

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 2 May 2007  
**Subject** Council  
**Location** Conference Rooms A & B  
**Time** 16.00hrs  
**LSC office** Greater Manchester  
**Publication intent** Internal

**Present** Ray Short  
Elaine Bowker  
Richard Guy  
Abdul Hamied  
Maggi Harris  
Mike O'Hare  
Mike Keegan  
Dr Martin Smith  
David Tomlinson

**In attendance** Jane Bracewell  
Ian Ellis  
Claire Jackson  
Ian Pursglove  
John Rawsthorne  
Christine Rudge

**Apologies** Apologies have been received from:  
Sarah Firth  
Mandy Gill  
Abdul Jabbar  
Councillor John Merry  
Fiona Mellett  
Councillor Sir Richard Leese

## **Item 1. Welcome and introductions**

1.1 Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

## **Item 2. Minutes of last meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **Item 3. Matters arising**

- 3.1 A detailed presentation on NEETs to the meeting scheduled for 03 May 2007 – cleared to be presented under agenda item 6.
- 3.2 Any comments on the annual plan to EB or CJ asap – cleared no comments received.
- 3.3 A presentation to be received on Adult Skills at level 2 targets would be achieved – to be presented at a future meeting.

### **Item 4. Proposed merger of North Trafford College of Further Education and South Trafford College**

- 4.1 JB presented paper 04/2007 which provided an evaluation of the proposed merger of North Trafford College of Further Education (NTC) and South Trafford College (STC).
- 4.2 Chair welcomed Bill Moorcroft, Principal, Antionette Lynthgoe, Director of Finance and Graham Luccock, Chair of Governors from South Trafford College and David Lawrence, Principal and Karen Heppleston-Baines, Chair of Governors from North Trafford College, who presented to the council, a copy is attached.
- 4.3 Chair thanked the representatives for their presentations and invited the council to ask questions.
- 4.4 Council enquired about participation rates for the college as it appeared that numbers were going down. The college confirmed that not all current provision will be offered at the new merged college, but that provision will have more focus on LSC priorities.
- 4.5 The Council questioned the robustness of the financial case for merger and how it will be evaluated in the future. JB confirmed that council would receive feedback on a six monthly basis. The representatives from the colleges assured the council that the governing bodies took the robustness of the financial case very seriously and that it would be monitored very closely. Concern was raised, in particular, about the need for rigorous monitoring of merger costs. It was recognised that mergers, of themselves, do not necessarily deliver the managerial economies of scale, of promised enhanced performance.
- 4.6 The council were concerned over the economy within Trafford and that skills provision would not deal with the current labour market in Trafford and the wider economic and business area of Greater Manchester. The college responded by stating that there was currently a Science and Technology Centre and that the location of the college would allow a variety of learners to attend. In addition, the college will continue to work with employers to meet the skills needs of learners within Greater Manchester and, for specialist provision, across the North West.
- 4.7 Chair thanked the representatives for their presentations and they left the room.

**Decision:** The local council recommends that the proposal meets the Learning and Skills Council's criteria for reorganisations and wishes to

recommend the proposal to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for approval.

**Item 5. Any other business**

5.1 [Type here](#)

**Item 6. Date of next meeting**

6.1 The next meeting of the Committee will take place on [Type date here](#) , and will take [Type subject here](#) as its focus.

<b>Meeting chair</b>	Ray Short
<b>Minute taker</b>	Christine Rudge
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