

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 15 March 2006  
**Subject** Council Meeting  
**Location** Stainton Room  
**Time** 08:30  
**LSC office** Tees Valley  
**Publication intent** Internal

**Present** Mr T Dabbs (Chair)  
Mrs A Haskins  
Mr J Hughes  
Mrs P Osborne  
Mrs H Pickering  
Mr I Williams  
Mrs P Whaley

**In attendance** Mr S Davidson, Jobcentre Plus  
Mr D Irwin, Connexions  
Mr J Swinburne, Government Office for the North East

**LSC staff** Ms G Dobson, Head of Finance and Governance  
Ms J Kennedy, Executive Assistant  
Mr A Jones, Head of Planning and Performance  
Mr C Roberts, Regional Director  
Mr J Rowan, Director of Learning and Skills  
Mr D Sanders, Director of Planning and Resources  
Mrs D Springett, Council Secretary  
Mr A Wallace, Head of Policy and Research

**Apologies** Apologies have been received from:  
Mrs P Eccles, Executive Director  
Mr J Arthur, Council Member  
Mr K Cranney, Council Member  
Mr J Fitzpatrick, Council Member  
Mr J Hogg, Council Member  
Mr R Mallon, Council Member  
Mr M Taylor, Business Link Tees Valley  
Ms J Doughty, Government Office for the North East

## **Item 1. Welcome and introductions**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the new member of the Council, Mrs Osborne and apologies were noted.

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

**Noted**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

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

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2006 were accepted as a true record.

**Noted**

## **Item 4. Matters arising**

- 4.1 Members were advised that all matters arising from the local council meeting held on 24 January 2006 had been actioned.

## **Item 5. Update on Theme 7**

- 5.1 Mr Roberts gave an update on agenda for change and reminded members that this has been organised around seven themes, namely:

1. Working together with employers to develop the **skills** they need
2. Improve **quality** of provision
3. Simplify the **funding** methodology and allocation process
4. Identify what **data** is truly conducive to effective management
5. Improve **business excellence** to help colleges become better businesses and improve performance
6. Work with colleges to identify ways of improving the **reputation** of their establishment
7. **Transition** is essential if we are to transform the LSC into an even more effective organisation with the capability to transform the post-16 education and training, and provide strategic leadership.

- 5.2 Appointments for Band 5 will be announced in two weeks time.

- 5.3 The eQ8 training pilot has been very successful in the region and Tees Valley has one of the highest achievements rates in the country.

Train to Gain is a new national skills service that will be introduced across England, closely based on the Employer Training Pilots (ETP). This will be introduced to the North East on the 1 April 2006, and will run until 31 July 2006 and providers will have four months to recruit learners. Train to Gain is intended to help companies and other organisations to improve the skills of

their workforce and their business performance by assisting them in identifying and sourcing training provision.

- 5.4** The Foster Report, Reform of Further Education is to be re-published as a White Paper. Eighty- one recommendations have been made.

### **Item 6. Learning Wards**

- 6.1** Mrs Knott gave a presentation on the achievement of the Tees Valley Learning Wards Initiative. The initiative was aimed at increasing recruitment, retention and achievement on hard to reach learners within the twenty five most deprived wards of Tees Valley.

*(Mr Irwin left at 09.45)*

### **Item 7. Regional Capital Strategy**

- 7.1** Mr Sanders informed members that the next National Capital Committee meeting will take place on 30 March 2006.
- 7.2** The final Capital Plan will be circulated to all members before the next Council Meeting.

**Action: Council Secretary/David Sanders**

### **Item 8. Working Groups**

- 8.1 Equality and Diversity Working Group-** Ms Whaley circulated a draft proposal of the Terms of Reference for the future of the Equality and Diversity Group.
- 8.2 Employer Sector Chairs Group-** Mr Williams advised members that the next meeting will take place on 16 March 2006.

*(Mrs Pickering left at 10.20) Meeting*

The meeting was no longer quorate

**Noted**

### **Item 9. Chair's Report**

#### **9.1 Local Audit Committee**

The Chair felt that it was important not to dispense with the local Audit Committees as suggested by national guidance. The Chair has discussed this issue with the Regional Director.

#### **9.2 Regional Board**

The Regional Board are currently reviewing its Terms of Reference in light of the national guidance in 9.1. The Chair will report back to members.

**Action: Chair**

### **Item 10. Executive Director's Report**

- 10.1** It was agreed that a presentation on Train to Gain would be given at the next Council Meeting.

**Action: Council Secretary**

**Item 11. Finance and Budgets**

11.1 Ms Dobson advised members that budgets totalling £1,082,000 had been transferred to 2006-2007 financial year for a range of programmes.

**Item 12. Any other business**

12.1 Mr Hughes gave his apologies for the next meeting.

**Noted**

12.2 There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.40.

**Item 13. Schedule of future meetings**

13.1 The schedule of future meetings had been circulated with the papers.

**Item 14. Date of next meeting**

14.1 The next Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 23 May 2006, 08.30 – 12.00 in the Stainton Room, LSC Tees Valley.

<b>Meeting chair</b>	Terry Dabbs
<b>Minute taker</b>	Julie Kennedy
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