

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 14 September 2006
Subject MKOB Council Meeting
Location Board Room, Aylesbury College, Buckinghamshire
Time 17:45
LSC office Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire
Publication intent Public

Present Dr Pat Upson
David Ansell
Ray Ball
Liz Brighthouse
Jane Butcher
Sally Dicketts
David McGahey
Frances Parry
Andrew Peck
Jane Wainwright
John Wilder

In attendance Claire Bassett - Connexions
Linda Saunders - Job Centre+

LSC staff Shereen Sameresinghe
Sarah Rusby
Martin Towers
Heather White
Matthew Williams

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Jon Appleton
Bella Hewes
Norman Miles (attended tour of college)
Jackie Parry - GOSE
Ernie Reading

Item 1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were noted.
- 1.2 Shereen Sameresinghe, Sarah Rusby and Heather White were introduced to Council as new Band Four members of the Senior Management Team.

Item 2. Minutes from 27th June 2006 Council Meeting

- 2.1 The minutes from the last Council Meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting on 27th June 2006.
- 2.2 It was noted that the action within the minutes regarding an update on issues connected with Work Based Learning provision would be carried forward to the agenda of the next meeting.

Action: David Ansell to produce and present a paper on local WBL performance and issues for the next meeting.

Item 3. Local Learning Partnerships Presentation

- 3.1 Council welcomed Liz Gifford from the Milton Keynes Economy and Learning Partnership to the meeting.
- 3.2 Liz provided Council with a presentation about the work of MKELP and the new South East Learning Partnership (SELP) which has been established regionally.
- 3.3 Chair and Council thanked Liz for the presentation.

Item 4. LIDF Allocation Process Update

- 4.1 Council welcomed Martin Towers to the meeting for this agenda item.
- 4.2 Martin updated Council about the LIDF process, informing Council that following confirmation of the final budget in July, an extensive exercise had been undertaken to review all projects with the Senior Management Team in light of the LSC's reorganisation. Many projects have been allocated to new project managers and/or existing contract managers confirmed with their new line managers.
- 4.3 It was noted that the regional finance team had last week identified additional projects which will need to be resourced from the slippage figure. Martin informed Council that these are now being investigated.
- 4.4 It was also noted that funding for projects should not extend beyond March 2007. Concern was raised that this may jeopardise some of the projects. It was noted that a robust monitoring framework will be established to ensure that providers meet the deadline.
- 4.5 A meeting involving LSC offices from both MKOB and Berkshire will take place in October to help share expertise and knowledge.
- 4.6 A concern was raised that the Council had not been able to make a decision about the allocation of discretionary funding in this instance, although it was acknowledged that a sub group of Council had been instrumental in the initial allocations and that the timescales involved in preparation for the September LIDF review meeting had not been sufficient to make this a practicable option.
- 4.7 Council also requested that an update from the projects be discussed after the projects have concluded to understand the difference that the projects have made in practice. Good news stories should be shared with Council and LSC officers alike, as well as appearing in the local media.

Decision: Council accepted and approved the recommendations as set out in the supporting document that the Senior Management Team should determine the projects that can benefit from additional resources or identifies viable new projects at its September LIDF review meeting; and that Council should delegate responsibility to the Chair to scrutinise and, if appropriate, approve proposals from the Senior Management Team.

Item 5. Abingdon and Witney College Capital Bid Update

- 5.1 Council were asked to note the content of the tabled paper and received colour copies of the supporting maps showing the proposed location and layout for the developments as detailed in the paper.
- 5.2 The paper was presented as an update to keep Council Members informed of recent developments.
- 5.3 Once the College has more detailed plans, representatives from the College will be invited to address Council and the plans will be circulated to Council in advance of such a meeting.
- 5.4 It was also noted that the College are happy and ready to arrange a visit to the existing Witney campus for Council Members. This would be likely to take place later in the year, when the submission of a Capital Bid would be closer at hand.

Action: Matthew to add Abingdon and Witney College to the agenda of the next Council Meeting.

Item 6. AOB

- 6.1 Concerns regarding the implementation of the regional LSC Train to Gain programme, and the negative impact that this had had on providers within the local and surrounding area, were raised for the attention of Council Members.
- 6.2 The problem raised was acknowledged by The Area Director.
- 6.3 Concerns were also raised about the method by which the issue had been presented. It was suggested that Council Meetings may not be the appropriate forum for debating such issues, even when interests have been declared, and it was suggested that protocols may be required to handle future instances where Council Members wish to highlight such issues.

Decision: The date and location of the next Council Meeting has yet to be determined. Council will be contacted regarding proposed dates in due course.

Publication no.

Meeting chair

Minute taker

Date created

Document ref.

Dr Pat Upson

Matthew Williams

15 September 2006

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