

# Minutes

Agenda item 2



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 1 March 2007  
**Subject** Local Council Meeting  
**Location** Wynyard Rooms, Wynyard House  
**Time** 08:30  
**LSC office** Tees Valley  
**Publication intent** Public

**Present** Mr T Dabbs (Chair)  
Mr T Crompton  
Mr K Cranney  
Mr J Hogg  
Ms P Whaley  
Mr J Hogg  
Mr J Hughes  
Mr I Williams  
Ms P Osbourne

**In attendance** Mr S Davidson, Jobcentre Plus

**LSC staff** Miss H Smithson, Council Secretary  
Mrs C Hodds, Partnership Director  
Mrs J Dobinson, Administrator

**Apologies** Apologies have been received from:  
Mr M Pearson, Council Member  
Mr D Irwin, Connexions Tees Valley  
Mr M Taylor, Business Link Tees Valley  
Mr J Fitzpatrick, Council Member  
Prof G Henderson, Council Member  
Ms A Haskins, Council Member  
Mr R Mallon, Council Member

## Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 The chair welcomed members to the meeting.

**Noted**

## **Item 2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 There were no declarations.

**Noted**

## **Item 3. Minutes of last meeting**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2006 were accepted as a true record.

**Noted**

## **Item 4. Matters arising**

4.1 **Working Together Strategy** The meeting to discuss delivery of this strategy is still to be arranged. Mr Cranney and Ms Whaley feel this issue is still to be resolved. LSC colleagues to ensure that this is taken forward.

**ACTION: V.Goodrum**

4.2 **Risk Management** The Risk Register is in the final stages and will be presented to Regional Council once completed.

4.3 **Regional Audit Committee** The minutes of the regional committee have been submitted with local council papers for members' information.

4.4 **The Transition Plan** The presentation was previously circulated to members following the last meeting.

4.5 **Statement of Priorities** The new statement of priorities was previously circulated to members following the last meeting.

4.6 **Connexions Update** The Connexions Learn2work contract has been extended to ensure that work experience for young people continues to be delivered.

## **Item 5. Chair's Report**

5.1 **Event for non-executive LSC Members** The DfES event is due to take place on 7 March 2007. The Chairman, Pat Whaley and Ian Williams have been confirmed to attend.

5.2 **Regional Council Member Event** Members were informed that a regional farewell event is being organised for all council members as a thank you to members for their contribution to the LSC. The date of this event is still to be confirmed but members will be advised as soon as possible.

5.3 **Next Local Council Meeting** Unless there is a business reason for holding the July 2007 Council meeting it will not take place. It is likely that Local Councils will officially cease in September 2007. The adverts for regional chair positions should be out in March/April 2007.

5.4 **Local Capital Committee** The Regional Director now has authority to authorise capital spend of up to £5Million with a maximum grant of 30%. However until the local council ceases to exist this and all other capital requests will still require approval by the local Capital committee. Meetings may need to be called as and when necessary.

## **Item 6. Area Directors' Report**

**6.1 Staffing update** The Hartlepool Partnership Director post is still currently vacant. A recruitment agency has been employed to headhunt and short list candidates for the post.

**6.2** Members were advised that Wynyard House has been confirmed as the new premises for the Area South teams.

### **6.3 Partnership Team Updates**

The following key issues were highlighted from the Directors Report.

A meeting was called with the Principal of Bede College to discuss capital issues and the college's future. The agreed proposal is to build a new fit for purpose post 16 learning centre on the existing site but not under the governance of Bede College. In order for viability of capital, this project needs to be run in partnership with partners and key stakeholders, the final option for governance remains to be agreed. The colleges have appointed consultants to advise them on the most appropriate arrangements to take this forward.

A capital application has been approved for the development of a Sports, Dance and Drama block at Stockton Sixth Form College.

St Mary's have had a significant reduction in 16-19 learner numbers this year. The LSC has hired Tribal Consultants to consider the future viability of the college.

Colleagues are currently reviewing capital options for Cleveland College of Art and Design. The LSC's proposal is to review how we deliver FE and possibly collaboration with Middlesbrough College. KPMG have been commissioned nationally to review legal models.

The West Redcar Collaboration proposal has now been approved. The LSC will fund 100% for the new build centre subject to collaborative working. Two of the schools involved have expressed an interest in becoming foundation status. If this goes ahead the LSC will look to protect its investment.

Colleagues are currently working on proposals to look at a re-build at Hartlepool College of FE and Hartlepool Sixth Form College. The LSC will only support if this is a collaborative venture. Initial discussions have taken place with the colleges.

## **Item 7. Leitch and Demand Led Funding**

**7.1** A Presentation was delivered to members of the Leitch agenda and the Demand-led System consultation.

The focus of the plan is how we implement the FE White Paper, Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances. This means moving away from the traditional planning role that exists to delivering through a demand-led system. The speed of implementing depends on the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

### **Item 8. Local Annual Plan – Key Priorities and Actions**

8.1 A presentation was delivered to members on the Tees Valley Local Annual Plan and the key priorities and actions. A copy of the presentation will be circulated with the minutes of the meeting for members' information.

**ACTION: H.Smithson**

8.2 **Members discussed the plan and following small changes the plan was approved by council.**

**NOTED**

### **Item 9. Any other business**

9.1 **Regional Board Meeting** Members to forward items for the regional board meeting to the chairman.

9.2 Chairman to confirm the date of the regional farewell event and forward to members as soon as possible.

**ACTION: Chairman**

9.3 Sixth form presumption criteria to be forwarded to Joe Hughes for information.

**ACTION: H.Smithson**

9.4 There was no further business and the meeting closed.

#### **Publication no.**

**Meeting chair** Terry Dabbs

**Minute taker** Hannah Smithson

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