

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date Tuesday 3 July 2007

Subject Council Meeting

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

Time 15.00

LSC Office Kent and Medway

Present Council Members Professor David Melville (Chair)
Lesley Davies (Area Director)
Vernon Hull
Tracy Luke
Malcolm Bell
Ashley West
Angela Jenkins
Anne Marie Nelson

Observer Gordon Bernard

LSC Staff Jane Spurgin
Heather Gray
Sarah Makewell
Paul Sayers (Item 5)

Apologies Council Members Michael Wright
Fiona Pollard
Graham Badman
Chris Hearn
Paul Carter
John Parsonage

Apologies Observers John Haward
Claire Coday
Rose Collinson
Lynda Russell
Clair Fisher

Publication Intent Internal

1.	Welcome and Apologies
	The Chair welcomed members and LSC staff attending the meeting and

	relayed apologies from members and observers.
2.	Declarations of potential conflicts of interest
2.1	The Chairman invited members to declare any potential conflicts of interest.
2.2	Ashley West declared his interest in the Hadlow project and highlighted the fact that he is a non-executive director of Barwicks who have tendered for the Animal Management Contract which is included within Hadlow's Capital project.
2.3	The Chair noted this interest.
3.	Approval of minutes of last meeting (23 May 2007) and progress against actions
3.1	The minutes of 23 May 2007 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
3.2	Action Item 5.1 – Investigate options for learners of more flexible enrolment throughout year – Malcolm Bell informed the meeting that there is to be a conference within the next few weeks and that he will be in a better position to update the meeting following this conference. Therefore, the action will be carried over to the next meeting at which Malcolm Bell will give a further update to the Council.
3.3	Action Item 7.3 – Ebbsfleet Project – Lesley Davies has recently met with Malcolm Bell and Vernon Hull to discuss ways forward. All three had attended a tour of the Ebbsfleet site and felt that further education would be put firmly on the map. The LSC will be pursuing opportunities for an innovative learning hub with SEEDA, GKA, NWKC and the HEIs.
3.4	The importance of linking in with employers in the Thames Gateway area was discussed and the sector areas this would involve, particular for hospitality and catering in light of the new hotel build in the area. Concerns were raised about the Ebbsfleet commercial development which is a project to build and let rather than attract industry to commission sites. The bridge is a commission and build designated area.
3.5	Vernon Hull commented that when the fast trains start running on 20 July from Ebbsfleet this will clearly highlight the major re-generation of the area.
4.	Chairman's Update
4.1	The Chairman apologised to members for the changes to the meeting dates and explained that these have largely been due to the LSC's national and regional resourcing issue.
4.2	The Chair gave an update on the current Ministerial changes and impact this will have on the 16-18 funding arrangements.

4.3	Anne Marie Nelson asked the Chair what effect this would have on the changes to Council. David Melville explained that this is largely dependent on the current Bill being passed, however it was unlikely that any changes would take effect until later in the year. Members were asked to keep future meeting dates for Council in their dairies.
5.	Kent & Medway 2006/07 Performance
5.1	Jane Spurgin gave a presentation on Kent & Medway's performance.
5.2	<p>The following points were explained in detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets and how these are measured • Participation for both Young people and Adults • Targeting NEETs and Learners who usually drop out • Achievements in the areas for Young People • Success Rates and Changing Provision for Adult Learners • Challenges faced in both Young People & Adults • Focusing on NEETs
5.3	The Chair thanked Jane for her presentation and asked for comments by members.
5.4	Gordon Bernard brought up the subject of entry to employment (e2e) and how if there is no continuity or provision learners fall through he gaps. Gordon highlighted the problem of 'lost learners' due to lack of flexible start dates, and limited provision from February to September.
5.5	Malcolm Bell commented on the problems with the bidding process. He also said that success rate figures can be distorted due to short courses.
6.	Train to Gain
6.1	Heather Gray gave a presentation on Kent & Medway's Train to Gain (TtG) Strategy and circulated copies of the slides to members.
6.2	<p>The presentation highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Government flag ship • How TtG enables employers to identify & source training needs • Benefits to Employers including wage subsidies for small businesses • Targets around Level 2 and Skills for Life qualifications through Work Based Learning • Regional Skills Team aim to deliver 65% of overall target. • Kent & Medway Local Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stimulating demand ○ Involving KATO & KAFEC ○ Educating local staff

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting to providers through local staff ○ Approaching local CEO's and Head of businesses directly ○ Working more closely with Job Centre Plus ○ Working with training providers to put on training ○ Introduction of meetings to discuss types of barriers ● Proposed Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flexible / e-working ○ Accredited Prior Learning
6.3	The chair thanked Heather for the presentation and invited members to an open discussion and make recommendations on possible additional activities.
6.4	Gordon Bernard stated that Connexions employ 7 Employer Liaison Consultants who could help with raising awareness and promoting TtG if they were given the necessary training. Decision: Heather Gray and Gordon Bernard would liaise to arrange training of 7 Employer Liaison Consultants to promote TtG.
6.5	The action plan was well received and it was recommended marketing should be targeted on specific sectors in order to build strategies with key employers.
6.6	Similarities between Investors In People (liP) and TtG were discussed and the likelihood of employers who are committed to liP being more inclined to support TtG.
6.7	Conversion rates were discussed and that referrals do not necessarily lead to people who are able to achieve full Level 3. Decision: The Chair concluded that there should be a further update at the next Council meeting.
7.	Hadlow Capital Bid
7.1	Paul Sayers joined the meeting.
7.2	Heather Gray gave a brief overview of the Hadlow capital project and referred to the information paper previously circulated to members.
7.3	Members were asked to note that the Hadlow capital bid shall need to be assessed and approved by the Council Sub Group prior to submission to the Capital Committee on 2 August 2007.
7.4	Members will be contacted in due course.
8.	Any Other Business
8.1	No advance items were noted.

8.2	The Chair brought the Area Directors Report to the attention of members.
8.3	South Kent College - It was noted that the Interim Principal is in place and that the draft recovery plan is under way. KPMG have undertaken an audit of the college and once this data is received a robust recovery plan is expected.
8.4	The Capital Sub Group Meeting minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and the Chair updated members on the Thanet application which had been passed by the Capital Committee.
8.5	Members formally congratulated David Melville on his knighthood.
8.6	The meeting closed at 4.45pm.
Meeting chair	Professor David Melville
Minute Taker	Sarah Makewell
Date created	4 July 2007
Document ref.	G:\Planning & OD\Council\Council Meetings\2007\5 5 July\ken-council mins 030707.doc