished him well for the future.
- 4.2 It was noted that Clare Arnold will be the Acting Area Director for London West LSC with effect from 2nd May 2006.

Item 5. Any other business

5.1 There was no other business.

Item 6. Date of next meeting

6.1 The next meeting of the London West Learning and Skills Council will take place on Tuesday 16th May at 2.00pm, with refreshments available from 1.30pm.

Meeting chair	Rod Kenyon
Minute taker	Nasir Lakhanpal
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