

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date 15 March 2005
Subject Council Meeting
Location London West LSC
Time 14:00
LSC office London West
Publication intent Internal

Present Andrea Berkeley - Headteacher Preston Manor High School
Peter Pledger - Executive Director London West LSC
Rachel Davies - Principal Uxbridge College
Javed Khan - Director of Learning and Community Development Harrow Council
Sailesh Devani - General Manager Connexions London West
John Stone - Principal Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College

In attendance Patrick Harty - Principal St Dominic's Sixth Form College & Mike Padley - Finance Director St Dominic's Sixth Form College for item 3

LSC staff Clare Arnold - Director of Operations and Quality
Peter Holmes - Director of Planning and Development
Neil Scott - FE Employer Engagement Manager for item 3
Paola Santa Cruz De Jackson - Policy and Planning Manager for item 8

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Rod Kenyon - Director British Gas Engineering Academy
Geoff Crispin - Vice Chancellor Thames Valley University
Jeremy Crook - Director Black Training and Enterprise Group
Sue Ferns - Head of Research and Specialist Services Project
Jonathan Hood - Exec Vice Chairman Cadogan Tate Group
Vijay Amin - Director ABi Associates
Gillian Guy - Chief Executive London Borough of Ealing
Paul Raina - Managing Director Training & Assessment Services
Isobel Morton OBE - District Manager JobCentre Plus
Andy Mitchell - Team Leader Government Office for London
Brian Noble - Network Manager Business Link for London

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Andrea welcomed those present.

Item 2. Minutes and Matters Arising of meeting held on 7th February 2005

- 2.1 The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 2.2 Peter reported that at the January Council meeting there was a capital proposal from the College of North West London. London West LSC assessed the bid against the criteria for capital bids and a 20% recommendation was taken to the January Council meeting. At this meeting, Council members recommended to support the capital bid at 25% to the National Capital Committee. The regional office were asked for their views and their recommendation was that the LSC contribution should be 20%. The National Capital Committee met in March and approved the capital bid at 20% capital support.
- 2.3 John said that he thought that a recommendation from London West LSC would be the only one considered by the National Capital Committee.
Peter said that recently the National Capital Committee have also requested the regional office to assess the bid and give their recommendation.

Decision: It was noted that the London West Learning and Skills Council asked Peter to raise this concern with the Regional Office over the new process of regional involvement with recommendations for Capital Bids.

Action: Peter Pledger

Item 3. Capital Bid – St Dominic’s Sixth Form College

- 3.1 Patrick Harty, Principal St Dominic’s Sixth Form College, and Mike Padley, Finance Director, presented the capital bid. The following points were noted:
- St Dominic’s is a Roman Catholic Sixth Form College. The college serves predominantly young people of Harrow, a third of students travel from other London Boroughs and the majority of these are aged 16-18.
 - In November 2004 Ofsted inspected the college and judged the provision to be outstanding in three curriculum areas and good in the other three. The report, however, highlighted some inadequate accommodation.
 - The Capital bid would fund the construction of a new building (Aquinas Building). This would hold 7 laboratories and a private study and classroom ICT. It would also fund the refurbishment of existing accommodation.
 - The total cost of the new build and refurbishment of existing accommodation is £4,473,500.
- 3.2 Andrea thanked Patrick and Mike for the presentation and asked Council members to direct any questions to the panel.
Council members raised questions with the panel on their proposal.
- 3.3 Andrea thanked Patrick and Mike and asked them to leave the boardroom so that the Council could deliberate the proposal.
- 3.4 Peter said that the overriding reason for the construction of a new building is to alleviate the overcrowding suffered by students and staff over recent years. The current floor space represents a space per student of 4.76m, an area far below the average necessary to create an effective learning environment.

Performance indicators reveal the college to be exceptionally successful with very high retention rates, well above national and local averages. The attached affordability statement and analysis support our recommendation of 20% grant support. At this level of support the college is predicted to be in category A during the progress of the project.

- 3.5 Following a full discussion the Council approved the capital bid and agreed to recommend LSC support at 20%.
(Patrick and Mike were asked to come back to the meeting to be informed of the decision)
- 3.6 Andrea informed Patrick of the decision taken by the London West Learning and Skills Council to support the capital bid at 20%.
- 3.7 Patrick said that he was disappointed with the decision and thanked Council members for their time.
- 3.8 It was agreed that Peter would notify the National Capital Committee.

Action: Peter Pledger

Decision: The London West Learning and Skills Council agreed to recommend to the National Capital Committee that this bid from St Dominic's 6th Form College is supported at a 20% capital grant under Chair's Action, as the meeting was not quorate.

Item 4. Brunel Academy

- 4.1 It was noted that DfES have a 5-year plan that proposes 60 Academies in London of the 200 to be set up nationally.
- 4.2 Brunel University and HSBC Education Trust wish to establish a 16-19 Academy to be opened in September 2007 and located at the University's principal campus in Uxbridge. The primary objective of the Academy will be to achieve a net increase in the number of young people that continue in education beyond compulsory schooling. It is anticipated that the Academy will enrol 800 full-time equivalent 16-19 students.
- 4.3 The Expression of Interest document was submitted in October 2004 and approved by Ministers in December 2004. This proposal has now moved to the feasibility stage and work is now underway to develop the proposal further. A project board has been appointed and Peter Pledger has been invited to join it. Also a Forum has been established to consult key partners on the development, which Peter has been asked to Chair.
- 4.4 The status of this Academy was the subject of some debate. All 11-16 and 11-18 Academies have been determined to be independent schools. However, this is the first 16-19 Academy to move into the feasibility stage and has been declared by DfES to be an FE institution. DfES has set up a project group to look at the issue of the process to sort out both the capital funding and to create a new FE corporation. The model used for Brunel will apply to four other 16-19 Academies DfES are planning to create in London.

Decision: The London West Learning and Skills Council noted this briefing on the Brunel Academy.

Item 5. Investors in People

- 5.1 It was noted that London West LSC will be assessed for Investors in People on 29th and 30th March 2005.

- 5.2 At the start of each annual business cycle, London West LSC has committed to identify its training and development needs for the coming year.

The budget set for training and development was £75,000, based on the need to train and develop staff for new roles, post reshaping. Our estimate of spend for 2004/05 is that we will have spent approximately 95% of the budget by the end of March. This has paid for a range of training from retraining sessions for individuals affected by reshaping to award bearing courses.

It is estimated that approximately 441 days were devoted to training & development, averages out to 5.8 days per employee, including incidental learning.

Decision: The London West Learning and Skills Council noted the cost benefit analysis for 2004/05.

Item 6. Annual Plan 2004/05 Update

- 6.1 It was noted that the Leap service (specialist college) was inspected at the end of January and the full inspection report will be published in mid April. The 3 areas graded for specialist colleges were all graded at 5. London West LSC is currently working with the Leap service on a post inspection action plan.
- 6.2 Hillingdon Training, a WBL provider, was also inspected and achieved grade 3's; an excellent result for a provider that has been delivering training for London West LSC for only 12 months.
- 6.3 It was also noted that the Interact Centre, a specialist college dealing with students with Aspergers Syndrome, received a poor Ofsted inspection report. The Principal, James Graham, announced that he would be closing the Interact Centre rather than work on a full action plan to address the concerns of the inspectorate.
- London West LSC has offered support to the centre in its efforts to improve, by offering advice on the post inspection action plan and monitoring the delivery of the actions identified in the plan. This story has now been reported in the Ealing Gazette.

Decision: The London West Learning and Skills Council noted this briefing on the implementation of the Annual Plan 2004-05 of London West LSC.

Item 7. Projected Employment Patterns

- 7.1 Council members decided that the paper produced was informative and therefore a discussion did not need to take place.

Decision: The London West Learning and Skills Council noted the report on the projected employment patterns in London West.

Item 8. Presentation - Super Output Areas

- 8.1 It was noted that In April 2004, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister published the Index of Multiple Deprivation for England (IMD 2004). The London West LSC has processed the data in order to make use of it locally in the 6 boroughs of London West.
- The IMD 2004 is based on the concept that 7 different dimensions of deprivation can be recognised and measured separately: Income deprivation, Employment deprivation, Health deprivation and disability, Education, skills and training deprivation, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living environment deprivation and Crime.

Previous indexes have used wards as a geographic unit. The IMD 2004 uses Super Output Areas (SOAs) rather than wards. SOAs are a new geographic unit designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. They are more consistent size and each layer has a specified minimum population to avoid the risk of data disclosure. SOAs will not be subject to frequent boundary change, so are more suitable for comparison over time. They are built from groups of 2001 Census Output Areas (COAs). 1000 persons, 400 households. There are 32,482 SOAs in England.

Using the IMD 2004: Deprivation in London West

- There are 919 Super Output Areas (SOAs) in the six boroughs of London West.
- The most deprived SOA of London West is found in the ward of Harlesden in Brent, ranking 1,360 out of 32,482. The least deprived SOA is located in the ward of Hatch End in Harrow ranking 31,993 out of 32,482.
- The most education, skills and training borough is Hillingdon, followed by Hounslow and Ealing.
- The Education Skills and Training deprivation Domain captures the extent of deprivation in education, skills and training in a local area.
- Several maps were shown during the presentation, displaying London West's deprived SOAs in different domains.

Decision: The London West Learning and Skills Council noted the presentation on Super Output Areas.

Item 9. Any other business

9.1 It was noted that Javed Khan congratulated London West LSC for organising the Champions of Learning Event at the Sheraton Skyline Hotel. The event was both professionally organised and successful.

Item 10. Date of next meeting

10.1 The next meeting of the London West Learning and Skills Council will take place on Tuesday 17th May at 2.00pm.

Publication no.

Meeting chair Andrea Berkeley

Minute taker Nasir Lakhanpal

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