

**COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE**

**MINUTE NUMBER 04/365 TO 04/374**

**MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL GREATER MERSEYSIDE  
MEETING OF 20 APRIL 2004**

- PRESENT:** Roger Hoyle (Chair), Paul Holme (Executive Director),  
Dr Martin Carey, Sue Carmichael, John Firr, Elaine Owen,  
Phil Round, Dr Maureen Williams
- APOLOGIES:** Heather Akehurst, David Atkin, Kath Boullen, Gordon Burns,  
Claire Dove MBE, Richard Marbrow, John Swain, Sir George  
Sweeney
- OBSERVERS:** Peter Fletcher (GME), George Maguire (Jobcentre Plus)
- APOLOGIES:** Peter Morton (GME), Nigel Burke (GONW), Kieran Gordon  
(GM Connexions)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Elaine Bowker, Dave Brennan, Rob Burn, Sue Wood,  
Bob Cooney and Vicky Sinclair (Council Support)

**04/365 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**

Roger Hoyle welcomed Members to the second full meeting of 2004 and introduced Elaine Owen to her first Council Meeting as a newly appointed Member. Members noted that Peter Morton, Chief Executive of GME, would represent his organisation as an Observer but had offered apologies for the meeting. Peter Fletcher was welcomed as his deputy.

Roger introduced the agenda and planned discussion for the meeting highlighting the key items. Members were requested to ensure that annual Register of Interest forms be returned to the Council Support Team. Members were reminded of the forthcoming NW Council Members Event in Cumbria on 21 May 2004 and of the need to contact the Council Support Team with their availability for an annual review meeting with the Chair. Members were advised that they would be contacted shortly to make arrangements for a series of themed lunchtime meetings with the Chair.

John Firr joined the Meeting.

Members noted feedback on some key meetings from Roger's diary since the last meeting:

**John Korzeniewski Visit 16 March**

Members noted that John's visit to LSCGM had been well received by senior managers and staff generally and that he had taken the opportunity to meet with some Council Members to good effect. Members also noted that John would be attending the Council Meeting on 20 July.

**Regional Board Meeting 19 March**

Paul Holme updated Members on the ongoing work of the Board. Members noted that relevant issues would be discussed during the NW Council Members event on 21 May and at the next Regional Board Meeting of the same day. Sue Carmichael had attended the meeting on Roger's behalf and thanked Roger for the opportunity. Sue advised Members

that the Meeting had been well attended and the discussion interesting on the political and structural changes and the impact this would have on the future working of the LSC.

Dr Martin Carey joined the Meeting.

### **Alliance for Skills and Productivity Board 19 March**

Roger advised Members that he would be attending an Awayday of the Board on 23 April where the discussion would be focussed on future delivery objectives and timescales.

### **Staff Awayday 1 April**

Council Members were advised that Roger and Sue had attended the event giving presentations on a personal view of the work of the Council. Members noted that the day had been positively received by staff during a particularly difficult time due to local restructuring.

### **04/366 MINUTES OF THE 4 FEBRUARY 2004**

The Minutes were AGREED and signed as a true and accurate record.

### **04/367 SUMMARY OF THE 4 FEBRUARY 2004**

The Summary was AGREED and signed as a true and accurate record.

### **04/368 STRATEGIC AREA REVIEW (StARS) UPDATE**

Members noted key points in the presentation by Dave Brennan which provided an update on the latest emerging research and data in to issues surrounding first rung provision. Noted some caution at this stage as to the reasons for, and the implications of, the patterns of penetration across Greater Merseyside. Members noted that findings need to be robustly tested at neighbourhood level with Local Learning Partnerships.

Members were advised that the Adult Advisory Committee had been kept informed of progress throughout the ongoing work and their advice had been greatly valued. Members noted further that an update would be provided at the Council's September Meeting regarding progress on local consultation, a coherent picture of implications, and actions to address the issues.

Roger Hoyle thanked Dave and his team for the work to date on this agenda. Members noted the substantial challenge that this agenda presented to the work and delivery of the LSC remit.

### **04/369 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (WfD) / INVESTORS IN PEOPLE (IIP) / GREATER MERSEYSIDE ENTERPRISE (GME) CONTRACTING**

Members noted the paper presented by Elaine Bowker on the developing WfD agenda and proposals for local delivery in 2004/05.

Members expressed some concern with the poor performance of GME to date. Members were advised of a steady improvement in performance since the appointment of Peter Morton as Chief Executive.

Peter Fletcher updated Members on actions taken and the impact the new structure of the organisation was having on performance and finances. Peter acknowledged that there had been some problems of communication with key partners which had now been rectified and

that though there was still work to be undertaken, performance against targets had now significantly improved. John Furr advised Members that these issues had been discussed in depth by the WfD Advisory Committee who had given their support to the proposals in the paper.

Members AGREED the proposals contained in the paper with careful monitoring of the position of GME through regular Monitoring Reports to be presented to Council and that GME be requested to offer regular Management Accounts to the Executive.

#### **04/370 NEW LSC UPDATE**

Members noted the presentation by Paul Holme on the ongoing restructuring of the organisation locally, regionally and nationally. Members discussed the implications of the structure locally on finances and staff and congratulated all staff involved in the work and for their continuing commitment during the restructuring. Members also expressed concern that the lack of HR facilities locally could have a negative impact on any similar exercise in the future.

#### **04/371 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Members noted the report and discussed two main items for decision in the paper.

#### **Knowsley Community College Construction Expansion Proposal**

Members AGREED that LSC should in principle support the funding through the Local Intervention and Development Fund (LIDF) of the college:

- with £200,000 of funding should a bid for ERDF funds be unsuccessful. The college would provide the additional funds for equipment etc.
- with £100,000 of funding should the bid for ERDF funding be successful

Council also AGREED that proposals for future use of LIDF funding be discussed at a future Meeting.

#### **Inward Investment**

Members noted that LSCGM would be meeting with NWDA and an as yet unnamed printing company considering a significant investment in the area. Council discussed the proposed incentive package to be presented at the meeting but noted the decline of the industry had had a negative impact on the availability of training in the area.

Members AGREED in principle that £300k of TEC Legacy funds should be used in a capital support package for training. A major caveat should be that the training be inclusive to all regardless of gender or ethnicity.

Members noted other key issues from the paper for information, including the anticipated challenging position with regard to budgets for FE and WBL.

#### **04/372 FEEDBACK FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

#### **Performance Quality and Audit Committee**

Noted that the last Meeting had been cancelled as a quorum had not been achieved. Members noted the importance of the Committee's work in supporting the Executive and AGREED:

- dates of meetings be re-circulated
- new members of the Committee be encouraged

### **Adult Learning Advisory Committee**

Martin Carey advised Members that during a good meeting the Committee had endorsed the work on StARS undertaken to date and had agreed a number of actions with Dave Brennan regarding the emerging data.

### **Workforce Development Advisory Committee**

John Firr advised Members that the Committee had met on 1 April having fully discussed the emerging issues with regard to contracting in 2005 and gaining a greater understanding of the planned sectoral approach. Caution was advised on ensuring adequate staff levels to achieve stated aims.

### **Young Peoples' Advisory Committee**

The Committee had met before Easter and discussed issues with regard to the construction industry, school sixth forms and the future challenges in MA targets.

## **04/373            UPDATES FROM OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS**

### **Greater Merseyside Enterprises**

Members noted the additional update from Peter Fletcher. Particularly that the WfD Team had been increased in size and that the organisation would be going to liP assessment in the summer.

### **Jobcentre Plus**

Members noted that Paul would be chairing a meeting on 23 April of the 5 regional Jobcentre Plus Directors which would likely provide the drive for the future year's business.

## **04/374            DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Members were thanked for their input and attendance at the meeting and noted that the next Meeting would take place at 4.00pm on 25 May 2004 at Tithebarn House.