

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	31 January 2007
Subject	Learning and Skills Council Cheshire and Warrington
Location	Connexions, Rudheath
Time	16:00
LSC office	Cheshire and Warrington
Publication intent	Public

Present	Andrew Gurr (Chair) Alistair Tranter Dave McCall Steve Hoy Graham Dumbell Bill Rutter Christine Gaskell Tim Wheeler Karen Russ Liz Davis
LSC staff	John Barber Brian Wilkes
Apologies	Apologies had been received from: David Black Tara Jade David Collins Jim Keegan David Rowlands Lorelly Wilson John Heritage Sandra Brusby Nigel Burke

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Andrew Gurr welcomed members to the forty-second Council meeting.
- 1.2 There were no declarations of interest in any of the agenda items.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting which took place on 4th January were agreed as a true record.

Item 3. Matters arising

- 3.1 The meeting of 4th January was a special meeting to consider capital project proposals so matters arising from the meeting of 29 November had been held over until this meeting.
- 3.2 It was agreed that all matters arising were covered in the note attached to the minutes.

Item 4. Chester Campus of West Cheshire College (Paper 250)

- 4.1 Bill Rutter introduced the paper and described the three options facing the College. It was likely that one of these would come to Council for Approval in Principle in the spring.
- 4.2 In discussion, it was agreed that the proposals were measured and appropriate. The Chairman thanked Bill Rutter for his work in chairing the Stakeholder group.

Decision: Council agreed to accept the recommendation to support the decision of the Stakeholders to continue to investigate and develop option (a), keeping option (c) in reserve if option (a) becomes unviable.

Item 5. Draft Local Delivery Plan 2007/08 (Paper 251)

- 5.1 Brian Wilkes introduced the paper and outlined the current planning process which required the local office to produce an annex to the regional plan.
- 5.2 There was concern among members about some of the terminology used to describe Cheshire and Warrington, particularly within the Regional Plan, which could lead to misinterpretation of the needs of the area.
- 5.3 Areas which members wished to see improved coverage of included:
 - a. Linkages with the Regional Economic Strategy and sub-regional action plan
 - b. Issues relating to deprivation within Cheshire and Warrington
 - c. The area's role in driving economic growth within the region
 - d. Development of the role of the Voluntary sector
 - e. Major economic development projects
 - f. Measures to tackle the issue of education and training drop-out at 17
 - g. Language skills, both ESOL and modern foreign languages.
- 5.4 **Decision:** Council agreed to endorse the draft Plan subject to the changes outlined. A revised version would be circulated to members and would be sent for consultation with the local authorities and NWDA.

Item 6. Area Director's report

- 6.1 Liz Davis introduced the report, highlighting:
 - a. The possible raising of the education and training participation age to 18
 - b. The consultation on changes to the funding systems
 - c. The current position in regard to the response to the Adjudicator's decision in Sandbach.

- d. The national Capital Committee's endorsement of the Reaseheath College project.
 - e. The Skills Alliance's consideration of its future role and direction in relation to the Leitch report among other developments.
- 6.2 In relation to the Skills Alliance, the Chairman shared some of his views about a local response to the possible development of Employment and Skills Boards. Members agreed to meet informally to discuss this in more detail on 12th February at 8:00am at the LSC offices in Middlewich.

Item 7. Regional Conference (Paper 252)

- 7.1 Liz Davis introduced this item. Members were not convinced of the value of the Conference at this particular stage. Liz Davis will feed this back to the Regional Board.

Item 8. Any other business

- 8.1 Tim Wheeler requested an assurance that the LSC were involved in discussions on the development of Academies in Ellesmere Port. Liz Davis confirmed that the local team were involved in discussions.
- 8.2 Christine Gaskell outlined the demand among large businesses for the International Baccalaureate which she understood was sufficient for a College and School in every District to be offering as a qualification. Liz Davis said that Priestley College, Sir John Deane's College, South Cheshire College and Wilmslow High School were all currently interested.
- 8.3 Christine Gaskell also described a project at Bentley which may have potential for use by other employers, helping managers to understand the company's skills needs for the next ten years and the role of Apprentices across a wide range of frameworks in supporting this. Liz Davis confirmed that the local office would be interested in exploring this in more detail. Steve Hoy offered information on trends in school leaver destinations.

Item 9. Date of next meeting

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Committee will take place at 4.00pm on Wednesday, 28 March in Dalton House.

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Meeting chair	Andrew Gurr
Minute taker	John Barber
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