

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 28 July 2006
Subject Council Meeting
Location Tithebarn House
Time 11.00 am
LSC office Greater Merseyside
Publication intent Internal

Present

Council: Roger Hoyle (Chair), Elaine Bowker, Kath Boullen, Sue Carmichael, Claire Dove, Elaine Owen, John Firr.

Observers: Kieran Gordon (Connexions),

In attendance: Michael McDermott, Claire Jackson, Ian Pursglove (National Office), Joyce Wildman (Minutes), Shelagh Page, Marie Brookfield (in part)

Apologies

Council: Gordon Burns, Martin Carey, Phil Round, Brian Rourke, John Swain, George Sweeney, Maureen Williams.

Observers: Peter Morton (BLGM), Nigel Burke, Jackie Mason (JCP)

In attendance: Karon Brownbill, Kevin Mothersdale, Simon Pierce, Susan Price, Nicola Scott.

Item 1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

1.1 Welcome

Roger Hoyle welcomed members to the seventh meeting of the year and opened the meeting by introducing Ian Pursglove, Head of Reorganisation Policy from National Office and Claire Jackson, Senior Strategy, Research and Planning Manager, LSC Greater Merseyside, who were attending today's special, and very important, meeting to advise Council on any technical issues to enable them to agree the award of the Sefton Competition.

He continued by advising members that this would be Marie Brookfield's last day with the LSC and, on behalf of Council and SMT, presented Marie with a token of their appreciation for her lengthy service to Council and SMT.

Marie Brookfield left the meeting.

1.2 Roger requested members to complete the Register of Interests.

1.3 Roger provided brief feedback on recent meetings which he had attended, including:

- inaugural meeting of the Regional Audit Committee on 14 July;
- RMB on 20 July;
- Regional Chairs' / dinner with Bill Rammell on 27 July.

Item 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY

2.1 Minutes – the minutes were AGREED as an accurate record for signing by the Chair.

2.2 Summary – these were agreed as an accurate record.

2.3 Matters arising – there were no matters arising.

Item 3. SEFTON 16-19 COMPETITION

3.1 Roger reminded Council that the purpose of the meeting was to consider, and make independent decisions, on the recommendations arising out of the stakeholder panel held on 14 July 2006. As stated in paragraph 34 of the Guidance.

3.2 Elaine advised members that this was the first Competition of its type held across the Country and reminded them of the reasons behind the running of the Competition, which had been identified through the Strategic Area Review. In response to a question, Elaine confirmed that both proposers had submitted valid bids but Hugh Baird College bid had not addressed all of the Statement of Need in respect of Level 3 (an LSC priority).

3.3 Mike McDermott ran through the set of papers which had been previously circulated to members which included copies of the two bids submitted, comments from Rhys Evans, ex-HMI Inspector and Mike McDermott, LSC, recommendations, correspondence and a summary of outcomes.

3.4 Concern was raised by some members that letters of support had been received from possible interested parties. Elaine again confirmed that she had sought legal advice and had been advised to include all correspondence in the packs for consideration.

3.5 Mike outlined the challenges which had been made by Hugh Baird College to the Competition during the process – commencing with the Statement of Need, which had been generated through the Strategic Area Review to address Academic level 3 needs in the Borough and to sit alongside 14-19, through to Panel membership. Elaine advised Council that she had taken a lot of advice from National Office and the careful consideration had been given to Panel membership to ensure that it incorporated all interested parties, i.e. F.E., Diocese, Arcdiocese, Schools, LEA etc. and all declarations of interest had been noted. Council felt that, as the Stakeholder Panel had consisted of at least 3 totally independent members, there should not be an issue relating to conflict.

3.6 Concentrating on Hugh Baird College's bid, Mike confirmed to Council that:

- this was a good general FE college but the Statement of Need had identified that its Level 3 provision, on average point scores, did not compare well with Borough or National averages;
- lack of Value Added data had been raised as a concern by the ex-HMI Inspector and the LSC at the Stakeholder Panel and the College continued not to share ALIS data from the LSC (although it was required to share with Inspectors) and subsequent correspondence relating to Value Added from Hugh Baird College had been included in the pack for reference;
- the proposal identified the needs of learners for both levels 2 and 3 but did not sufficiently address issues of improving attainment at level 3;
- partners were proposed but were not yet identified or engaged;
- the bid proposed closure of two current 6th forms without demonstrating how this would improve academic level 3.

3.7 Moving to the LEA bid (for which the LSC had received many letters of support and which were included in the pack), Mike provided the following breakdown:

- strong bid which identified location, detailed plan and included good pastoral care;
- the core detail clearly addresses the Statement of Need;
- further information would be required on the proposed flexible staffing model in order to ensure that the institution would recruit and retain quality staff;
- much reference to level 3 but further detail required on components;
- collaboration identified with local schools but needs to be further developed for FE in order to effectively deliver the 14-19 agenda and with employers.

3.8 Elaine enquired whether members felt that they had sufficient information to make a fully informed decision and take the proposal forward. Council AGREED that they now held all the information they required.

3.9 Roger requested Council to consider all the information they had received in order to make the right decision for the Young People (16-19) within South Sefton. Council carefully considered the information received on the two bids and unanimously AGREED with the recommendation of the Stakeholder Panel to award the outcome of the Competition process to the Local Authority – subject to setting the following conditions:

- the Local Authority must work in partnership with ALL post-16 institutions, i.e. FE Colleges, WBL providers, etc. in its future plan.
- in order to ensure Sefton entitlement is available to all young people, no institute would be permitted to work in isolation.

3.10 Roger thanked Council for their attendance and advised that he would now write to both parties to advise them of the Council's decision. On behalf of the Council, he also thanked Elaine and her Team for the time and hard work which had been put into the Competition so far.

Item 4 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4.1 Roger advised Council that the next meeting was scheduled for 3 October 2006. Council had requested, however, that an additional meeting be held in September to fully discuss Streamlining of Accountability. This meeting date was yet to be set.

Action: Shelagh Page to contact members to determine suitable date for September meeting.

Meeting chair	Roger Hoyle
Minute taker	Joyce Wildman
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