

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date Tuesday 6 November 2007

Subject Council Meeting

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

Time 09.15

LSC Office Kent and Medway

Present:

Council Members Sir David Melville (Chair)
Lesley Davies (Area Director)
Malcolm Bell
Vernon Hull
Anne Marie Nelson
John Parsonage
Ashley West

LSC Staff John Ratcliff
Malcolm Staunton
Jane Spurgin
Sarah Makewell

Apologies Graham Badman
Council Members Paul Carter
Chris Hearn
Derek Hunter
Angela Jenkins
Tracy Luke
Michael Wright

Apologies Gordon Bernard
Observers Claire Coday
Rose Collinson
Lynda Russell
Claire Fisher

Publication Intent Internal

1.	Welcome and Apologies
1.1	The Chair relayed apologies and welcomed members to the meeting.
2.	Declarations of potential conflicts of interest
2.1	The Chair invited members to declare any potential conflicts of interest. It was concluded that there were none to declare.
3.	Approval of minutes of last meeting (19 September 2007) and progress against actions
3.1	Although Rose Collinson had not attended the last Council meeting she had asked for an additional sentence to be noted in point 5.8 as follows:
3.2	Medway Council has set up a youth trust which has charitable status.
3.3	The minutes of 19 September 2007 were then approved as an accurate record.
3.4	Action Item 5.1 – Flexible enrolment options throughout year – Malcolm Bell reported that discussions are underway with KAFEC Principals, specifically with regard to the NEET agenda. Malcolm Staunton added that January starts are required in each area to meet the September Guarantee. This is an ongoing action.
3.5	Action Item 5.6 – Overview of Diplomas – An information sheet and spreadsheet detailing diplomas has been circulated to members and included within the meeting papers.
3.6	Action Item 5.9 – Gordon Bernard to prepare update on available careers advice – this action would be carried over to the next meeting.
3.7	Action Item 5.10 – 14-19 Reform Update – This shall be discussed within agenda item 6.
3.8	Action Item 7.13 – Council to receive feedback on the SE Trial of Adult Learner Accounts, when available. This action will be carried forward until information is available.
3.9	Action Item 8.9 – LSC Initiatives – Jane Spurgin circulated a breakdown of LSC Initiatives.
4.0	Action Item 9.3 – KPMG Report – a summary will be circulated to members when available.

4.	Chairman's Update
4.1	The Chair reported to Council the following updates:
4.2	Paul Sayers has been appointed Partnership Director, covering Heather Gray's maternity leave until 31 March 2008.
4.3	The KPMG report on South Kent College is underway. KPMG have been tasked with recommending options for the future of the college's three sites – Folkestone, Dover and Ashford. Council will be kept informed of the progress of this report.
5.	Council Role (post 01/11/07)
5.1	The Chair informed members that at the last National Council meeting some firm decisions had been made regarding the future of local councils.
5.2	<p><u>Capital Funding</u> A Regional Council will be set up and be responsible for recommending and passing capital applications on to National Capital Committee for approval.</p>
5.3	Discussions were held at the last Regional Board on how best to achieve this.
5.4	The Chair had informed Regional Board that Kent & Medway still had strong representation from Council members and that there was regular attendance at local meetings. It was therefore concluded that where local Councils were able to hold Capital Sub-Group meetings these should continue in order to review and make recommendations to Regional Council.
5.5	Members debated this subject and agreed that Capital Sub-Group meetings would continue be held in order to review Capital proposals and assist colleges in their applications prior to passing onto Regional Council.
5.6	<p><u>Regional Council</u> Recruitment of members for Regional Council will need to be approved by the Secretary of State and therefore would take time to arrange.</p>
5.7	<p style="text-align: center;">Decision: Council shall continue to meet on an adhoc basis around key events throughout the year.</p>
5.8	<p><u>Statement of Priorities</u> The release of the LSC Statement of Priorities had been delayed until week commencing 12 November and that there will be a full briefing on 28 November.</p>

<p>5.9</p> <p>5.10</p> <p>5.11</p> <p>5.12</p>	<p>The following decisions were made:</p> <p>The Council recommend that LSC officers continue discussions with local authorities and agree how best to work more closely together over the next few years of transition.</p> <p>Council will continue to review capital applications through a Capital Sub-Group. Meetings will be arranged as required.</p> <p>Council shall continue to meet on an adhoc basis. Dates to be advised with adequate notice. The next meeting shall be held in January 2008 – exact date to be advised.</p> <p>The Chair concluded that there would be a celebration dinner prior to the end of the Council closing.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>14-25 Provision from 2010</p>
<p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p> <p>6.6</p>	<p>John Ratcliff explained that this subject had been added to the agenda following a request at the last Council meeting.</p> <p>John Ratcliff gave an overview on the role of region, the impact on local needs and changes in 14-19 funding which will be demand led with effect from 2008. Funding from 2013 onwards will be transferred from the LSC to local authorities. There was a discussion around this and the impact on local partners.</p> <p>Lesley Davies informed Council that the LSC are working with local authorities and continuing to build relationships. Until the outcome of changes from LSC to local authorities are known it is difficult to see how best to take this transition forward.</p> <p>The Chair commented that there are currently a number of academies in Kent. Each of these are funded directly from the Department, although the formula they use for their sixth form is similar to that of the LSC.</p> <p>Malcolm Bell raised the issue of Mid Kent College stretching across two local authorities and North West Kent College having students from a different local authority to the college (Bexley). This could raise potential problems for the colleges with regards to funding.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Nelson asked how the change of responsibility to local authorities would affect vocational centres. John Ratcliff commented that there had been mixed views on the results of an evaluation on retention and attendance. But, for example, the Thanet skills studio is proving to be popular in terms of numbers and schools sending pupils there. The main issue has been lack of progression. LSC and KCC are mapping</p>

6.7	opportunities from Level 1 through to Level 3. The Chair thanked John Ratcliff for his update.
7.	Enrolment/Recruitment Update
7.1	Jane Spurgin circulated a breakdown of Further Education and Work Based Learning figures for 16-18 year olds and gave an update to Council on the information behind the figures.
7.2	A further update will be given at the next meeting.
8.	Any Other Business
8.1	No items were raised for discussion.
8.2	The meeting closed with lunch at 11.55.
	<i>Members to note:</i> <i>Date of next meeting: 31 January 2008</i>