

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	28 February 2007
Subject	LSC Northumberland Local Council
Location	LSC offices, Cramlington
Time	16:00
LSC office	Northumberland
Publication intent	Internal

Present	Jane Blackburn	Mary Dunning
<i>Members</i>	Mark Henderson	Linda Ions
	Moira Rankin	Terry Robson
	Richard Rutherford	John Wayman
	Sue Wilson CBE	
<i>Observers</i>	Neville Hall	
	Austin McNamara	
LSC staff	Tony Sacco	Lee Thurman
	Nicola Cummings	
Apologies	Jackie Axelby	Kelvin Brennan
	Veronica Dunn	Robert Evans
	Kevin Rowan	Derek Wise
	Fred Foster	

Item 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies for absence.
- 1.2 Richard Rutherford was chairing the meeting in the absence of Jackie Axelby.

Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2006 were accepted as a true record.

Item 3. Matters arising/action points

- 3.1 Attention was drawn to the updated action notes. All actions were either on the agenda, complete or progressing.
- 3.2 Minute 3.2, Distributed Learning – Margaret Frostick of Northumberland County Council was responsible for arranging a countywide meeting to take

forward the next stages following the delivery of the el@nd project. Tony Sacco agreed to keep members updated on progress.

Action: Tony Sacco

- 3.3 Minute 10.1, Local Work Plan 2007 – an updated version was tabled at the meeting.

Item 4. Comments from the Chair

- 4.1 Richard Rutherford conveyed Jackie Axelby's thanks to members and observers for their kind thoughts and get well wishes following her family bereavement and recent operation.
- 4.2 The Chair informed members of an event being organised for local Council members to be held in September.

Item 5. Comments from the Area Director

- 5.1 Thanks were expressed to members and observers who attended the Special Meeting on 18 January to consider the Local Annual Plan. This would be covered in more detail at Agenda Item 8.
- 5.2 At the last meeting, a potential merger between Newcastle College and Skelmersdale Ormskirk College was reported. This has now progressed with both colleges' Boards of Governors approving the merger however Newcastle College's approval is contingent on some financial issues. LSC Tyne and Wear Local Council have discussed this in detail at their last meeting. A recommendation will now be put to the Department for Education and Skills and the Secretary of State for approval.
- 5.3 Allocation settlements for work based learning and further education are being progressed with providers.
- 5.4 It was noted that the North East Regional office at Moongate House is to be refurbished meaning staff would need to be relocated utilising the space at Northumberland and County Durham offices whilst the work was being undertaken.

Item 6. Partnership Director's Update

- 6.1 Tony Sacco presented the paper which gave an update on internal and external developments of relevance to the Council.
- 6.2 A question was raised regarding the Specialised Diplomas and whether this would mean that a learner will physically need to travel to the training deliverer and how was it anticipated that they would be able to travel around the County. The Diploma areas will include different modes of training at different venues but would also need to include virtual learning and mobile facilities. It was recognised that there was work to be done in this area to address the ongoing transport issues.
- 6.3 A member asked which three high schools had been successful in accessing additional LSC funds for school sixth form where they had increased numbers of learners enrolling into Years 12 and 13. Tony Sacco agreed to confirm these schools.

Decision: Members received the report and it was agreed confirmation of the schools successful in accessing additional LSC funds would be communicated to members.

Action: Tony Sacco

Item 7. Northumberland College performance

- 7.1 Lee Thurman presented the paper which gave an update on the performance of Northumberland College across a broad range of its activities. It included details of the progress made in delivering the agreed Implementation Plan and provided information on recent key developments.
- 7.2 Minimum Performance Levels - it was reported that 3 areas had fallen behind on performance. The areas being Healthcare, Agriculture and Retail. Performance relates to work based learning and Apprenticeships framework completions.
- 7.3 Austin McNamara commented that the relationship between Connexions and the college had significantly improved both in terms of partnership working and work within the college.
- 7.4 At the last Council meeting, it was suggested that a report be brought to this meeting outlining travel patterns. Very detailed reports were available and it was suggested that a member of the LSC data analysis team attends a future Council meeting to present the information.
- 7.5 Members were concerned that the last Special Committee meeting had been cancelled. Tony Sacco gave an explanation on the reasoning for the cancellation and confirmed that Committee members received a report keeping them updated on the key issues and gave reassurance that the meeting would be rearranged.
- 7.6 Once the local Council ceased and the Regional Board was in place, members queried what the arrangements would be in place to maintain the work of the Special Committee. John Wayman suggested that this would be a decision for the Regional Board.
- 7.7 Mary Dunning confirmed she had recently been appointed as a Governor of Tyne-Metropolitan College Corporation.

Decision: Members received the report.

Decision: Minimum Performance Levels:

- a. Members requested data outline figures which demonstrated the percentage of college business this related to and the impact on the client groups.

Action: Lee Thurman

- b. A further request that Special Committee consider this significant item in more detail at their next meeting.

Action: Tony Sacco/Lee Thurman

Decision: Travel patterns – data analysis team representative to be invited to a future Council meeting to present the detailed reports.

Action: Lee Thurman

Item 8. Local Annual Plan 2007/08

- 8.1 John Wayman introduced the paper which presented the Northumberland Local Annual Plan for 2007/08 and informed members of the consultation process and the next steps in approving the plan at local, regional and national levels.
- 8.2 Jane Blackburn, who attended the Special Meeting on 18 January, commented that the plan had been streamlined and that the comments made at that meeting had been taken on board and incorporated into the version presented.
- 8.3 A question was raised regarding the Key Action section and why some measures of success were percentages and some were 'contribute to'. The LSC responded that some targets were regional which required local office contribution and the remainder were specific local targets of which a local delivery plan would be implemented to ensure focus to achievement. It was also noted that until final negotiations with providers had been concluded, the volumes would be indicative.

Decision: Members reviewed and approved the Local Annual Plan for presentation to the Regional Board for outline approval on 9 March.

(Lee Thurman left the meeting)

Item 9. Reorganisation of Schools – Blyth Consultation

- 9.1 Tony Sacco presented the paper which gave detail on the current position in relation to the Putting the Learner First (PLF) Consultation in Blyth and summarised the reply received from Northumberland County Council in response to the issues Council members raised at the meeting held on 7 December 2006.
- 9.2 An outline of the response from Northumberland County Council was given and very recently, a further paper had been received which needed LSC consideration before being presented to members. The paper did however extend elements of the consultation therefore it was proposed to make this a substantive item at the next Council meeting to allow a fuller discussion and the inclusion of any additional information.
- 9.3 Mark Henderson suggested members would find it most beneficial to visit an Academy to view for themselves and offered to co-ordinate a visit.

Decision: Members received the report and agreed this item be taken to the next Council meeting as a substantive item.

Action: Tony Sacco/Nicola Cummings

Decision: Mark Henderson offered to co-ordinate a visit to an Academy and members were asked to let Nicola Cummings know if they would like to attend.

Action: Mark Henderson/Nicola Cummings

- 9.4 It was noted this was Neville's last meeting as an observer to the Local Council as he would be retiring as Chief Executive of Business Link at the end of March 2007. Members expressed their thanks to Neville saying his

knowledge was invaluable and more recently in his role as LSC appointed governor to Northumberland College. Neville was presented with a small gift and members wished him well in his retirement.

(Neville Hall left the meeting)

Item 10. Towards a 2020 Vision for Learning in Northumberland

10.1 Tony Sacco presented the paper which was to provide Council with the opportunity to contribute directly to the current County-wide dialogue which aims to reach a broad consensus about what learning in Northumberland should be like in the year 2020.

10.2 A reminder of the background was given. Members then split into two groups to consider the three key questions and note their responses in order to feed into the Northumberland Strategic Partnership Learning Strategy Group.

Decision: Members received the report and provided a response to the three key questions to be included as part of the dialogue process.

Action: Tony Sacco

(Mark Henderson left the meeting)

Item 11. Delivery World Class Skills in a Demand-led System

11.1 John Wayman gave a presentation to inform members of the *Delivering World Class Skills a Demand-led System* consultation that is currently underway and to highlight the potential implications for the LSC.

Decision: Members received the presentation and it was agreed that any members wanting to provide comment to form the regional response should provide comments direct to Tony Sacco, noting the consultation deadline as 31 March 2007.

Action: Members/Tony Sacco

Decision: The LSC regional response would be presented at a future meeting.

Action: John Wayman

Item 12. Minutes from recent meetings of Regional Groups

12.1 For information, members were copied into the minutes from the Regional Board meeting held on 11 January and the Regional Audit Committee held on 17 January.

12.2 A named deputy for Richard Rutherford was required for the Regional Audit Committee.

Decision: Mary Dunning agreed to be the named deputy. Nicola Cummings to inform Ken Coulson of this nomination.

Action: Nicola Cummings

Item 13. Next meeting

13.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 April 2007 at 16.00.

13.2 Apologies were noted from Terry Robson.

Meeting chair	Richard Rutherford
Minute taker	Nicola Cummings
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