

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 14 November 2007  
**Subject** Regional Board  
**Location** Allergate House  
**Time** 16:00  
**LSC office** North East Region  
**Publication intent** Internal

**Present** Ashley Winter (Chair), Terry Dabbs, James Ramsbotham, Chris Roberts  
**In attendance** Sujinder Sangha, Phil Hastie and Bob Winter on behalf of the Colleges.  
**LSC staff** Tom Crompton, John Smith, John Wayman, David Johnson, Helen Beaton, Val Goodrum, Darren Coulton, Ken Coulson  
**Apologies** Apologies have been received from:  
Jackie Axelby

## Item 1. Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Submitted: Paper by Ken Coulson setting out:
- The functions delegated to Regional Board with effect from 1 November 2007
  - Standing Orders for the Regional Board, modelled on those of local Councils
- 1.2 A quorum was half of the membership of 5 (in effect 3 members), which included the regional Director, who could vote but not chair meetings. Provisions were included related to compliance with the code of conduct and avoiding conflict of interest.
- 1.3 There was provision to invite other organisations to meetings as observers, and to take part in discussions but not be part of decision-making.  
**Decision:** That the functions delegated be noted and the standing orders adopted.

## Item 2. Declaration of Interest

- 2.1 The Chairman reminded members of the opportunity to consider whether they needed to declare an interest in any business on the agenda.

### **Item 3. Stockton Riverside College & Bede Sixth Form College**

- 3.1 Submitted: Paper outlining a proposal from Stockton Riverside College (SRC) and Bede Sixth Form College, for detailed council consent and capital grant support for a new campus development at Bede including playing fields and outdoor sports facilities; and phase 3 development at SRC's Teesdale Campus to consolidate onto a single campus (3 schemes).
- 3.2 The consultation document together with the consultation log had been circulated. There was considerable support for the proposals. Whilst Stockton 6<sup>th</sup> Form college had not formally responded they had been consistently supportive of proposals and were engaged in joint strategic planning.
- 3.3 It was explained that the capital support application was for approval in principle for both SRC and Bede was integral to and in support of the planned Category B Merger between the two organisations. All parties understood, and due diligence had confirmed, that in the event that the merger did not proceed then the capital application would fall.

#### **Presentation**

- 3.4 Representatives of the colleges joined the meeting and gave a detailed presentation of the proposals in the context of the phased strategic development to deliver the overarching 10 year vision.
- 3.5 It was considered that the educational case was very strong both for the merger and the capital proposals to deliver a much broader curriculum. It offered progression 'from playgroup to PhD', a networked education offer for Stockton, complementary vocational and educational offer, including close links with schools.
- 3.6 The curriculum would include GCSE, A Level, and the progressive introduction of all diplomas within 5 years delivered in partnership with Stockton 6<sup>th</sup> form college and local schools, and workforce qualifications with NETA. The colleges were very alert to addressing 'drop out' among 16-25 year olds through strategies to draw people back into education and learning.
- 3.7 In terms of viability the college viewed 90% support as a lower limit; this needed to be viewed in terms of the overall LSC investment in the infrastructure which was around 65%.
- 3.8 19+ provision included the development of an initiative to identify social enterprise, development of life skills and NVQs, and TTG with employers.
- 3.9 TTG projections were for a steady increase in a competitive environment. College representatives then withdrew from the meeting.

#### **Discussion**

- 3.10 David Johnson confirmed that the property strategy was in accordance with LSC requirements, there had been a detailed options exercise and the site proposals for the three schemes were appropriate. Overall costs were within LSC revised cost allowances; costs had been revised downwards to £27m in accordance with LSC requirements and were well within limits. Similarly, space utilisation was well within limits.
- 3.11 Helen Beaton said that the financial affordability had been modelled and capital support was recommended at 90% which took account of the need for

the college to service a debt of 31% of turnover at 2013, three years after completion and which acknowledged the risk of unforeseen costs associated with the merger.

3.12 Members confirmed that in their view this was a good proposal. Discussion took place on the need to be more explicit about growth patterns and demonstrate that TTG performance was robust.

**Decision:** That the Stockton Riverside College/Bede College application in principle be supported and recommended to National Capital Committee.

**Item 4. Members Briefing**

4.1 The Regional Director indicated that he would present a proposal to the next meeting on arrangements for regular members' briefings.

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....  
**Chairman**

<b>Meeting chair</b>	Ashley Winter
<b>Minute taker</b>	Ken Coulson
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