

# Minutes



Learning+Skills Council

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## 41<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING

**Date:** 21 September 2004  
**Time:** 17.00 hours  
**Venue:** Taylor House, Caxton Road, Fulwood, Preston  
**Chair:** John Oliver

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**In attendance:**

**Board Members**

Nancy Cookson  
Jeff Cowburn  
Linda Crabtree  
Margaret Dudley  
Tony Gill  
Hazel Harding  
Alyson Malach  
Ray McManus  
Peter Neill  
Steve Palmer, Executive Director  
Janice Parker

**Apologies:**

**Board Members**

Neville Chamberlain  
Malcolm McVicar  
Khalid Saifullah  
Greg Turner

**Observers:**

Charlie Hooper  
Ekwaaju Ohwoisi

**Observers:**

Phil Burgess  
Nigel Burke  
Steve Johnson  
Karen O'Donoghue

**Directors:**

Dave Cresswell  
Andy Fawcett  
Viv King  
Sandra Whyte

## ACTION

**1. Chairman's opening remarks**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Ekwaaju Ohwoisi representing Nigel Burke, Charlie Hooper representing Karen O'Donoghue, Margaret Dudley and Peter Neill who had recently been appointed as new Board Members.

Margaret and Peter introduced themselves to the Board and gave a brief background into their current roles and responsibilities.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Phil Burgess, Nigel Burke, Neville Chamberlain, Malcolm McVicar, Steve Johnson, Karen O'Donoghue, Khalid Saifullah and Greg Turner.

**3. Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2004 were agreed as a true record.

**4. Matters not arising elsewhere on the agenda**

It was noted that the capital bid for Runshaw College would be resubmitted and an update on progress will be given in due course.

**SW/SP**

It was confirmed that Nelson and Colne College had received 35% support towards their capital bid.

**5. Investing in Skills – Taking Forward the Skills Strategy**

Sandra Whyte talked through the paper Investing in Skills – Fees Consultation which set out the context, and key messages in respect of the LSC consultation document 'Investing in Skills'.

The Government's Skills Strategy, published in July 2003, set out a vision to transform our national investment in skills. It set out the rights and responsibilities of government, providers, employers and individuals in securing the skills needed for a high performing economy.

It was noted that this was a complex issue covering a variety of interrelated themes.

Concern was noted that if changes were put in place the effect on those people who couldn't pay course fees would result in them not attending.

During the consultation exercise any comments from Board members and FE College Principals are welcome and should be sent to Sandra Whyte who will coordinate and forward to national office.

**6. Blackburn with Darwen 14-19 Area Wide Inspection**

Steve Palmer informed the Board that a Sub Group had been set up to assist in the discussions and preparation of the first OfSTED Area Wide Inspection for Lancashire which is covering Blackburn with Darwen Area. The Group had met on three occasions to give their input and offer support and advice as they felt appropriate.

Given her experience as a part time Inspector Viv King is acting as Project Manager for Lancashire LSC and meets with Peter Morgan and the Project Team from Blackburn with Darwen LEA on a regular basis.

A vast amount of work has gone into this project especially around the leadership and management sections.

National office has provided £25K to help fund the process.

It has been confirmed that Paul Curry and Beverly Barlow will be the main inspectors. Steve Palmer added that he and Viv King will meet with Paul and Beverly to obtain some feel as to what line they will be taking with regard the inspection as a whole.

Margaret Dudley commented on her experiences of area wide inspections and suggested that time was taken to look at the self evaluation in more detail in regard to accentuating the positive in the context of what the LSC are trying to accomplish.

## **7. Performance Update**

Andy Fawcett gave the Board an update on the current performance tables for Lancashire.

Andy Fawcett informed the Board that a national performance management framework is being developed and its anticipated arrival date is 27 September. Once received the new format will be adopted.

The Board were pleased to hear that overall 2004/05 numbers are anticipated to rise by approximately 500, the targets will be slightly revised in line with the completed 3 Year Development Plans. Work Based Learning providers are over performing.

More work is underway to review the Not Engaged in Education or Training target. As data is received updates will be provided to the Board. AF

## **8. Executive Director's Report**

Steve Palmer updated the Board on current issues.

Steve Palmer informed the Board that 26 applications had been requested in regard to the Chair vacancy, however only 4 applications had been received. Sifting is scheduled for 29 September with interviews on 4 November. A further update will be issued at the October meeting. SP

Steve Palmer congratulated Alyson Malach on her appointment to the National Equality and Diversity Committee. Alyson tabled a note she had taken at the meeting held on 14 September.

Steve Palmer informed the Board that the Chair and himself had a useful meeting with Wardle Storeys Ltd and Rolls Royce on 20 September to improve links between employers with LSC. Follow up visits will be planned for the future. Visits are planned with more top 60 employers, an update will be provided at future meetings. SP

Concern was expressed with regard to attendance levels at Board meetings from the RDA. Steve Palmer agreed to write to Neville Chamberlain with regard to his attendance and ask if he would be

able to put forward a deputy who could attend on his behalf.

**SP**

**9. Any Other Business**

None.

**10. Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 19 October 2004, 5.00 pm at Taylor House.