

CUMBRIA LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2003 AT
THE CASTLE GREEN HOTEL, KENDAL, COMMENCING AT
10.30 A.M.**

Present:

Council:

Rob Cairns
Mick Farley
Val Bailey
Norman Burrow
Tricia Calway
Anne Diss
Cath Fare
Chris l'Anson
Peter Irving
Rob Johnston
John Nellist
Mike Smith
Jack Stopforth
Mike Thorpe

Observers:

Mick Carey
Siân Rees

In attendance:

Lindsay Harford
Jon Power
Elsbeth Smith
Madeleine Warren

	ACTION
<p>1. <u>Apologies and Introductions</u></p> <p>Apologies – Council – Graham Lamont, Cath Clarke. Observers – Nigel Burke, Brian Lightowler</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Val Bailey and Rob Johnston to their first Council meeting.</p> <p>2. <u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Mike Smith – 8 Chris l'Anson – 8 Val Bailey - FE Peter Irving – CITB Mike Thorpe – TUC, Kendal College Cath Fare – 8 Jack Stopforth – Kendal College</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 23 January 2003 and evaluation of the last meeting</u></p> <p>They were accepted and signed as a true record.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</u></p> <p>Rural Regeneration Company – the Chair informed members that he had written to the Chair of the Regeneration Company but this did not seem to have had any effect. However, the Executive Director has since met with the Chair.</p>	

<p>Barrow Task Force – Update at next meeting.</p> <p>NW Council members’ meeting – This will now take place at the Low Wood Hotel, Windermere, on Friday 13 June 2003.</p>	<p>M F</p>
<p>5. <u>Young Peoples’ Learning Committee</u></p> <p>Mick Farley outlined the minutes and presented them for information. Mike Smith asked if Council members could be informed of future meeting dates so that if they so wished, they could attend as an observer. This was agreed. The minutes were duly noted.</p>	<p>ES</p>
<p>6. <u>Adult Learning Committee</u></p> <p>Mike Thorpe outlined the minutes and presented them for information. The minutes were duly noted.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Equality & Diversity Advisory Group</u></p> <p>The minutes were duly noted.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Executive Director’s Report</u></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined his report and the supplementary papers.</p> <p>HE – There had been a very successful launch and Mick Farley went on to outline the proposed next steps.</p> <p>Recent Inspection Cycle – Council acknowledge the progress made by Furness and Kendal Colleges. Congratulations to both Principals were noted. It was agreed that the Executive Director would write to both Chairs.</p> <p>E2E – Jon Power reported that guidance was still coming through and he hoped for a roll out of the initiative in May.</p> <p>Admin Budget – The Executive Director said that things were being done to ameliorate the impact at a local and national level. Because of the re-shaping a holding budget would be put in place. It was agreed that the reply from Bryan Sanderson had failed to answer our Chair’s questions.</p> <p>TEC Legacy Funds – The Audit Committee to receive a full report for their next meeting.</p> <p>Management Training – Chris l’Anson noted that this had been of great benefit to Training Providers, especially during the last round of inspections.</p> <p>AWI of West Cumbria – The oral feedback that had been received didn’t contain any surprises. The strategic level was good but we must now get on with improving the operational level.</p> <p>Connexions had received good feedback, with impartial guidance being given to clients.</p> <p>National Sectors Pilots – Construction (OSAT) – Peter Irving congratulated the LSC for running with this. However, he asked why a delegate from Durham was charged £250 and one from Cumbria £400. Nigel Couzens to look into this and provide Peter with a written reply.</p>	<p>M F</p> <p>MW</p> <p>NC</p>

<p>National Plan – The Executive of the National Council has graded the Cumbrian plan as a “2”.</p> <p>Development of a National Skills Strategy – The consultation event due to be held on 19 May will be badged CBI & Chamber. It was agreed to hold an extended Council meeting on 15 May to discuss this further. Also a special Adult Learners Committee meeting will be arranged to discuss this also.</p> <p>Performance Report National – Work continuing on the template. This will be shared with Council and will be discussed at the 15 May meeting.</p> <p>Appraisals for Council members – Tricia Calway offered to send a copy of the St Mary’s Governors Appraisal form and Siân Rees will also send a copy of the Connexions one.</p> <p>The report was duly noted.</p>	<p>M F/MT</p> <p>M F</p> <p>TC/SR</p>
<p>9. Council Residential</p> <p>College Collaboration</p> <p>The Executive Director handed out a resolution regarding further education in the County. Norman Burrow pointed out that Newton Rigg also provided further education (this would be altered). Also Mike Smith requested that the last line should be altered to read “Council wishes to secure such an re-organisation in a designated timeframe” – this was also agreed.</p> <p>This will be reviewed at future Council meetings.</p> <p>Council members wished to be assured that they would receive a “script” in case of any press interest. The Colleges and Council members were requested to keep this matter confidential until after the Principals & Chairs had met with our Chair and Executive Director on 14 April.</p> <p>It was agreed that Council members would receive an advanced copy of the press release.</p> <p>Council members agreed unanimously to the amended resolution below:</p> <p>Council seeks to secure further improvements to the further education sector in the County which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) maintain, further develop and enhance the range and quality of learning opportunities and employers, and (ii) secure financial stability through optimising the cost-effectiveness of delivering further education across Cumbria. <p>To achieve this, Council’s vision is a single Countywide general further education institution – a re-organisation of the current four general further education colleges – which would enhance existing local provision and local responsiveness and involve appropriate senior management leadership at a local level.</p> <p>In taking forward its vision, Council will pursue due processes including working in partnership with existing colleges to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ maintain current efforts to improve the quality of existing provision ; ➤ undertake a curriculum led due diligence exercise; ➤ identify the optimum organisational model; and ➤ identify appropriate governance and management arrangements that 	<p>M F</p> <p>M F</p>

<p>will maximise local provision and responsiveness.</p> <p>Council wishes to secure such a re-organisation in a designated timeframe.</p> <p>Carlisle Area Review</p> <p>Council unanimously agreed the following resolution:</p> <p>“Council agrees that the Carlisle Area Review Report should now be taken forward in a due process, which includes a period of consultation, and expresses its support for Option 4 as set out in the report.”</p> <p>Council would also receive an advanced copy of the press release which would be issued in connection with this.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for the useful discussions which had taken place during the residential.</p>	<p>M F</p>
<p>10. <u>FRESA</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the Action Plan reflects the report. However Tricia Calway pointed out that the sub-regional leads were not “joined up”. This would be revisited in the light of discussion and a draft sent to the FRESA Sub-Committee for approval.</p>	<p>JP</p>
<p>11. <u>Annual Plan</u></p> <p>It was noted that Mick Farley was not down as a Council member. Tricia Calway wanted the “UK” taken out of her company title. Richard Jewkes to alter.</p>	<p>RJ</p>
<p>12. <u>Any other urgent business</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>13. <u>Evaluation of Meeting</u></p> <p>The Chair encouraged members to complete and hand in their forms.</p>	
<p>14. <u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting would be held on Thursday 15 May at the offices of Connexions Cumbria, Hackthorpe Hall, Penrith.</p>	

Signed..... Date.....