

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date	22 March 2005
Subject	Council Meeting
Location	Stainton Room
Time	08:30
LSC office	Tees Valley
Publication intent	Internal

Present	Mr T Dabbs (Chair) Mrs P T Eccles Mr J Arthur Mr K Cranney Mr J Fitzpatrick Mrs A Haskins Mr J Hughes Mr J Keith (present for items 1-7) Mr M Pearson Ms P Whaley Mr I Williams (present for items 1-6)
In attendance	Ms S Elliott, JobCentre Plus Mr A Lewis, Government Office for the North East Mr M Taylor, Business Link Tees Valley (present for items 1-7)
LSC staff	Ms G Dobson, Head of Finance and Governance Mrs E Finn, Planning Adviser (present for items 1-7) Mrs D Hunt, Director of Equality and Inclusion (North East) (present for items 1-5) Mr T Jones, Head of Planning and Performance Mr D Sanders, Director of Planning and Resources Mr A Wallace, Head of Policy and Research (present for items 1-6)
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: Mr M Elliott Mr J Hogg Ms H Pickering Mr S Davidson, JobCentre Plus Mr D Irwin, Connexions Tees Valley Mr J Rowan, Director of Learning and Skills

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 The chair welcomed Ms Elliott to the meeting.

Item 2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

Item 3. Minutes of the last meeting

3.1 The minutes of the local council meeting held on 25 January 2005 were accepted as a true record with the following amendment:

8.7 Paragraph should read would not be proceeding any further with their merger discussions at this time ...

NOTED

Item 4. Matters Arising

4.1 Council Discussion – Annual Plan 2005/06

Council Members were advised that the Annual Plan has been accepted by the National Council.

4.2 Regional Board

Members were advised that the copy of the role of the regional board had only been received that morning and would be circulated by the end of the week.

Decision: Circulate role of the regional board to local Council Members.

Action: Chair/Council Secretary

Item 5. New Offender Learning and Skills Service

5.1 A presentation was given by Mrs Hunt, Director of Equality and Inclusion (North East). The presentation gave an overview of, and the challenges faced by, the new Offender Learning and Skills Service. Council Members were advised that resources were still to be finalised with only indicative budgets known.

Item 6. 14-19 Inspection Feedback

6.1 The Executive Director recapped the process of the 14-19 Middlesbrough Inspection and highlighted the main outcomes of the inspection. The various aspects of the feedback were discussed. The report is expected in draft in April 2005, to be published in June 2005.

Item 7. Our Vision for the Tees Valley (Strategic Area Review)

7.1 Mr Jones gave an overview of the Strategic Area Review process and advised that a decision had been made to produce a vision document that links with the Annual Plan. Members were advised that the Annual Plan formed the first outcome from the Strategic Area Review and that its findings had been used as part of the Development Plan discussions with providers.

7.2 Council Members were advised that the Strategic Area Review Stakeholders Group had reviewed the document at its meeting on 17 March 2005 and their comments would be fed through to this local council discussion. It had been noted that the inclusion of Aim Higher and reference to Jobcentre Plus had been omitted; however this would be amended.

7.3 The Chair took everyone through the document and a number of comments were made in light of the outcome of the 14-19 Middlesbrough Inspection and 14-19 White Paper. Some changes were agreed and that the document will be made available following the conclusion of the election period.

7.4 It was further agreed that the document would clearly state the LSC Tees Valley is developing the Strategic Area Review work and will produce additional analyses and proposals at the borough level.

Decision: Changes suggested by the local Council to be made and statement added regarding additional analyses and proposals at borough level.

Action: Mr Jones

7.5 Mr Jones advised that discussions were still taking place regarding producing a regional delivery plan, although not all local LSCs have produced a document as part of their Strategic Area Review.

Item 8. Working Group Updates

8.1 Audit Committee

A copy of the minutes from the Audit Committee meeting held on 10 March 2005 was circulated for information. Council Members' attention was drawn to items 5 and 6 that related to Plan-led Funding of Colleges and Work Based Learning respectively.

8.2 Equality and Diversity

A verbal update from the Equality and Diversity Working Group Meeting held on 17 March 2005 was given. Council Members were informed that the first meeting of the Regional Equality and Diversity Group would take place on 13 April 2005 when the relationship with similar local Equality and Diversity Groups would be discussed. Stockton Riverside College had given a presentation on their OfSTED Themed Inspection on Racial Equality. Members of the group had shown a lot of interest in sharing the college's best practice.

8.3 Strategic Area Review Stakeholder Group

As mentioned under Item 7 of this meeting, the Strategic Area Review Stakeholder Group had met on 17 March 2005 to discuss the plan. This had been the last meeting of the group and the local council recognised the group members' contribution over the past two years.

8.4 Sector Chairs Group

The Sector Chairs Group had met on 17 March 2005 and discussed the proposal of merging of the Sector Chairs Group and the local council's Employer Focus Working Group. The Sector Chairs accepted the proposal and agreed the Terms of Reference for the new group.

Item 9. Chairman's Report

9.1 6th Form Centre

An update on the meeting with the Further Education College and Sixth Form College Principals and Governors was given. The meeting had touched on the discussion regarding the provision of a 6th Form Centre in the West of Redcar and Cleveland. Also a meeting had taken place with Diocese of Middlesbrough regarding the future of Catholic 14-19 provision in Middlesbrough.

9.2 Regional Meeting of Council Members

Council Members agreed that there had not been enough time for discussion around the tables. The chair advised he was trying to get a copy of Chris Banks' presentation.

Item 10. Executive Director's Report

10.1 Annual Plan 2005/06

Members were informed that the Tees Valley plan had been presented to Mark Haysom on 14 March 2005. He was pleased with the local office presentations and content of the plans.

10.2 Co-financing Programme

The Executive Director reported that 192 applications have been received for delivery under Policy Fields 1-5.

10.3 Theme Four – Three-Year Development Plans

Members were advised that discussions are currently taking place with colleges on the first year 2005/06 of the three-year development plans. As a review of funding was underway, indicative budgets for 2006/07 and 2007/08 would not be available.

Item 11. Finance and Budgets

11.1 Ms Dobson reported that Further Education expenditure is on profile for the year.

Members were told that monitoring of development plans would be carried out by local office staff and that Mr Rowan is preparing a paper for the Audit Committee that details the process.

11.2 Council Members were told that there is an overspend on the Work Based Learning budget, and that this is a national issue.

11.3 Budget allocation for 2005/06 is still awaited, although it seems apparent that there will be significant cuts in some budgets to ensure we continue to drive funding towards front line delivery.

Item 12. Any other business

12.1 Adult Learners Week – 21-25 May 2005

Council Members were informed of Adult Learners Week and asked to note the date of the Regional Awards Ceremony in their diary. The Ceremony is on 27 May 2005, over lunchtime, at Stadium of Light, Sunderland. A copy of the week's activities would be circulated when available.

Decision: Council Members to note Regional Awards Ceremony in diary. Ms Whaley to circulate programme when available.

Action: Council Members/Ms Whaley

Item 13. Date of next meeting

13.1 The next meeting of the local council will take place on Tuesday 24 May 2005, 08.30 the Stainton Room, LSC Tees Valley.

Publication no.**Meeting chair**

Terry Dabbs

Minute taker

Deborah Springett

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