

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	20 September 2006
Subject	Council Meeting
Location	LSC Cumbria, Workington
Time	14:00
LSC office	Cumbria
Publication intent	Public

Present	Jack Stopforth, Ruth Bullen, Graham Baldwin, Cath Dutton, Chris l'Anson, Peter Irving, Graham Lamont, Mike Smith, Mike Thorpe, Pat Glenday
In attendance	Brian Lightowler, John Swainston
LSC staff	Jon Power, Marjorie Pickthall, Elspeth Smith
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: Anne Diss, Rob Johnston, Tricia Calway, John Weir. Nigel Burke, Steve Johnson, Sian Rees

Item 1. Introductory Remarks

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed John Swainston as an Observer to the Council.
- 1.2 The Chair informed Council that Marjorie Pickthall would be joining the meeting at Item 7.

Item 2. Apologies

- 2.1 As above.

Item 3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 Pat Glenday – FE, T2G
- 3.2 Mike Thorpe – TUC, BL/Activ8
- 3.3 Graham Baldwin – UCLan, Kendal College
- 3.4 Cath Dutton – Kendal College, ESF
- 3.5 Chris l'Anson – WBL, AL, IAG, ESF, JC+, 14-19, Connexions
- 3.6 Mike Smith – WBL, ESF, T2G, Sixth Forms
- 3.7 Jack Stopforth – UCLan

Item 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2006

4.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Item 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes not otherwise on the Agenda

5.1 Item 6 – Regional Audit Committee – The Chair to feedback to Council after the Regional Board Meeting.

5.2 Item 7 – YPLC –to be merged with the countywide14-19 Pathfinder Group.

5.3 Item 11 – Cumbria College Collaboration Report – LSC Cumbria will in future attend the meetings of FE College Principals.

Item 9. Streamlining Accountabilities

9.1 It was agreed to take Item 9 at this point in the meeting.

Ruth Bullen introduced the paper and discussion took place around this and the letter from Chris Banks dated 18 September.

9.2 Members were in agreement that any change to existing arrangements should be subject to normal judicial processes and the Council would remain a statutory body until such time as the Education and Inspections Bill was passed. Council expressed disappointment that after years of positive work its influence would be reduced and that future decisions affecting the County would be taken regionally.

9.3 It was agreed that the Chair should raise the issue at the next Regional Board meeting on 21 September 2006 and the National Chairs meeting on 11 October and that he would report back to Council. Once this had happened a decision would be taken as to whether or not the Council would write to the Secretary of State registering concerns. Members felt strongly that the changes raised issues of personal integrity and that this must be drawn to the attention of Ministers.

Item 6. Regional Statement of Priorities

6.1 Jon Power introduced the paper and added that members would have the opportunity to comment on the draft in due course.

6.2 The paper was duly noted.

Item 7. Young People's Learning

7.1 Marjorie Pickthall joined the meeting to introduce the paper. In terms of the Carlisle Schools Organisation review she explained that Option 4 (the most strongly supported of the four options) would assist in implementing the 14-19 agenda locally.

7.2 The Chair thanked Marjorie and other members of the executive who have continued to work hard throughout the Theme 7 process including ensuring that the outcome of the JAR was positive.

7.3 The paper was duly noted.

Item 8. Excellence in Cumbria Awards

8.1 The Chair informed Council that the Excellence in Cumbria Awards would take place once again this year.

Action: He agreed to write to local companies to seek sponsorship.

Item 10. Framework for Excellence

10.1 Ruth Bullen explained that the document was out for consultation.

10.2 Members commented on the star rating. Some regarded it as unhelpful to Providers on the grounds that it will simply increase bureaucracy while there remains a suite of other measures of performance such as ISO9000, Matrix and Ofsted/ALI inspections.

Item 11. Area Director's Report

11.1 Ruth Bullen outlined the internal structure in greater detail to members.

11.2 A list of "who does what" will be circulated to members.

Action: ES

11.3 University for Cumbria – the LSC will continue to reinforce the fact that it is for the LSC to determine how FE provision is to be made.

11.4 Carlisle College Capital – the LSC and senior management of Carlisle College had agreed that Phase 2 of the capital strategy would not proceed as originally intended. A fresh proposal would be prepared and submitted. It was noted that it had previously been agreed that £10.4m was the total that the LSC would agree to. The new proposal would need to be submitted to the Regional Board.

11.5 Kendal College – agreement still to be reached regarding the capital plan.

11.6 Audit Committee – Ruth agreed to speak to regional colleagues about how to address the college issues and that a final meeting may be convened to discuss these issues. It was also agreed to write to members thanking them for their service.

Action: RB

Item 12. AOB

12.1 Chris l'Anson mentioned the possible effect of EMAs on WBL. This was duly noted.

12.2 Brian Lightowler updated Council on the situation at Business Link.

Item 13. Date of next meeting

To be advised.

Publication no.

Meeting chair

Minute taker

Date created

Document ref.

Jack Stopforth

Elsbeth Smith

11 October 2006

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