

**CUMBRIA LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2001 at Furness College, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, commencing at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:** Rob Cairns, Chair  
Mick Farley, Executive Director  
Tricia Calway  
Catherine Clarke  
Anne Diss  
Catherine Fare  
Paul Hafren  
Chris l'Anson  
Peter Irving  
Graham Lamont  
James Lusty  
John Nellist  
Jack Stopforth  
Mike Thorpe

**Observers:** Pam Flynn (GONW)  
Siân Rees

**In attendance:** Jon Power  
Richard Jewkes  
Elspeth Smith  
Ernie Waller  
Madeleine Warren

	<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. INTRODUCTIONS/APOLOGISES</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to Barrow and apologised for the standard of the meeting room – this would be taken up with the Principal of the College. He gave a particular welcome to Pam Flynn, who was representing Nigel Burke. He also introduced Ernie Waller, an independent assessor, who had been on the selection panel for Council members. Richard Jewkes was also in attendance to present the item on the Co-financing Plan.</p> <p>Lindsay Kennedy and Heather Richardson, staff based in Barrow, attended, for the first item, to meet Council members.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Council – Maggie Chadwick and Mike Smith. Observers – Nigel Burke, Sue Chester and Brian Lightowler Executive – Lindsay Harford.</p>	

<p>Declarations of Interest –</p> <p>Peter Irving – NTOs  Mike Thorpe – TUC  James Lusty – item 8  Anne Diss – item 10  Paul Hafren – any post-16 item  John Nellist – funding and post-16  Tricia Calway – 6<sup>th</sup> Form  Cath Clarke – item 10  Chris l’Anson – items 8 &amp; 12  Cath Fare – items 10 &amp; 15</p>	
<p><b>2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b></p> <p>The national Council’s paper containing advice to local Council members was received.</p> <p>The Chair reminded members of Council that if anything within a particular agenda contained items which related directly to them and/or their organisation then they would be obliged to leave the room. It was also agreed that any interests of a closely connected person (e.g. a spouse or partner) should also be declared.</p> <p>The paper was noted and all were in agreement.</p>	
<p><b>3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2001</b></p> <p>The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.</p> <p>It was noted that a dinner still has to be arranged with College Principals.</p>	<p><b>MF</b></p>
<p><b>4. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA</b></p> <p>Additional Costs of Rurality – Responses to the Council’s paper were noted. The Executive Director also reported he had received a phone call from the Executive Director of Shropshire LSC expressing his “in principle” support. The EDs from rural LLSCs had agreed that a collective paper would be produced based on individual entitlement.</p>	
<p><b>5. AUDIT COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>Peter Irving reported orally on the meeting held on Monday 5 November 2001 . He informed Council members that Susanna Nixon of Lamont Pridmore had joined the Committee. He reported that one provider was still causing concern and the action plan was to be closely monitored.</p> <p>Good progress was being made on the Internal Audit.</p> <p>Council members noted progress to date.</p>	

## **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director outlined his report.

Ministerial Visit – The Minister had been detained in London by a three-line whip. Tim Down who has responsibility for adult learning in the DfES had stepped in at the last minutes. The Executive Director reported that Tim Down had been good value and had taken back a positive view to the Minister. He asked members to note that John Healey was intending to visit Cumbria on 10 January 2002.

Further Education Colleges – Paul Hafren highlighted the level of audit days that are spent within colleges. The Executive Director replied that this was common across the public sector and the Council, both locally and nationally, recognised the problem. He noted that the less concern there is about colleges the lighter the touch, so that, for example, institutions with good initial inspection grades do not need to be re-inspected.

Higher Education Review – The Executive Director told members that Lindsay Harford was going to Cornwall with others (including John Nellist) to look at Higher Education there. Paul Hafren volunteered to give any assistance because of his experience working for the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Carlisle City Vision – Council members agreed with the sentiments of the Executive Director's paper, whilst accepting that not having the concept of a single site Cumbrian University could put Cumbria at a competitive disadvantage. It was accepted that there was a deeper cultural issue within the County and sight must not be lost of what has already been achieved within the County.

Individual Learning Accounts – The Government had announced the withdrawal of ILAs. The Secretary of State is looking at alternatives and had suggested pilots to test these. The Council took the view that the end of ILAs was a retrograde step as they have assisted in breaking down barriers to learning.

James Lusty's resignation from the Council was noted. The Council gave James Lusty its best wishes for the future in his new role. It was agreed that Rob Cairns, Chris l'Anson and Ernie Waller would sit on the selection committee for his replacement and that the replacement should bring with him/her an HE perspective.

The report was duly noted.

<p><b>13. PRESENTATION BY ALISON OWEN</b></p> <p>It was agreed to move this agenda item to this point of the meeting.</p> <p>Jack Stopforth gave members a short introduction on the establishment of Call Centres within the County. He then introduced Alison Owen who went on to inform Council members about the very differing types of Call Centre which had been attracted to the idea of setting up in Cumbria.</p> <p>The main barriers to call centres setting up in the County were low geographical knowledge; customer service; attendance and sustainability.</p> <p>Discussion then took place to consider how the County's workforce could be given the skills and aptitude to work in the sector.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Alison for her excellent presentation.</p>	
<p><b>7. DRAFT PROTOCOL WITH THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP</b></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined the draft Protocol which was endorsed.</p>	
<p><b>8. POST-16 FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2002/03 AND BEYOND</b></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined this paper which was duly noted.</p>	
<p><b>9. DRAFT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PLANNING AND BUDGETING</b></p> <p>The report was duly noted.</p>	
<p><b>10. CO-FINANCING PLAN</b></p> <p>Richard Jewkes outlined the plan. The Executive Director added that there would be an opportunity at the 27/28 November Awaydays to discuss the plan in greater depth.</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Richard Jewkes and his team for all their hard work.</p>	

<p><b>11. SCHOOLS ACHIEVING SUCCESS</b></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined this report. Council members agreed that a great deal remained to be done to ensure that schools within the County “signed up” to this initiative. It was acknowledged that the relationship with the local LSC and Local Strategic Partnerships needed to be strengthened. Pam Flynn said that her team at GONW would be happy to become involved if this would be helpful. The paper was duly noted.</p>	
<p><b>12. 16-19 ORGANISATION AND INSPECTION</b></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined the paper. He explained that the Council would have to wait to see what the Education Bill brings forward when it is published later in the month. Issues relating to school 6<sup>th</sup> forms are very sensitive and we can only move forward if we take people with us. The paper and the present position were noted.</p>	
<p><b>14. FMD RELATED ISSUES</b></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined the paper which was duly noted.</p>	
<p><b>15. CASSELS’ REPORT</b></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined the paper. He pointed out that it was good to see that the Council’s “Other Training” concerns had been met by the “Entry Into Employment” proposals. It remains to be seen how the proposals will be taken forward.</p> <p>The paper was noted.</p>	
<p><b>16. DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL COUNCILS</b></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined the paper. Tricia Calway asked when Council members can be included in Conferences. It was acknowledged that a Conference for all Council members was to be organised but, as yet, no date was known.</p> <p>It was agreed that the local Council must endeavour to shoehorn national policies into local systems and to take local influences to national policies.</p> <p>The paper was duly noted.</p>	
<p><b>17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Tricia Calway asked for an update on the sub-committees.</p> <p>Young People’s Learning Committee – set up and first meeting arranged.</p> <p>Adult Learners Committee – The Executive Director was in the process of discussing the first meeting with the Chair of the Committee.</p> <p>Audit – ongoing.</p> <p>Equality &amp; Diversity – first meeting set up.</p>	

<p>North West Festival of Skills – Tricia Calway asked for the Council’s agreement to including the LSC logo on any publications. This was agreed.</p> <p>Chris l’Anson – Nick Brown had visited the County on 2 November to open Stoneleigh (a joint venture training establishment).</p> <p>National Training Awards – the North West event is taking place on 14 November at the Lowry Centre, Manchester. Cath Clarke said that more should be done to encourage Cumbrian entries.</p> <p>A letter was to go out from the LSC to WBL Providers inviting them to a meeting to formally establish a WBL Providers Forum in the County.</p> <p>Mike Thorpe – A Skills Development Conference is taking place at Westlakes Science Park on 29 November.</p>	
<p><b>18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 16 January, commencing at 10.00 a.m. at Workington.</p>	