

Minutes



Learning+Skills Council

37th BOARD MEETING

Date: 20 April 2004
Time: 17.00 hours
Venue: Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre, Marton Mere, Blackpool
Chair: John Oliver

In attendance:

Board Members

Linda Crabtree
Tony Gill
Ray McManus
Steve Palmer, Executive Director

Observers:

Steve Johnson
Karen O'Donoghue

Directors:

Dave Cresswell
Andy Fawcett
Viv King
Sandra Whyte

Apologies:

Board Members

Nancy Cookson
Jeff Cowburn
Hazel Harding
Alyson Malach
Malcolm McVicar
Janice Parker
Greg Turner

Observers:
Phil Burgess
Nigel Burke
Neville Chamberlain

ACTION

1. Chairman's opening remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all present including Emma Hazelwood, Jacqueline Marsh and Kath Smith who were attending for item 5. Alan Cavill joined the meeting at item 6. The Chairman gave his thanks to Steve Johnson for hosting the meeting at Jobcentre Plus offices.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Nigel Burke, Phil Burgess, Neville Chamberlain, Nancy Cookson, Jeff Cowburn, Hazel Harding, Alyson Malach, Malcolm McVicar, Janice Parker and Greg Turner.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2004 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters not arising elsewhere on the agenda

4.3 Steve Palmer agreed to chase Jayne Dooley with regard to setting up a pre board training session on Equality and Diversity. **SP**

7.3 Steve Palmer stated that Lancashire's Employer Training Pilot would be an agenda item at the May meeting. **SP**

5. Virtual tour of a Jobcentre Plus site

Emma Hazelwood gave the Board a visual tour of St Annes Jobcentre explaining the different stages customers follow when entering the centre.

Jacqueline Marsh gave the Board a presentation on the achievements of Jobcentre Plus and how it is engaging and developing employers' needs.

Jacqueline explained that nationally there were fewer than a million people unemployed but a further four million were claiming benefits, however many of these want to work and Jobcentre Plus has given its commitment to making a difference to the individuals concerned.

Kath Smith gave the Board an overview of her role as a Field Account Manager and how she promotes Jobcentre Plus services to employers ensuring better match of individual customers to the employer requirements.

Enhanced partnership working is a key role of the Field Manager as is increasing customer access to a wider range of vacancies, enhancing the quality of the individuals available to employers and encouraging a work-first attitude to employment.

The Board expressed its thanks for all three presentations.

6. The Blackpool Masterplan (Alan Cavill)

Alan Cavill presented the Blackpool Masterplan to the Board and explained that it was a key strategic activity of the local authority.

He informed the Board that Lancashire West Partnership had carried out some research work regarding the employment required. Further research is required on labour force that matches improvements in job opportunities.

Alan Cavill stated that £0.5bn investment from the public sector and a further £1.1bn from the private sector was envisaged.

It is estimated that the project would double tourism by 20 million visitors and increase revenue by £1bn. 20,000 jobs would be created, 13,000 in the casinos, 3,500 in room service/waitress/waiter and 3,500 in management/professional roles.

There was a concern over the low population of skilled workers and how this would impact on local education and training infrastructure.

7. Executive Director's Report

7.1 Steve Palmer informed the Board that Lancashire Learning and Skills Council was being put forward for Investors in People recommendation. Lancashire will be the 3rd LSC in the region to have this status.

7.2 Steve Palmer reported that Margaret Dudley, Head teacher of Fleetwood High School had been interviewed as the sixth form representative on the Board. A further two vacancies were currently being advertised for Board membership from the business sector. The deadline for applications is 7th May.

7.3 It was noted that the probation service targets set for LSC Lancashire would be very difficult to reach.

7.4 It was agreed that the formal evaluation of exp04 would be shared **AF** with Board members.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 18 May 2004 at Lancashire Learning and Skills Council