

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date Wednesday 23 May 2007

Subject Council Meeting

Location 26 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4AE

Time 09.30

LSC Office Kent and Medway

Present Council Members Professor David Melville (Chair)
Lesley Davies (Area Director)
Vernon Hull
Derek Hunter
Tracy Luke
Malcolm Bell
Ashley West

LSC Staff John Parsonage
John Ratcliff
Malcolm Staunton
Sarah Makewell
Anne Jones
Paul Sayers (Item 5)

Apologies Council Members Paul Carter
Anne-Marie Nelson
Michael Wright
Fiona Pollard
Graham Badman
Angela Jenkins

Apologies Observers John Haward
Gordon Bernard
Claire Coday
Rose Collinson
Lynda Russell

Publication Intent Internal

1.	Welcome and Apologies
	The Chair relayed apologies and welcomed Sarah Makewell as Lesley

	Davies' new PA who would be administering future meetings.
2.	Declarations of potential conflicts of interest
	The Chairman invited members to declare any potential conflicts of interest. It was concluded that there was none to declare.
3.	Approval of minutes of last meeting (16th March 2007 and progress against actions
3.1	The minutes of 16 th March 2007 were approved as an accurate record.
3.2	Action Item 5.1 – Investigate options for learner of more flexible enrolment throughout year – Malcolm Bell confirmed that this ongoing action would be reported on at the next meeting.
3.3	Action Item 6.4 – Analysis of why LSC Kent and Medway has done better in performance in certain areas as against the rest of the South East Region - Lesley Davies said that recently received statistical data is currently under analysis and a full presentation would be given at the next meeting.
4.	Chairman's Update
4.1	The Chair asked for an overview on the introduction of specialised diplomas in Kent and Medway.
4.2	John Ratcliff explained that the second diploma 'gateway' process is due to start soon, with guidance on the process expected in July. Forums and consortia will need to decide their approach to the new gateway round, taking account of the results of the first process.
4.3	The following is a summary of outcomes from the first Gateway process for the Kent and Medway local authority areas.
4.4	Kent: The ten Kent 14-19 Planning Forums submitted applications for 35 diploma lines in early December. The applications per forum varied from two to four and across the county all five diploma lines were covered.
4.5	During the assessment process the DfES success categories increased to four: 2008 with no conditions, 2008 with conditions; 2009 with conditions and reapply. Outcomes
4.6	Eighteen diploma line submissions have been successful, four are in category two (2008 with conditions), fourteen in category three (2009 with conditions) and the remaining seventeen were unsuccessful.
4.7	Eight out of the ten forums have been successful in gaining the opportunity to pilot one line or more in either 2008 or 2009.

4.8	Two forums, Dartford (Wilmington schools consortia) and Dover, Deal and Sandwich will have the opportunity to pilot all the lines they applied for. Dartford (Wilmington schools consortia) success in four lines is also the greatest number of any of the forums.
4.9	Only two of the ten forums have not been successful in this round, they are: Shepway and Sittingbourne and Sheppey. One 14-19 Delivery Consortia was also unsuccessful – Dartford – Town Consortia.
4.10	Eight forums will be piloting creative and media but there are only two forums in each of the following; engineering and IT.
4.11	There were 170 diploma line applications across the South East Region, 12.9% (22) achieved category 1, with 11.7% (20) in category 2 and 35.2% (60) in category 3. Sixty eight (40%) partnerships were not successful including at least one pathfinder partnership that has been used as a showcase by DfES.
4.12	Estimated Kent student numbers to benefit from 2008 are 1045 in construction and society, health and development rising to 3559 students in 009 when further four Forums come on steam with these two diploma lines and the addition of creative and media, engineering and IT.
4.13	Three appeals (or ‘reviews’) have been submitted – from Shepway, Canterbury and Wilmington.
4.14	Medway: The single Medway consortium submitted bids for all five diploma lines, covering a total of 470 new diploma places. All five submissions were successful, with creative and media, SHD, engineering and IT definitely coming on stream in September 2008. Construction will follow in September 2009, subject to certain conditions being met. An £800,000 capital grant has been awarded to the consortium to support the delivery of the new diplomas.
4.15	Vernon Hull asked what was being done for Sheppey and Sittingbourne as these were low scoring areas in the StAR. John Ratcliff confirmed that Sheppey and Sittingbourne area is a high priority for LSC. A lot of activity is going on, including a new, recent commitment by all partners to work collaboratively. The aim is to deliver a full and exciting curriculum offer for all young people both through existing providers and from new capital projects. The LSC and KCC were looking at potential sites for a new building to house construction and other workshops for post-16 training John Ratcliff also confirmed that on Sheppey, he had brokered an agreement between KCC and Canterbury college to work together to ensure that all 15 diplomas would be delivered fully through collaboration between Sheppey and Minster colleges.
4.16	Employer engagement was discussed. It was felt to be crucial to

4.17	<p>achieving goals. John Ratcliff stated that at national level the diploma is designed to be employer related.</p> <p>Saturation of work placements was discussed. It was felt that schools and colleges are approaching employers at the same time. It was agreed that a mapping process is required to avoid this and that LSC would take this forward.</p>
5.	Chairman's Update
5.1	<p>LSC Structure - Lesley Davies gave an update on the new LSC structure, which aims to be more customer driven. Lesley outlined the change in reporting lines and also the change to geographical areas for Partnership Directors Malcolm Staunton and Heather Gray (currently seconded to cover Tony Allen's role). This change is to give Malcolm a new challenge and create some stability into the area of Thames Gateway. Tony Allen is aware of and happy with these changes. It was noted that Jane Ball is on long term sickness and would not be returning in the near future.</p>
5.2	<p>South Kent College – Interim Principal - Lesley Davies reported that subject to approval by the selection committee the Interim Principal would be announced shortly. This would be for a period of 12 months with the option to extend for a further 6 months if necessary. The candidate appointed has extensive experience in recovery planning.</p>
5.3	<p>Passage of FE Bill – The Chairman stated that it we would be well into autumn before a new Bill would be put in place. Advertisements have been circulated to all council members as there needs to be a representative from Kent and Medway on the new Board.</p>
6.	Green Paper on raising the compulsory participation age to 18
6.1	<p>John Ratcliff gave a presentation on the Government's proposals to raise the participation age to 18.</p>
6.2	<p>The presentation highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential benefits of raising the age of participation • Key challenges to ensure potential benefit is realised • How the policy is intended to accommodate all young people • The proposals set out in the Green Paper to secure benefits for young people, the economy and society • Supporting young people to make the best choices • Employers' contribution to supporting young people
6.3	<p>David Melville thanked John Ratcliff for this presentation and asked for comments.</p>
6.4	<p>There was a discussion on how those who gain full level 2 qualifications have no incentive to stay on to level 3. It was debated whether there was a need for more flexibility of the system and the need for Council to</p>

	engage with employers to enable young people to take up more training. Decision: David Melville would discuss this at the regional board.
7.	Capital Update
7.1	Paul Sayers joined the meeting and gave an update on the current capital bids. This included a breakdown of projects and spend as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S2006-07: 16 projects approved – Value £200m • 2007-08: 38 projects – Value £800m • £140m already invested / approved • £364m planned investment 2007-12 • 9 major FE projects planned / under development • Developing proposals for smaller, targeted projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marsh Academy ○ Sittingbourne (£8m) ○ Ebbsfleet
7.2	Paul explained that the aim is to develop world class buildings for world class teaching and increased participation.
7.3	There was a general discussion on the importance of Ebbsfleet and the need for clarification on the regeneration of the area. There is a significant employment potential across many sectors; building, engineering, retail, customer service. Decision: LSC would drive this project forward with the help of SEEDA.
7.4	The Chair thanked Paul Sayers for the presentation and asked for the slides to be circulated to all members.
8.	Annual Plan to Action Plan: Developing Strategies
8.1	Lesley Davies outlined changes since Theme 7 and the way LSC work internally. Organisation charts were circulated to show areas of responsibilities and the links with partners. Every partnership advisor is managed by a partnership director on projects that link in with the annual plan. This will enable close monitoring against objectives set out in the annual plan.
8.2	Malcolm Staunton gave a presentation on how the project groups have been set up against the 4 priorities within the local plan. An example of one area was tackling NEET.
8.3	There was a general discussion regarding the NEET implementation plan. Malcolm Bell felt that employers were reluctant to take on apprentices as young people do not have the standard of basic skills required. Lesley Davies commented that this is an issue on which we are currently working

8.4	and would be addressed in the Implementation Plan. Lesley informed council that the Investors In People accreditation is being sought this year and that all LSC staff were undertaking training in line with the recent structure changes. Lesley said that going forward staff will have personal objectives linked into the annual plan.
9.	Any Other Business No other items for discussion.
	The meeting closed at 11.27am.