

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	19 June 2007
Subject	Minutes of LSC Lancashire Council Meeting
Location	LSC Lancashire
Time	1700 hours
LSC office	Lancashire
Publication intent	Internal

Present	Mike Collier Tony Gill Alan Roff Greg Turner Alison Wolstenholme
In attendance	John Jordan attending in place of Karen O'Donoghue
LSC staff	Ian Haworth Abdus Wadee Ian Kinder Bev Watson
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: Joan Lee Alyson Malach Ray McManus Clive Memmott Iqbal Memon Peter Neill Khalid Saifullah Dave Cresswell Sandra Whyte

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 The Chairman welcomed members and observers and read out apologies given. John Jordan is attending on behalf of Karen O'Donoghue.

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Item 3. Matters arising

3.1 The Area Director has provided the updated Record of Achievement.

- 3.2 The actual title of the new construction academy is West Lancashire Construction Academy. The AD is meeting with them next week and will ask if it is the most appropriate title and if other construction providers have any objections.
- 3.3 The Capital Committee met today at London and have approved the Blackpool 6th Form bid. LSC funding of 70% has been approved.

Item 4. Chair's Report

- 4.1 The FE bill is still going through and is expected to be finalised in September.

Item 5. Area Director's Report

- 5.1 On Monday we had a presentation with national colleagues on the new standard. This is something which will replace CoVEs in the future.
- 5.2 We are starting a series of meetings on Leitch, the first being tomorrow at Burnley College. Myself and John Korzenewski are attending and will be talking to governing bodies about Leitch and demand led funding and what it means for them.
- 5.3 There has been some press coverage today on academies in Preston and the knock on effect to existing providers. We need to work closely with local authorities on the academy issues, but ultimately it will be DfES led. There will be a consultation exercise in the future and at that stage the LSC will be consulted.
- 5.4 Staff Development and H.R. issues in the office – we are looking at staff learning and development needs, working with H.R. and L & D colleagues in the regional office to ascertain what they can offer our staff.

Item 6. Burnley Capital Bid

- 6.1 Alan Roff declared an interest.
- 6.2 Abdus Wadee handed out a briefing document and said the Council had to decide if they were going to support the allocation.
- 6.3 Process: over the next two weeks, the final capital appraisal will be in hand. The briefing document listed the submission dates.
- 6.4 Abdus drew the Council's attention to the affordability issues – in the detailed application, the college's long term borrowing is shown as being £7 Million and is based on a ratio of 40% relative to turnover. This leads to a view that, subject to NCC approval at the requested level of funding, the financing of the project should be affordable to the college.
- 6.5 At 40% borrowing relative to turnover, the College's Board of Governors are more than happy that they can sustain borrowing of £7 Million.
- 6.6 Abdus ran through the costs and detailed which areas have risen from the original figures.
- 6.7 With regard to keeping track of the project – any over-run on the build would be picked up by Burnley College and not the LSC. The Area Director stated that the LSC have full faith in the consultants Burnley had employed.

- 6.8 The Education Case – if anything the Education Case has been strengthened. Performance on 16-18 provision has increased significantly. The Capital Committee felt that the College forecasts were conservative and from past experience they felt that the volumes would be greater.
- 6.9 The Chair asked the Council to approve a sub group which would have delegated authority and asked for volunteers from Council Members. The sub group consists of Tony Gill, Iqbal Memon, Greg Turner, Abdus Wadee.
- 6.10 The Council voted and approved the sub group.
- 6.11 Brenda Farnworth to co-ordinate diaries for the sub group.
- 6.12 The Area Director thanked Abdus for his work on the project to date.
- 6.13 Alan Roff abstained from voting because of the HEFCE interest in the Burnley capital bid.

Item 7. Funding Allocations for FE and WBL Providers 2007/08

- 7.1 Ian Kinder talked through the FE 2007/08 Funding Allocation Process: Briefing for Colleges.
- 7.2 For 16-18 we have managed to fund growth in all areas. Total growth in the budget is 12%. However there has been a 7% cut for 19+ provision.
- 7.3 We have now reached agreement with all of our providers.
- 7.4 A formula was adapted for the FE fund allocation process. The process was made clear to all the Colleges to ensure transparency. The Area Director and Abdus Wadee went round the Colleges to explain the process.
- 7.5 WBL Provider allocations – Abdus distributed a spreadsheet detailing allocations and talked through the paper.
- 7.6 The virement of funds to the FE budget was justified for the following reasons:
- Over-performance in 16-18 participation of circa 5% in 05/06 and 06/07 with continued growth being forecast for 07/08 also.
 - Underperformance in WBL 16-18 participation in 06/07 of circa 15% for Lancashire (regional position – 12%) relative to plan.
 - Underperformance in e2e 06/07 of circa 19% for Lancashire between forecast out-turn and profiled planned places (32,728 v. 40,416).

7.7

The allocation has been shared with WBL providers and in general the allocations were workable for them. Only one provider has made representation and this is currently being looked into.

7.8

We have sought to reward two providers by giving them growth.

7.9

The Chair invited questions from the Council: Alison Wolstenholme said the two areas of concern were:

- e2e – she would like to know for LSC's future plans for e2e given that there is a significant decrease. Significant capital investment has been put in to developing e2e and the local providers are keen this isn't wasted.
- The decrease in learning and learner support budget

7.10 Abdus said there is a key difference between FE and WBL allocations. FE allocations are a one off allocation. WBL allocations have a mid year adjustment.

7.11 WBL programme – there is a facility to make 'in-year' adjustments and we tend to make these quarterly. If there is over performance we will make additional funding available.

7.12 Learning Support – when we did the modelling, we factored in volumes. However, the view was that within the overall funding allocation from the provider, if there was a view that funds needed to be moved around then this could be done.

7.13 E2e was discussed at the last forum and it was agreed that there was an action point to pull together key providers to look at this.

7.14 Regional colleagues see e2e as an under-performing area. If the e2e providers are not recruiting then OCT will consider. NEET in Lancashire is reducing.

7.15

Item 8. Lancashire Spring Performance

8.1 The Area Director handed round the North West Spring Performance Review document.

8.2 Performance is good in the following areas:

- Percentage reduction in NEET
- 16-18 participation in FE
- Learner achievements in FE and WBL including improvements in Success Rates between 03/04 and 05/06.
- Contribution to Adult Full Level 2 and Level 3
- Effective introduction of the LAP pilot.

8.3 We have of course challenges which we will need to focus on for 07/08 and these include:

- Arresting the decline in WBL 16-18 participation
- Working with the Local Authority partners to understand the reasons for the reduction in participation in school sixth forms.
- Ensuring that current progress towards the Skills for Life 8-:20 mix of provision is maintained.
- Ensuring that Train to Gain objectives and targets are met, particularly in view of Leitch and Demand Led.

8.4 The Area Director talked through the strategic priorities as outlined in the Spring Performance Review.

Item 9. Any Other Business

9.1 No other business tabled.

Item 10. Date of next meeting

10.1 The next meeting of the Council will take place on 18 September 2007 at LSC Lancashire, Citygate, Preston.

Meeting chair	Mike Collier
Minute taker	Bev Watson
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