

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

MINUTE NUMBER 04/375 TO 04/387

**MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL GREATER MERSEYSIDE
MEETING
TUESDAY 20 JULY 2004
AT TITHEBARN HOUSE**

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

04/376 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Roger Hoyle welcomed Members to the meeting and thanked Claire Dove for deputising for him at the last meeting. Roger provided feedback to Members on recent events he had attended:

National Chairs' Day 25/26 May 2004

It was noted that this was Bryan Sanderson's last national event as National Chairman and that discussion for the day was based on the current round of financial negotiations with DfES. Members noted that this issue had now been concluded.

Alliance for Skills and Productivity Board

Members noted that the remit and function of the Board was now becoming clearer and would be based around forming connections and support for business. Members noted the name change to Business Skills North West.

Liverpool First Board

Roger informed members that he would be attending these meetings in future as it was felt that the role of the Board was an important one in bringing together key agencies on matters of regeneration for the conurbation of Merseyside as well as Liverpool as the major city.

CBI North West MP and MEP Meeting

Members noted that the day had been organised to give business in the area an opportunity to question MPs and MEPs on current issues and had been a valuable event.

Review Meetings with Council Members

Roger informed Members that discussion during reviews had highlighted some issues for possible discussion at this year's Council Workshop, including:

- Diversity and Equality
- Focus on the function of Council Members
- Future planning

- Impact of Capital of Culture
- Impact of Regional Government

Members AGREED that Chris Banks, newly appointed National Chair, should be invited to join the Workshop for the discussion and Dinner should he be available.

Claire Dove joined the Meeting at this point and Members congratulated her on becoming a Fellow of Liverpool John Moores University.

04/377 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 25 MAY 2004

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

04/378 SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF 25 MAY 2004

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

04/379 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

04/380 ADULT STRATEGIC AREA REVIEW (StAR)

Members noted the update on progress against Adult StAR issues provided by Dave Brennan. Members discussed the proposed consultation arrangements and the outline approach given to the development of policy options set out in the paper. Members were updated on, and noted the complexities of the current national policy context.

Key areas of discussion related to Basic Skills delivery and closer collaboration with partners and Work Based Learning providers during the process.

Members AGREED:

- The key proposals to consult on in phase 1
- The proposed consultation process, identifying key stakeholders as Local Strategic Partnerships, Local Learning Partnerships and Jobcentre Plus
- To consider a segment of research into consumer needs in the context of current data available.

04/381 StAR YOUNG PEOPLE UPDATE (WIRRAL/ST HELENS/HALTON)

Elaine Bowker presented the paper for discussion and updated Members on progress within the three boroughs and on the wider Merseyside context.

Members were advised that any residual issues along with an update on the three remaining boroughs would be discussed in greater detail at a meeting of the Young Peoples' Advisory Group in September and an open invitation was extended to all Members to attend. It was AGREED that papers for the meeting would be circulated to all Members prior to the meeting to promote greater understanding and discussion on this key area.

The publication of the Government's 5 Year Education Strategy was discussed, noting that much of the detail and implications still need to be worked through by relevant agencies. Members discussed the impact of a possible general election during the process timetable and AGREED that at this stage that the process continue as planned.

04/382 CO-FINANCING PLAN

Dave Brennan provided Members with an update on the current position regarding future co-financing plans and noted that these would take the organisation from April 2005 through to the end of the current Objective 1 Programme in July 2008.

Members noted issues raised in the paper and that current performance on delivery was encouraging. Particularly noted was the success of the Skillworks programme and the work the organisation had undertaken with NHS Academies. Members discussed development and extension of these programmes in order to build on good practice.

Members discussed and noted the proposed extension for co-financing plans including:

- workforce development activity
- enhancing learning opportunities for individuals
- focus on disadvantaged young people and adults
- efforts to address gender imbalance

04/383 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Paul Holme presented key issues from his report for Members' attention.

Members AGREED:

- The alteration to the date of the 2004 Council Workshop to now take place from the afternoon of 7 December 2004 (extending on to a Dinner) continuing into the morning of 8 December. Confirmation of exact timing and venue would follow.
- The 12 October meeting would now be a normal Council Meeting with Paul Holme to set the scene on issues to be discussed at the December Workshop.
- To support the requests for Local Initiative Funding for the following:
 - Marketing
 - Supporting 3 Year Development Plan Targets and Inspection
 - Schools Workforce Skills
 - Greenbank Support
 - Women into ICT

04/384 FEEDBACK FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Adult Learning Advisory Group

Martin Carey advised Members that feedback had been given at the last meeting and directed Members to the Minutes of the meeting for key action points. Members noted that the next meeting was set for 30 July.

Performance Quality and Audit

Heather Akehurst highlighted some key points from the Minutes of the last meeting. Members were asked to consider any external experts that could be invited to the Committee once new Terms of Reference had been considered. Members noted that Paul Holme and Heather Akehurst had had a helpful discussion on Terms of Reference with Jackie Gratton and Phil Eames who were now in post as Regional PFA contacts.

Equality and Diversity Champions Group

Sue Carmichael advised Members that it had now been agreed that issues of Equality and Social Inclusion would now form a standing agenda item for each future Advisory Committee meetings. The Group would also undertake a yearly review of work to enable more strategic

planning and priority setting. Members noted the internal restructuring relating to the Diversity Team.

Workforce Development Advisory Committee

Members noted that the next meeting scheduled for 22 July.

04/385 FEEDBACK FROM OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS

GM Connexions

Kieran Gordon presented a paper to Members showing positive progress against targets for the organisation. Members noted the change in Government calculations would have an impact on future figures brought to Council by the organisation.

Greater Merseyside Enterprise

Peter Morton advised Members of a recent survey of local businesses which demonstrated an improvement in customer satisfaction with the organisation.

Jobcentre Plus

George Maguire informed Members of Paul Keene's appointment to Director of the NW.

04/386 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None discussed. Roger Hoyle thanked Members for attendance and the Executive for their input.

04/387 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting would take place on 12 October at 4.00pm in Tithebarn House.