

LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL CUMBRIA

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2004 AT
THE WESTMORLAND HOTEL, TEBAY, COMMENCING
AT 9.00 A.M.**

Present:

Council:

Rob Cairns
Norman Burrow
Anne Diss
Mick Farley
Cath Fare
Peter Irving
Rob Johnston
Graham Lamont
Mike Smith
Jack Stopforth
Mike Thorpe

Observers:

Nigel Burke
Brian Lightowler

In attendance:

Jon Power
Representatives from Robson Rhodes (timed business at 9.00 a.m.)
Tony Rowe (timed business at 11.30 a.m.)
Elspeth Smith
Moirra Tattersall (timed business at 11.00 a.m.)
Madeleine Warren

	ACTION																
<p>1. <u>Apologies and Introductions</u></p> <p>Apologies – Council – Tricia Calway, Chris l'Anson Observers – Mick Carey, Siân Rees</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Eugene, Kate, Mel and Neil from Robson Rhodes.</p> <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <table><tr><td>Peter Irving</td><td>CITB, Sector Skills Council</td></tr><tr><td>Mike Smith</td><td>Foundation Governor of Secondary School Nuclear Skills WBL</td></tr><tr><td>Mike Thorpe</td><td>TUC, Kendal College</td></tr><tr><td>Cath Fare</td><td>Kendal College</td></tr><tr><td>Jack Stopforth</td><td>Kendal College, UCLAN</td></tr><tr><td>Graham Lamont</td><td>Kendal College, Lakes College</td></tr><tr><td>Rob Johnston</td><td>Nuclear Skills</td></tr><tr><td>Norman Burrow</td><td>UCLAN, Kendal College</td></tr></table>	Peter Irving	CITB, Sector Skills Council	Mike Smith	Foundation Governor of Secondary School Nuclear Skills WBL	Mike Thorpe	TUC, Kendal College	Cath Fare	Kendal College	Jack Stopforth	Kendal College, UCLAN	Graham Lamont	Kendal College, Lakes College	Rob Johnston	Nuclear Skills	Norman Burrow	UCLAN, Kendal College	
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<p>2. <u>Extended Feasibility Study</u></p> <p>There was a general consensus that the idea of a college merger or closer collaboration would not be the total solution to the financial problems facing the</p>																	

<p>individual colleges.</p> <p>Concern was raised as to how the closer collaboration could be driven forward. It was suggested that a Project Board be set up to achieve collaborative benefits. However, it was acknowledged that the colleges don't have the capacity to take driven collaboration forward and the LSC would have to take the lead. It was agreed that capacity has to be dealt with separately from structure.</p> <p>Robson Rhodes suggested that the colleges have joint marketing services to promote FE in general, as well as putting forward the local angle. It was acknowledged that although shared services would save money, these savings would not be significant.</p> <p>Council members requested a copy of the interviews held with staff and with MPs. This was agreed.</p> <p>It was highlighted that there was a danger of confusing two issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The financial status of the colleges 2. Getting the management structure up to speed. <p>Council members agreed that this matter was now urgent but were concerned to know if the local Council had the capacity to push "driven" collaboration forward. It is also vital that the colleges are behind any proposal for change. Any changes must be the strategy for the next 20 years – sticking plaster management cannot continue.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Council couldn't give up on FE in the County. It is convinced that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merger – appears not acceptable • Status quo – is not acceptable • Voluntary collaboration – is not working • Work with colleges on driven collaboration – must be pursued • Principals must be engaged. <p>The Executive Director added that the issue of FE in Cumbria has been around for a long time. £3M tied up in colleges delivering nothing and National Office will not allow this to continue.</p> <p>Robson Rhodes agreed to take on board evidential points and capture the essence of consensus of discussion. Caveat – expectation around income – no factual information to back this up.</p> <p>The Chair concluded that Robson Rhodes would work with the Executive to finalise the report. He endorsed the recommendation to invite Governors and Principals to attend the next meeting.</p> <p>He also agreed to set up an Action Group to take this forward. It was agreed that Graham Lamont would act as Chair and members would include Norman Burrow, the local Executive, College Principals and Chairs of Governors. It would be up to the Group to decide if staff reps should be included.</p> <p>Graham Lamont proposed that the first meeting should consist of Council members, Principals, Chairs of Governors to discuss the report and to map the way forward.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Eugene, Kate, Mel and Neil for their input.</p>	<p>RR</p>
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<p>3. <u>Carlisle College Capital Proposal</u></p> <p>(On the agenda as Item 6).</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Moira Tattersall to the meeting and invited the Executive Director to outline the paper.</p> <p>Peter Irving and Mike Smith asked if they could arrange to visit the site and look at the drawings – this was agreed.</p> <p>Council members were concerned that the final figures might not reflect those proposed because no architectural plans had been drawn up – there was bound to be a margin of error around the figures quoted.</p> <p>Council members were encouraged by the proposal, as the option to just make good was not satisfactory. Nor was the suggestion of a completely new college built out of the City Centre.</p> <p>The proposal was therefore accepted by all present and the final decision regarding the extent of Council's support (35% to 40%) was delegated to the Chair and Deputy-Chair for final decision.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Healthcheck</u></p> <p>(On the agenda as Item 7).</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Tony Rowe from Ben Johnson-Hill Consultants. He briefly went through the questionnaire and asked that members complete their copies and return them to Elspeth Smith by 12 February 2004.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2004 and evaluation of the last meeting</u></p> <p>These were accepted and signed as a true record.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 December 2003</u></p> <p>Under "Carlisle Sixth Form Review" - Sixth Form Heads was changed to read Sixth Form College Principals. They were then accepted as a true record.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 26 November 2003</u></p> <p>The Chair (Peter Irving) outlined the minutes. He reported that two new members had joined the committee (Steve Griffiths from Carlisle College and David Emerson from Connexions Cumbria). He also announced that Brian Clayton had resigned. Thanks were recorded to Brian for all his hard work.</p> <p>The notes were duly noted.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Note of Young People's Learning Committee meeting held on 2 December 2003</u></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined the minutes and they were duly noted.</p>	

<p>9. <u>Executive Director's Report</u></p> <p>The Executive Director outlined his report. Council agreed to note the establishment of a local IAG Strategy Group as set out.</p> <p>Regional Skills Partnership – The Executive Director pointed out that although this was a point of tension nationally, in the North West at a sub-regional level, the NWDA was being very helpful and co-operative and a good relationship had been formed.</p> <p>Carlisle Area Review – Members congratulated the Executive Director and his team for all the hard work which had been done to get the Council through the consultation period. There would be a special Council meeting on 12 February to decide on the outcome of the consultation and to discuss a way forward.</p> <p>Nuclear Skills – Mike Smith said that this was one area that Cumbria can hold its head up at a national level. Council must put its shoulder behind vocational education.</p> <p>The report was duly noted.</p>	
<p>10. <u>Annual Plan</u></p> <p>The Executive Director explained that the plan which had previously been agreed by Council had been presented to Mark Haysom and John Korzeniewski on 23 January 2004 and a response was awaited.</p> <p>The report was duly noted.</p>	
<p>11. <u>Any other business</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>12. <u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 March 2004, commencing at 10.00 a.m.</p>	

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