

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 3 April 2007  
**Subject** Council Meeting  
**Location** Tithebarn House, Liverpool  
**Time** 16:00  
**LSC office** Greater Merseyside  
**Publication intent** Internal

**Present** Roger Hoyle (Chair), Helen France, Kath Boullen, Martin Carey, Sue Carmichael, John Firr, Phil Round, Marureen Williams  
**In attendance** Jackie Mason (Jobcentre Plus), Kieran Gordon (Connexions), Alan Potter (Sefton MBC), Steve Reading (AA Projects)  
**LSC staff** Tim Hall, Mike McDermott, Kevin Mothersdale, Simon Pierce, Sue Price, Nicola Scott, Steven Dunmore, Shelagh Page  
**Apologies** Apologies were received from:  
Gordon Burns, Elaine Owen, Brian Rourke, Sir George, Sweeney, Claire Dove, John Swain, Karon Brownbill

## 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. Roger Hoyle welcomed everyone to the second meeting of 2007 and welcomed Helen France to her first meeting. He then gave an overview of the agenda.
- 1.2. Roger also gave feedback on meetings he had attended since the Council had last met, highlighting the following points:-
  - Ray Short had been appointed interim Chair of Greater Manchester LSC;
  - John Korzeniewski and Roger Hoyle were to attend the Mersey Policy Group to discuss the future role of the Council in the sub-region.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1. The minutes of the last meeting of the Council on 6<sup>th</sup> February were agreed as a true record.

## **Matters arising**

2.2. There were no outstanding matters arising.

### **3. South Sefton Sixth Form College Capital Proposal**

3.1. Alan Potter and Steve Reading gave a presentation on the proposal for a new Sixth Form Centre to be situated in Litherland. The proposal would encourage excellence, community regeneration, and collaboration with other post-16 institutions in Sefton.

3.2. The Centre would accommodate c.605 learners with space for extension.

3.3. The following queries were raised by Council following the presentation:-

- Sustainability measures had added approx. 7-8% to building costs. A Biomass generator was being installed at no cost to the project; the sustainable elements would be accessible to students.
- It was expected to open in September 2009, but the Principal would be appointed a year earlier to recruit staff and prepare for the opening.
- Current projections showed there would be a deficit in the first year, before generating a surplus in year 2. The deficit would reflect start-up costs, increased student numbers would address the problem.
- In response to queries from Maureen Williams it was confirmed:
  - o that the development was on a greenfield site as brownfield sites were unsuitable due to remoteness or contamination.
  - o As the building would be on existing sports pitches, Sport England required the project to replace the facilities;
  - o The total cost of the project was £11,818,978 and 100% grant support was requested.
- Many of the facilities would be available for use by the community.

3.4. Alan Potter and Steve Reading left the meeting.

3.5. Steve Dunmore said the project would produce a negative NPV using the LSC's capital project appraisal model, and required National Finance Director approval before going to the National Capital Committee.

3.6. Council agreed the recommendations.

**Decision:** The Council to give consent to 100% LSC grant support.

**Decision:** Council agreed that the project should be resubmitted in the summer to agree the final level of support.

### **4. Carmel College Capital Sub-Group**

4.1. The Capital Sub Group had examined the proposal from Carmel College, with up to date financial and property information.

4.2. The Group had recommended approval of the project (£16,929,000), with grant support at 69.7% (£11,800,000).

## **5. Dissolution of Local Councils: future sub-regional arrangements**

- 5.1. Roger informed Council that there was no firm date for the second reading of the FE Bill. However, it was the view of the DfES that there would probably be no material change in the timescale.
- 5.2. Roger and Martin Carey had discussed issues related to the dissolution of councils. Martin had produced a paper for Council which set out the present position, together with issues that still needed to be resolved.
- 5.3. Martin raised the following issues for consideration:-
- 5.4. It was suggested that baseline data be used to show the unique contribution of the Council. It was felt that Council should concentrate on their impact on future arrangements.
- 5.5. It was unclear whether The TMP was the sub-regional partnership.

**Action:** Helen to clarify the role of The Mersey Partnership

## **6. FE Business Planning**

- 6.1. Simon Pierce gave a verbal update.
- 6.2. There had been significant over-performance during the current year. There was a budget for Young People of £472m but potential demand of c. £500m, the gap could only be met from other areas possibly a c.10% reduction in Adult funding.
- 6.3. Simon would update the position to Council before the next meeting.
- 6.4. Jackie Mason asked that Jobcentre Plus could be kept informed.

## **7. Work-based Learning Reshaping Process and Outcomes for 2007/08**

- 7.1. Sue Price introduced the paper.
- 7.2. The impact on Merseyside providers was less than in previous years confirming that the measures implemented had succeeded.
  - Merseyside was contracting with 54 providers in 2006/07. Four providers would lose contracts for 2007/08.
  - A further 11 would lose one or more Tier 1 area through MLP (Minimum Levels of Performance) reports
  - A total of 22 Tier 1s would be removed.
- 7.3. Tables contained within the report illustrated that performance had improved significantly in the past 3 years. Residual poor provision was removed for the 2007/08 contracting round.

**Decision:** Council noted the paper

## **8. Liverpool Community College Phase 5a Proposal**

- 8.1. Sue Price introduced the capital proposal.
- 8.2. The total cost of the phase was c. £5m. The College had requested a contribution of 10%, the rest from ERDF and the College's reserves.
- 8.3. The proposal required regional approval as the amount was below £5m.

**Decision:** Council noted the paper and recommended approval

## **9. Director of Area's Report**

- 9.1. Helen France introduced her first report to the Council. She drew attention to work to address NEET across Greater Merseyside.
- 9.2. In the future, Helen would use Key Performance Indicators in the report.
- 9.3. Tim Hall gave an update on Knowsley:-
- A review of the post-16 academic provision had taken place. As a result the Local Authority wished to identify more radical ways of improving performance.
  - A Joint Area Review was due in June. The focus would be on vulnerable children, safeguarding welfare, and children with learning disabilities. Results would be published in June 2007.

## **10. Observer Reports**

### *1. Jobcentre Plus*

Jackie Mason had circulated an update which included items on:-

- An independent report entitled 'Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity, Options for the future of Welfare to Work';
- Deprived Area Funding;
- The Condition Management Programme, relating to incapacity benefit;
- New Deal for Young People – changes arising from the recent Budget.

### *2. Connexions*

This report summarised the progress.

The numbers in NEET were showing an increase for the Partnership area as a whole, the biggest contributory factor was the reduction if the number of young people entering jobs with no training.

## **11. Feedback from the Young People's Advisory Committee**

- 11.1 Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> March meeting were included with Council Papers;
- 11.2 Simon Pierce updated the meeting. All Merseyside boroughs had been approved to offer one or more diplomas. Liverpool had been approved to offer all 5.

## **12. Any Other Business**

- 12.1 Roger reminded Council that this would be the last meeting attended by Mike McDermott and formally thanked Mike for the his service he, both as a senior manager, and as the interim Director of Area.

## **13. Date of next meeting**

- 13.1 The next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday, 3 July at 4.00pm.

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