

LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL GREATER MANCHESTER

Minutes of the twenty first meeting of the LSC Greater Manchester Council held on 07 September 2004, at Stockport College of Further Education, Wellington Road South, Stockport at 16.00hrs.

PRESENT:

Council Members: David Page (Interim Chair), John Korzeniewski (Executive Director – ED), Richard Guy, Richard Hurst, Abdul Jabbar, David McCall, Ray Short, Chris Woodcock

Observers: Hannah Roberts, Connexions, Fiona Mellett – Business Link, Anthony Mann – Government Office North West.

In attendance: Jane Bracewell, Director of Strategy and Quality (DSQ), Julia Dowd, Director of Greater Manchester (DGM), Ian Lever, Director of External Relations (DER), Mike MacLoughlin, Senior Funding and Planning Manager (MM), Hilary Peel, Area Manager for Stockport and Tameside (HP), Steve Dunmore, Regional Finance Director.

Council Secretary: Christine Rudge

APOLOGIES

Council Members: Rachael Charlton, Councillor John Merry, Mollie Temple

Observers: Roger Hinchliffe, Peter Morton, Linda Tomlinson.

The chair welcomed John Korzeniewski and Julia Dowd to their first meeting of the Learning and Skills Council Greater Manchester council. He also welcomed to the meeting Hilary Peel, in attendance for agenda item 3, Mike MacLoughlin, in attendance for agenda item 4, and Anthony Mann, as observer for Government Office for the North West.

The council endorsed David Page as interim chair for the Learning and Skills Council Greater Manchester Council following the resignation of Anthony Goldstone.

276. Minutes of 07 July 2004 meeting

276.1 The minutes of 07 July 2004 were endorsed as a true and accurate record.

277 Matters arising paper 51/2004

277.1 M.264.4, page 2 – **Future performance updates and business review discussions** - cleared.

- 277.2 M.266.8, page 5 – **Arrangements to be made for 07 September council meeting to be held at Stockport College with the opportunity to visit North Area College** – cleared.
- 277.3 M. 266.9, page 5 – **ED to write to the corporations of North Area and Stockport College to tell them the Council decision in relation to the Stockport Feasibility Study** – cleared
- 277.4 M.266.10, page 10 – **The LSC Greater Manchester should accept a leadership position in terms of leading change and realisation of existing arrangements** – To be covered in StAR updates/ recommendations – cleared
- 277.5 M.269.2, page 6 – **The ED to keep the Council informed regarding the revised organisational structure** – Covered in agenda item 9 – Executive Director’s report – cleared.

278. Initial outline proposal for the merger of North Area College and Stockport College of Further and Higher Education.

Deleted: 3.

- 278.1 DSQ introduced paper 52/2004 to the Council. She referred the Council to paragraph 23 of the paper and stated that the decision made by the local Council would be fed directly to the Secretary of State for a decision with the possibility of input from national office.
- 278.2 Chair welcomed Fred Alexander, Principal of North Area College, Helen Jones, Chair of Corporation for North Area College, Peter Roberts, Principal of Stockport College of Further and Higher Education, and Louise Congdon, Vice Chair of Stockport College of Further and Higher Education. Hilary Peel, Area Manager for Stockport and Tameside was also in attendance.
- 278.3 The college representatives shared a presentation with the Council – this is attached in annex a.
- 278.4 The representatives from North Area College stated that although the closure of the site in Heaton Moor would result in students having to travel further, Stockport College is well served with public transport, including access from the A6 and also only being a short distance from the train station.
- 278.5 The four colleges in the Stockport area met on a regular basis to discuss issues, however other colleges have not registered an interest in being involved with the merger.
- 278.6 The college representatives stated that if the new building was not approved then they would have to discuss their options further with the corporations, however the colleges indicated that they felt that most benefit would occur if a new building was approved.
- 278.7 North Area College facilitates a football academy; this would become a new initiative if the merger were approved.
- 278.8 Catering provision is delivered at North Area College. It was thought that a move to Stockport College would stimulate demand for this programme.

- 278.9 The Council highlighted to the college representatives that the merger should be concentrated on specialist training and high quality teaching for learners.
- 278.10 The merger would bring together the colleges relation to staffing issues – the colleges stated that they had already brought together the staff providing IT infrastructure support in preparation for any merger.
- 278.11 The Chair thanked the representatives from the colleges for their presentation. College representatives left the meeting.
- 278.12 The Council members held a discussion and agreed that the central access, which Stockport College is provided with, would be a benefit for learners.
- 278.13 The Council members requested that a list of issues, which had been highlighted during the discussion process, be circulated to the them within five working days of the meeting. The Council members should then add any additional issues to this list and return to the LSC within the stated deadline.

**ACTION: DSQ/HP/
COUNCIL MEMBERS TO
RESPOND WITHIN
DEADLINE**

- 278.14 The Council requested that further consultation should include all colleges likely to be affected within the Greater Manchester area.
- 278.15 The Council recommended that its initial views on the proposal were that it is content for the colleges to continue to develop their proposal and to undertake local consultation. The Council requested that the issues identified through the process described in paragraph 278.13 above be communicated to both colleges.

**ACTION: DSQ/HP
TO PREPARE LETTER
FOR CHAIR TO
SEND TO BOTH
COLLEGES**

279 Investing in Skills Consultation

- 279.1 The Council received paper 53/2004 – Investing in Skills Consultation.
- 279.2 MM informed the Council that there were 4 areas piloting this scheme – 2 in the North East of England and 2 in the South East of England.
- 279.3 This item is due to be discussed at the Adult Learning Committee, chair requested feedback from this meeting at a future Council meeting.

ACTION: DSQ

280 National Learner Satisfaction Survey

280.1 The Council received paper 54/2004.

280.2 The Council requested feedback of any distinct learner groups for which there were significant satisfaction issues.

ACTION: DSQ

281 Aimhigher Greater Manchester

Council received paper 55/2004 for information, DSQ informed Council that she would update them at a future meeting.

282 Management Information Report July 2004

Council received paper 56/2004 and were invited to comment on it. DSQ indicated that this report would, in future, be superseded by a local office performance report based on the 'performance scorecard'.

283 Chair's report

Council received paper 57/2004, and wished to pass their thanks and best wishes to Anthony Goldstone.

284 Executive Director's Report

284.1 The Council received paper 58/2004.

284.2 The ED shared a regional organisation chart, the ED informed the Council that this chart was shared and agreed with Anthony Goldstone before his resignation from Council. The reason behind the changes was to bring the North West region into line with the rest of the LSC's regional structures. This structure included the Regional Director undertaking the role of an Executive Director at a local LSC. JD had been appointed as Director of Greater Manchester to support JK in this role and to enable him to undertake his role as RD effectively.

284.3 The new structure for the LSC Greater Manchester included the appointment of four new directors, all of which would be linked to an area as well as a function. This would enable partners and colleges to have a senior contact at the LSC for their area, the areas were decided according to the area in which Job Centre plus functioned.

284.4 JK asked Council members for feedback regarding their expectations for Council meetings, committee meetings and participation.

**ACTION: COUNCIL
MEMBERS TO
FEEDBACK TO THE ED
VIA EMAIL**

284.5 JK informed the Council that Steve Dunmore, Regional Finance Director, would be meeting with him on a regular basis to keep him up to date with financial matters, although Steve would not report to JK directly, he would be responsible for financial issues within the North West region.

284.6 The Council highlighted to the ED that they felt that the LSC could be prioritising its role to the public more effectively.

**ACTION: CHAIR TO
FEEDBACK AT THE
NATIONAL CHAIR'S
MEETING**

285 Finance Report

285.1 The Council received paper 59/2004 for comment.

285.2 Steve Dunmore, Regional Finance Director was in attendance for this item.

285.3 A discussion took place regarding the future layout of the report. SD informed the Council that he would be a conduit between the Council and National Office in order to feedback any comments.

286 Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 14 July 2004

286.1 The Council received paper 60/2004, the paper was taken as read and no comments were made.

287 Minutes of the Young People's Learning Committee held on 27 July 2004

288 Any other Business

288.1 The Council received paper 62/2004 which was a list of the dates for 2005 meetings.

288.2 The Council requested that further future meetings be held at Colleges' and other Providers' premises.

**ACTION: CR TO
ARRANGE**

289 Date of next meeting

289.1 The next meeting would be held on 2 November 2004 at 16.00hrs at the Learning and Skills Council, Arndale House Arndale Centre, Manchester