

CUMBRIA LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15 MAY 2003 AT
THE OFFICES OF CONNEXIONS CUMBRIA, PENRITH, COMMENCING
AT 9.30 A.M.**

Present:

Council:

Rob Cairns
Mick Farley
Val Bailey
Chris l'Anson
Peter Irving
Rob Johnston
Graham Lamont
John Nellist
Mike Smith
Jack Stopforth
Mike Thorpe

Observers:

Pam Flynn
Siân Rees

In attendance:

Nigel Couzens
Lindsay Harford
Jon Power
Elspeth Smith

	ACTION
<p>1. <u>Apologies and Introductions</u></p> <p>Apologies – Council – Norman Burrow, Tricia Calway, Cath Clarke, Anne Diss, Cath Fare.</p> <p>Observers – Mick Carey, Brian Lightowler</p> <p>2. <u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Jack Stopforth – 10 Mike Smith – 7, 10 Val Bailey – 7 Mike Thorpe – TUC, Kendal College Peter Irving – CITB Rob Johnston – 7.5 Exec Director's Report Chris l'Anson – 7,10</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2003 and evaluation of the last meeting</u></p> <p>These were accepted and signed as a true record.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</u></p> <p>E2E Proposals are in the process of being evaluated and decisions on contracts will be made shortly.</p> <p>TEC Legacy Funds – this will be discussed at the Audit Committee.</p>	

Annual Plan – is at the printers and will be available within the next few weeks.	
<p>5. <u>Audit Committee</u></p> <p>Peter Irving outlined the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee and what would be discussed at the meeting following Council.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Young People’s Learning Committee</u></p> <p>John Nellist informed Council that the meeting had been postponed and would be re-convened.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Executive Director’s Report</u></p> <p>Mick Farley outlined his report.</p> <p>He told members that the Fender Report would be available on the HEFCE website as of 15 May. If any member wanted a copy of the full report they were to contact Elspeth.</p> <p>The Executive Director re-iterated his point that no matter how enthusiastic certain quarters may be about a bricks and mortar 'University of Cumbria', this was not practical – future funding would be impossible. He was due to be interviewed later by Border TV and Council agreed with the approach he said he proposed taking.</p> <p>Skills for the Nuclear Industry – Nigel Couzens reported that a meeting was due to take place after the Council which would drive forward the initiative. Tribute was paid to Cumbria Inward Investment Agency for all the hard work in persuading government to locate this initiative in West Cumbria.</p> <p>College Re-organisation – Council were in agreement that Tribal be engaged in carrying out the feasibility study. National Office and DfES had been informed about the proposal.</p> <p>Carlisle Area Review – The Executive Director and the Corporate Director - Education were going to London in early June to meet the DfES.</p> <p>Re-Shaping the Organisation – The Executive Director outlined how more senior staff were now reporting direct to him and that fortnightly meetings would be held to guide staff through the coming months.</p>	ES
<p>8. <u>Performance Report</u></p> <p>Mick Farley outlined this report. Concerns were voiced over the robustness of some of the figures. This was the second attempt from National Office and all the information has to be put in context. However, Council agreed that it was a useful benchmark.</p> <p>It was agreed that, in future, only local information and an overview of the national picture be brought to Council.</p>	
<p>9. <u>Area Wide Inspection: West Cumbria</u></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined the report. A draft report was expected in the near future and the final report should be published towards the end of June. It would contain no surprises but might contain some hard messages. The model developed in West Cumbria, as a consequence of the Inspection, will be rolled out and can be used elsewhere in the County.</p>	

<p>Mike Thorpe pointed out that it was important that “our audience” know that the LSC has only recently taken over responsibility for 14-19 provision. However this was a good platform to move forward.</p> <p>Pam Flynn added that Cumbria was in the first round of 14-19 pathfinders and therefore has everything to play for.</p>	
<p>10. <u>National Skills Agenda</u></p> <p>Nigel Couzens outlined the papers. He told Council that the consultation event would take place on 19 May and the submission would have to be with the Department by 20 May 2003. He added that he had received a good response from employers to the event, with a fair mix of large and small employers attending.</p> <p>The results of the local consultation would be brought to the next Council.</p> <p>Council discussed the fact that we still have a challenge in Cumbria to help people aspire to upskilling and/or higher education.</p> <p>Thanks were recorded to Nigel, his team and members of the Adult Learning Committee for all the hard work.</p>	NC
<p>11. <u>Any other urgent business</u></p> <p>National Rail Academy – Jack Stopforth updated colleagues – the case for Carlisle had been put forward with others and the outcome was still awaited.</p> <p>Summer Learning Programme – Chris l’Anson said that training providers had been included in the programme this year.</p> <p>IIP Review – Nigel Couzens informed Council that the local review was due to take place in June and that some members might be invited to have a discussion with the assessor.</p> <p>NVQ 5 in Management – Chris l’Anson told fellow members that her portfolio had been accepted. Council congratulated her on this.</p> <p>Chairs’ Day - Rob Cairns told Council that the recent Chairs’ meeting had been the best yet. Bryan Sanderson had congratulated local Councils on the good work so far.</p> <p>The Chair informed members that the new Chief Executive of JobCentre Plus had been announced. He is David Anderson and comes from the Yorkshire Building Society.</p> <p>Council members travelling to London on 23 June – Elspeth Smith to arrange travel.</p>	ES
<p>12. <u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 23 July commencing at 10.00 a.m. in the Kendal area. <i>Post meeting note – meeting location Broughton Crags Hotel, Great Broughton nr Cockermouth.</i></p>	

Signed..... **Date**.....