

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	14 June 2007
Subject	Durham Local Council Meeting
Location	Durham LSC
Time	16:00
LSC office	County Durham
Publication intent	Internal

Present	John Anstee (Chair) Alan Bisborough John Widdowson Brian Walker Keith Hodgson Gloria Wills
LSC staff	Tom Crompton Linda Bailey Hannah Smithson Mark Marshall
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: James Ramsbotham Dave Peebles Diane Morton Meryvn Blades John Poland Janice Bray

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 The chair welcomed all members to the group. It was noted that James had asked for his apologies to be passed to Council members for being unable to attend the meeting as he was out of the country on business.

Item 2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest at this point.

Item 3. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record, with the following amendment:
Item 6. Business Planning, Priority 3 comments - **Fee remission** to be amended to **Fee income**.
- 3.2 **Business Planning, Priority 2 Comments:**
Members were informed that applications into Higher Education by young people in Durham have increased by 6.9%, nationally this stands at 3%.
A Migration report was circulated to members to provide an update on the national approach of the LSC to considering issues relating to migrant workers.
- 3.3 **Demand Led System** – consideration had been given with the Chair to a council response on the consultation document, however, it was considered inappropriate given that it was a LSC/DfES consultation document. However, the issues raised by members had been highlighted.

Item 4. Chairs' Remarks

- 4.1 The timetable for the establishment of the regional board is yet to be agreed and local council meetings would continue in the interim. However, it was anticipated that the last local council meeting would be held in September 2007.
- 4.2 The council member farewell dinner is now confirmed for 20 September 2007 at Durham Castle.

Item 5. Directors Report

- 5.1 The content of the Directors Report was noted.
- 5.2 Members were informed that the Skills Pledge had been formally launched today in London. The associated Skills Campaign would commence in July 2007.

Item 6. Local Annual Plan

- 6.1 It was reported that council members had been contacted after the meeting in February to seek additional comments and approval of the annual plan thereby overcoming the issue of the February meeting not being quorate. All comments made by council members had been reflected in the final plan. The plan has now been approved by regional board subject to the volumes being finalised. Members were informed that progress on the delivery of the plan will be reviewed by the Durham Partnership team on a quarterly basis.

Item 7. Six Month Review of Performance

- 7.1 At the last council meeting members requested information relating to current performance against the local annual plan. A paper was circulated as part of today's meeting papers. The data included was used to inform the six month performance review with Mark Haysom. Feedback from the review with Mark Haysom was positive.
- 7.2 16-18 participation has increased from 2005/6 although the final 2006/7 position may be below that planned.
- 7.3 16-18 achievements were increasing broadly in line with the plan with the exception of FE L3.
- 7.4 The high level of young people NEET continues to be an area of concern, with little improvement being reported. The NEET figures continue to be static around the country.
- 7.5 There has been a significant decline in Adult Participation reflecting the shift to full time, higher cost provision. It is anticipated that the level 2 target will be met.
- 7.6 Members were advised that the Skills for Life targets have been exceeded.
- 7.7 As previously requested the success rates by sector have been included in the report for information. Durham is currently achieving the highest success rates in the region in all sectors excluding Business, Administration and Law, Construction and ICT.
- 7.8 Discussions took place regarding the definition of a full level 3. Mark agreed to clarify this with national office. **ACTION: M MARSHALL**
- 7.9 Discussion took place on the format of the report and it was agreed it would be adapted for future reports. **ACTION: M MARSHALL/L BAILEY**

Item 8. County Durham NEET Strategy

- 8.1 The draft NEET Strategy was circulated to members for approval. Discussions took place regarding the background and purpose of the strategy. The draft strategy focuses on six major theme areas:
- Data management, policy and provision planning
 - NEET preventative work
 - Supporting transition
 - NEET remedial work
 - Specialist support
 - Involving young people, their parents/carers and communities
- 8.2 Members were advised that the strategy prioritises actions around specific groups of young people who are over-represented in the NEET group.
- 8.3 Members were asked to note the information within the paper and endorse the draft strategy. **ENDORSED - NOTED**

Item 9. Local Capital Committee

- 9.1 Members were asked to review the minutes of the local capital committee which took place on the 8 June 2007.
- 9.2 It was confirmed that approval was granted for the new build of East Durham and Houghall College totalling in capital funding £33,483,760. The proposal will be submitted to national capital committee for final approval on the 19 June 2007.
- 9.3 Members discussed the content of the submitted application relating to building defects totalling £2.6m at Derwentside College.
- 9.4 Following discussions members gave approval for the LSC to underwrite the college's legal costs up to £350,000 to support the pursuance of legal action relating to building defects.

APPROVED – NOTED

Item 10. Any other business

- 10.1 No further business was discussed and the meeting closed.

Item 11. Date of next meeting

- 11.1 The next meeting of the local council will take place on 13 September 2007.

Meeting chair	John Anstee
Minute taker	Hannah Smithson
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