

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 3 October 2006
Subject Council Meeting
Location Tithebarn House
Time 4.00 pm
LSC office Greater Merseyside
Publication intent Internal

Present

Council: Roger Hoyle (Chair), Mike McDermott, Kath Boullen, Sue Carmichael, Phil Round, Sir George Sweeney Brian Rourke, John Swain, Maureen Williams

Observers: David Howard (for Kieran Gordon)

In attendance: Pat Bacon, John Frodsham (St Helens College), Chris Lavery (consultant), Kevin Mothersdale, Nicola Scott, Shelagh Page (minutes)

Apologies

Council: Claire Dove, Gordon Burns, Martin Carey, John Firr, Martin Carey, Elaine Owen

Observers: Kieran Gordon, Peter Morton, Peter Fletcher, Nigel Burke, Jackie Mason

In attendance: Simon Pierce, Karon Brownbill, Sue Price

Item 1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Welcome

Roger Hoyle welcomed members to the ninth meeting of the year, in particular to Nicola Scott who was attending for the first time.

1.2 Roger congratulated Sue Carmichael, Phil Round and John Firr on their reappointment to the Council for a further year.

1.3 Roger gave brief feedback on meetings he had recently attended, including:-

- A visit to the Muslim Enterprise Development Service
- A Northern Way event
- Appointments Committee
- Regional Management Board.

1.2 Roger requested members to complete the Register of Interests

Item 2. ST HELENS COLLEGE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

2.1 Nicola Scott introduced this item, explaining that St Helens College was asking for 'in principle' permission to go ahead with their rebuilding proposals, and also for any recommendations regarding the process.

2.2 Pat Bacon, John Frodsham and Chris Lavery joined the meeting and a presentation was given on their proposals, in support of their bid for 63% of the £58 million cost.

2.3 The Council was asked to authorise the formation of a sub-group to give the proposal formal consideration and recommend to the National Capital Committee.

2.4 Discussion followed and the following points were noted:-

- If the proposals did not go ahead, it would cost c £18million to repair the fabric of the buildings.
- There would be an 18% reduction in the space, this would not affect the offer to students as the building would be more efficient.
- If the Newton campus closed some students would travel further, but with good transport access.
- The balance of 37% of cost would come from the sale of Newton, College reserves and borrowing. The college had approached the NWDA for support.
- ~~Students should be unaffected during rebuilding, although there would be some impact on staff.~~
- It would be important to stress the benefits of the project to learners.
- There was discussion on the design, there was an opportunity for the rebuilding to be an exemplar.

Deleted: ¶

2.5 Pat Bacon, John Frodsham and Chris Lavery left the meeting.

2.6 Roger Hoyle concluded the Council should support the scheme in principle.

2.7 Mike McDermott explained that the process had experienced some delays. The proposals should go to the Capital Committee in November. The Chairman requested a meeting of the sub-group on 19th or 20th October. The sub-group would receive a paper from the partnership team that would present the business case.

2.8 The Council AGREED to support the proposals and to form a sub-group to meet during the week ending 20th October

Action: SP to circulate possible times on 19/20 October to Council members and set up a meeting

2.9 Kath Boullen and Phil Round declared an interest as Governors of the College.

Item 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER

3.1 Minutes – the minutes were AGREED, subject to a small amendment, ie date of next meeting.

3.2 Summary – these were also agreed, subject to the same amendment.

2.3 Matters arising

Streamlining Accountabilities

2.3.1 Roger Hoyle and Mike McDermott had met with key partners to discuss the issues. Roger and John K would meet Brian Gray and Steve Broomhead, NWDA in the near future.

Item 4. DIRECTOR OF AREA'S REPORT

4.1 Mike McDermott presented his report to the Council, and highlighted some points.

NEET

4.2 There was the potential to use additional ESF funding for NEET groups. Dave Howard, from Connexions, explained that NEET figures in Greater Merseyside were the highest for 2 years. In Knowsley and Liverpool they were reducing, but in Halton and St Helens there was a year on year increase of 30%. The issues were being analysed and presented to the Council in December.

Decision: NEET on agenda for December Residential

Train to Gain

4.3 £4.7m had been allocated to Train to Gain, c20% had been retained to allow flexibility.

LSC Greater Merseyside Away Day – 'New LSC'

4.4 The event was successful on 12 September, another session would be arranged for early November, and the Regional Director would attend. The Regional Team was developing, although there were still vacancies. There was a vacant post as Area Director, Knowsley, one vacancy at Band 3 several members of staff were currently on the redeployment register.

Government Visit

4.5 Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Education and Skills, would visit Liverpool Community College on 13th October.

Item 5. Feedback from Advisory Committees

Young Peoples' Advisory Committee

5.1 Brian Rourke gave feedback from 14 September meeting. Edith Graham gave a summary of the implications of the DfES/Government Office 14-19 Progress Checks. The summary would be circulated to the Council.

Action: SP to circulate paper to Council

Item 6. Programme for December Workshops

6.1 Agreed items for the agenda were:-

- Impact of streamlining accountability;
- Main areas of work for the Council in the next 12 months. Mike McDermott reminded the Council there would be a NW regional plan for 2007/08, with local sections;
- Leitch Report;
- Papers on two capital projects, from Sefton Local Authority on the successful competition and Carmel College, for the residential meeting in December.

6.2 Elaine Bowker had been invited to the Dinner at the Residential. Contributions for a gift were requested, to be given to Shelagh.

Action: Contribution to SP before December meeting

Item 7. Update from Observer Organisations

7.1 Dave Howard gave the meeting an update on behalf of Connexions.

Item 8. Any Other Business

8.1 Roger Hoyle told the meeting that there may be a regional event in the future to brief Council members on streamlining of accountability.

8.2 Kath Boullen asked if the new legislation regarding Age Discrimination would have any impact on apprenticeship schemes with regard to specifying age groups, particularly when advertising. Nicola would circulate the guidance.

Action: NS to provide guidance for circulation to Council

Item 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 The Council would next meet at the Council Away Day and Workshop on 5th and 6th December at Thornton Hall Wirral.

Meeting chair	Roger Hoyle
Minute taker	Shelagh Page
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