

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 6 February 2007  
**Subject** Council Meeting  
**Location** Tithebarn House, Liverpool  
**Time** 16:00  
**LSC office** Greater Merseyside  
**Publication intent** Internal

**Present** Roger Hoyle (Chair), Martin Carey, Claire Dove, John Firr, Mike McDermott, Phil Round  
**In attendance** Jackie Mason (Jobcentre Plus), Peter Morton (GME), Rob Peacock (Principal) and Michelle Williams (Finance Director),  
**LSC staff** Karon Brownbill, Simon Pierce, Sue Price, Nicola Scott,  
**Apologies** Sue Carmichael, Elaine Owen, Brian Rourke, Sir George, Sweeney, Maureen Williams, John Swain, Kath Boullen, Kevin Mothersdale, Tim Hall

## Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Roger Hoyle welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2007 and gave an overview of the agenda.
- 1.2 Roger also gave feedback on various meetings he had attended since the Council had last met. He informed Council that he had been reappointed at the Appointments Committee meeting on 30 January.

## Item 2. Carmel College Capital Proposal

- 2.1 Rob Peacock, Principal of Carmel College, gave a presentation to the meeting which set out the College's plans for redevelopment in order to improve quality and make the College more 'fit for purpose'.
- 2.2 The College had plans for a second phase outside the 3-year funding programme which would involve the replacement of the refectory and Learning Resource Centre at the front of the campus.
- 2.3 The total project cost was £15.2m, and an LSC contribution of £10.9m (72%) was requested.
- 2.4 In response to concerns about the affordability of the project, and the levels of borrowing proposed, the Council was told that the Provider Financial Management Director was content with the financial viability at this stage.

*The representatives from Carmel College left the meeting*

- 2.5 There was some discussion as to the purpose of the proposed works and it was agreed that the final proposal should highlight that the main reason was the continuity of quality provision.
- 2.6 As a detailed financial proposal and property case was not yet available it was proposed that a sub-group be set up by mid-March to consider the issues more fully.
- 2.7 Environmental issues would be addressed when the detail of the proposal was worked out.

**Decision:** It was agreed to set up a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman, Director of Area, and at least one other Council member to consider the financial and estate issues, before forwarding to the National Capital Committee if content.

### **Item 3. Minutes of last meeting**

- 3.1 The minutes of the LSC Residential event of 5/6 December were agreed as a true record.

### **Item 4. Matters arising**

- 4.1 There were no outstanding matter arising.

### **Item 5. Local Delivery Plan**

- 5.1 Simon Pierce presented the draft local delivery plan. He stressed that this was a work in progress. The Plan should be considered in conjunction with the Regional Commissioning Plan.
- 5.2 The final plan would be submitted by the end of March.
- 5.3 It was different to previous years – forms part of the regional plan framework which in turn forms part of the Regional Commissioning Plan.
- 5.4 Three main challenges had been identified:-
  - 1. Meeting the skills needs of employers;
  - 2. Addressing the high levels of basic skill need of adults, as a platform to supporting progression to provision at full Level 2;
  - 3. Working with partners to tackle increased levels of NEET in young people and ensure adequate progression routes are in place.

**Decision:** The Council commended the Plan. Any issues that were identified should be raised with Simon Pierce within the next month.

### **Item 6. Transition Arrangements: the way forward**

- 6.1 Roger Hoyle told the meeting that the Bill was likely to receive the second reading in April/Mary 2007 and that local Councils were likely to be dissolved five or six months later and responsibility would be statutorily transferred to regional Councils. In the meantime, the Council may need to deal with issues such as capital developments, mergers and takeovers.
- 6.2 Martin Carey said that he would like to write a paper on the relationship between regional structures and sub-regional interests

**Action: Martin Carey and Roger Hoyle to meet and discuss**

- 6.3 Roger Hoyle said he had attended Regional Management Board and had been asked to canvass interest in attending a regional event at Windermere in late May/early June to brief employers, employer organisations and interested members of local Councils on the key themes and messages in the Leitch Review.

**Decision:** Council members were generally interested in attending such an event.

**Item 7. Director of Area's Report**

- 7.1 Mike presented his report for information. He noted that the National Audit Office had been examining the educational and employment support provided for workless households in order to report to Parliament in Summer/Autumn 007. Towards this end, KPMG visited Liverpool in January to conduct interviews with JCP claimants and also to discuss issues with key providers related to the target group. The report was expected to be completed fairly quickly with the hypothesis that the LSC and Jobcentre Plus were not sufficiently integrated.

**Item 8. Observer Reports**

8.1 *Business Link for Greater Merseyside*

1. Peter Morton distributed copies of the BLGM 2003-2006 Review. Business Link for Greater Merseyside was to be replaced by Business Link in the North West. Peter thanked the Council and its officers for its support.

**Action: Copies of the report would be sent to absent Council members**

2. *Jobcentre Plus*

Jackie Mason related that Jobcentre Plus was also undertaking an exercise in headcount reduction but it was hoped that there would be no redundancies.

**Item 9. Feedback from Advisory Committees**

9.1 *Young Peoples' Advisory Committee (YPAC)*

1. There had not been a meeting of the YPAC since the last meeting of the Council.

*Adult Skills, Employability and Regeneration Advisory Committee*

2. Martin Carey said there had been quite good attendance at the last meeting. There had been some discussion of Train to Gain and a good paper on personal and community development learning. Sue Carmichael had raised the issue of migrant workers and this would be considered at a future meeting

**Item 10. Any Other Business**

- 10.1 Roger Hoyle pointed out that this would be the last Council meeting attended by Mike McDermott as Area Director for Greater Merseyside, and that Mike

would be retiring from the Learning and Skills Council, a little while after handing over to Helen France. Roger thanked Mike for his contribution over the years to the Learning and Skills Council, and added his personal thanks to Mike for stepping in as interim Area Director.

10.2 Helen would be joining the LSC on 12<sup>th</sup> March

**Item 11. Date of next meeting**

11.1 The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Tuesday, 3 April at 4.00pm.

<b>Meeting chair</b>	Roger Hoyle
<b>Minute taker</b>	Shelagh Page
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