

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 24 October 2005
Subject Council Meeting
Location Council Room, Tithebarn House
Time 4.00 pm
LSC office Greater Merseyside
Publication intent Internal

Present

Council: Roger Hoyle (Chair), Elaine Bowker (Executive Director), Heather Akehurst, Kath Boullen, Gordon Burns, Dr Martin Carey, Sue Carmichael, Claire Dove, Richard Marbrow, Phil Round, Dr Maureen Williams.
Observers: Peter Fletcher (BLGM), Kieran Gordon (Connexions),
LSCGM: Kirsty Evans, Mike McDermott, Joyce Wildman (Secretariat Officer), Sue Wood.

Apologies

Council: John Firr, Elaine Owen, Brian Rourke, John Swain, George Sweeney.
Observers: Nigel Burke, Peter Morton, Mike Scott.
LSCGM: Marie Brookfield (Secretariat Manager), Simon Pierce, Sue Price.

Item 1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Welcome

Roger Hoyle welcomed members to the meeting and reminded Council that this was an additional meeting to discuss the LSC Greater Merseyside's response to the 'Youth Matters' Green Paper. He reminded members to complete their Declaration of Interest forms.

1.2 Performance Assessment Scheme for local Chairs

Roger thanked those Council members who had completed his Performance Assessment for their comments.

1.3 Council members re-appointment

Roger confirmed that there were three Council members up for re-appointment and that the Appointments Committee would meet on 2 November to consider their re-appointment.

1.4 Council members 1:1s

Roger advised members that he would complete his 1:1s with Council members for this year with a meeting with George Sweeney on 2 November. He thanked members for their comments during these sessions.

1.5 Feedback on Chair's Event

Roger advised members that he had attended the Chairs' Event in London over the 11/12 October. Discussions had included proposals to finalise structures for Regional. The aim would be to ensure more consistency across the Region. He advised members that he would circulate information to Council as it became available.

Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 Minutes – it was requested that minute 3.4 be amended to reflect Council's views and comments. Roger confirmed that he would ensure the minute would be amended to reflect Council's concern for LSC staff in light of the restructure.

2.2 Summary - the summary of the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record for the Chair to sign.

2.3 Matters arising - there were no matters arising which were not covered on the Agenda.

Item 3. Agenda for Change

3.1 Elaine Bowker advised Council that she would be attending her next briefing session on Agenda for Change on 27 October in Manchester LSC where she expected to receive further information on proposed structures and numbers. She would be briefing the Chair and Vice Chair immediately following this briefing session. She would also be attending the Chairs briefing on 31 October in Preston. Following these briefing sessions, she would be required to meet with all her staff at 2pm on 31 October to inform them of the full details of Theme 7. In preparation for the briefing and possible media attention which might follow, she would be meeting with her SMT at 12 noon on 31 October to ensure that they were as fully prepared as possible to deal with staff questions.

3.2 She informed Council that the HR1 form had now been submitted and it was expected that the 90 day consultation period with the Unions would commence on 31 October. In response to a query, Elaine advised Council

that it was possible that there would be a further 60 days consultation but she expected that this would be clarified at her briefing on 27 October.

- 3.3** In response to a further question on support mechanisms in place for staff following the announcement on 31 October, Elaine advised members that staff would have the support of the Lancaster Group and their HR Business Partner. Support would also be available from their Line Manager and PCS representative with Learning and Development being individually discussed to ensure that each member of staff would be best placed to apply for jobs both within the LSCs new structure and externally.

Item 4. National Statement of Priorities/Priorities for Success

- 4.1** Elaine Bowker advised Council that she had received a draft version of the National Statement of Priorities/Priorities for success on Friday, 21 October with the final version being received today, 24 October. She had, subsequently, not yet had time to digest the information contained with the documents. She advised Council that the documents contained important messages around prioritisation, especially with regard to Adult funding priorities, and she felt that Council would need to consider/discuss their contents further. Council agreed that they would need to be aware of the messages in these documents and agreed that, as it would not be possible to consider these documents at the Residential – which would be the next meeting of Council - Roger and Elaine should discuss the best way for this to be taken forward.

Action: Documents to be sent electronically to Council Members.

Action: Roger Hoyle and Elaine Bowker to determine a suitable date for further discussion with Council on these publications.

Item 5. Response to 'Youth Matters' Green Paper

- 5.1** Mike McDermott advised Council that this would be their opportunity to contribute to the LSC's National response to the 'Youth Matters' Green Paper. Greater Merseyside's response must be submitted to National Office by 26 October 2005.
- 5.2** He led them through the briefing note and thanked Kieran Gordon for compiling the questions which Council could consider.
- 5.3** Mike suggested that Council break into three groups to discuss and consider their response to the questions. The groups would then feedback their thoughts to Council where further discussion could be held.
- 5.4** In response to a question, Roger Hoyle advised Council that their comments would be fed back to National Council and would help inform the National response. He strongly advised against sending a separate response for Greater Merseyside and stressed that, whilst he could not guarantee that all of their comments would be included in the National Response, members should take this opportunity to air their views and partake in the response. Elaine Bowker advised members that she would

ensure that feedback was received on any comments which were not, in some form, included in the National Response.

- 5.5** Council members also raised their concerns that this would be a pointless exercise in light of the Prime Ministers speech earlier that day on proposed reforms for education in the future and requested the Chair to ensure that a proviso was included in their response to the 'Youth Matters' Green Paper stating that, should Government Policy change, their response to the Paper would not be binding. The Chair agreed to include this in his final response to National Council.
- 5.6** The meeting agreed to break into three groups for a half hour period (4.40-5.10 p.m.) to discuss their response. On re-grouping, each group facilitator fed back the groups comments to the questions poised.
- 5.7** Mike McDermott agreed to compile all responses into on final response for Greater Merseyside. Council AGREED to Roger and Elaine approving the final response prior to it being forwarded to National Council and Roger AGREED to include a covering letter highlighting the considerable interest in the Paper in the North West region and requesting feedback on any comments not included. Roger assured members that National Council would consider all comments accordingly.

Action: Mike McDermott to compile Greater Merseyside response for consideration by Chair and Elaine Bowker.
Action: Chair to ensure response sent to National Council by 26 October 2005.

Item 6. Any other business

6.1 Parliamentary Website

Roger Hoyle informed the meeting of an interesting Parliamentary website section which he had been advised of by Heather Akehurst. It provided regularly updated information and useful links to issues focusing on schools, children, teachers and the education system. The website address was:

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page8313.asp>

Item 7. Date of next meeting

- 7.1** The next meeting of Council would be the Residential, which would be held on 6 & 7 December at the Raddison Hotel in Liverpool. Roger Hoyle advised members that, following responses to his request for suggested start/finish times for the event, the Residential would now commence at lunch time on 6 December with a light lunch being provided, break before Dinner and then continue, as last year, with the working Dinner. 7 December would be an early start with Breakfast closing with a light buffet lunch at lunch time.

Meeting chair	Roger Hoyle
Minute taker	Joyce Wildman
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