

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 28 November 2006
Subject Joint Berkshire and MKOB Council Meeting
Location Windsor Campus, East Berkshire College
Time 16:00
LSC office Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire
Publication intent Public

Present David Ansell
Jon Appleton
Laura Asquith
Kathryn Cook
Ronnie Epstein
Nicky Hillier
David Lunn MP
David McGahey
Ann Murdoch
Nick Parish
Pat Upton
Jon Wilder
Kathy Winrow

In attendance Gilly Bartip
Katie Macdonald
Matthew Williams

LSC staff Garry Llewellyn
Sarah Rusby
Shereen Sameresinghe
Martin Towers
Heather White

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Pam Alexander
Ray Ball
Claire Bassett
Liz Brighthouse
Gordon Bull
Jane Butcher
Sally Dicketts
Tony Eccleston
Bella Hewes

Katharine Horler
Jacqui Johnson
Professor Gordon Marshall
Norman Miles
Hilary Omissi
Frances Parry
John Parsonage
Andrew Peck
Ernie Reading
Anne Spruce
Leslie Stephen
Jane Wainwright

Jill Goddard (LSC)
Linda Jarvis (LSC)

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Introductions were made. Council requested that updated biographies of both Berkshire and MKOB Council Members are circulated before the next meetings. Agreed. **Action: Katie Macdonald**

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 Berkshire Council Minutes – item 3.4 should read ‘two regional centres for the south east’ and not ‘Thames Valley’.
- 2.2 Joint, MKOB and Berkshire Council Minutes were agreed as a true record.

Item 3. Matters arising

- 3.1 Item 5 - Abingdon and Witney College. There is nothing to report at present. The capital bid is still progressing, and the estimated date at which it will come forward is set out in the Thames Valley Capital Plan (see item 7).
- 3.2 The Chair updated Council following a number of meetings in the South East. It is envisaged there will be a strong Regional Board with local input. The Regional Chair will report to the National Council. Councils do still exist at present and there is still input to be given into the planning process and the local plans for MKOB and Berkshire for 2007-2008.

Item 4. Area Director's Report

- 4.1 The Area Director highlighted key points in his written report.
- 4.2 Transformation – a recruitment campaign is in progress for the remaining vacancies. Interviews are taking place for the Band 4 vacancy for Partnership Director, Buckinghamshire on the 8th December. Council asked

for consideration to be given to inviting someone from Buckinghamshire County Council to be on the panel. Band 3 interviews have taken place with three successful candidates being offered a position. Further advertisements will be placed as not all vacancies were filled at this recruitment round.

- 4.3 Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead – Council raised the issue that the report gave a negative picture, and this was not the case. Great improvement had been made. This was noted by the Councils.
- 4.4 Economic Development Team – the paper gave a summary of the role of the team in the new structure and this was welcomed.
- 4.5 The Grant letter was circulated in full.
- 4.6 Oxford and Cherwell Valley College Inspection – the college received very positive feedback to their recent re-inspection. Grades had improved from a 4 to a 2 and a 4 to a 3. The Chair asked the congratulations be passed to the Principal on behalf of the Council. **Action: David Ansell**
- 4.7 Forthcoming Inspections – The Henley College and Berkshire College of Agriculture are being inspected this week (w/c 27th November). Feedback for both establishments is being given on Friday 1st December. Representatives from the LSC have been invited and are attending. The outcomes will be reported to Council at the next meeting.

Item 5. Annual Statement of Priorities

- 5.1 The document was circulated in advance of the meeting.
- 5.2 Council discussed the point made in the document on competitive tendering for provision. The underlying priority here is that the learners are still well served.
- 5.3 The document was noted by Council.

Item 6. 2007-08 Annual Planning Exercise

- 6.1 Work will be undertaken on two separate local plans for the 2007-08 planning round for Berkshire and MKOB. The two plans will be aligned wherever this makes good sense.
- 6.2 There is a more integrated planning approach this year for national, regional and local priorities.
- 6.3 An LSC planning team has been established to work collaboratively on both plans, covering both the Reading and Kidlington offices and all sectors, in consultation with other agencies.
- 6.4 A Council planning Sub-Group will be organised with members from both the Berkshire and MKOB Councils which will look at each plan individually.
Action: Martin Towers to circulate dates
- 6.5 The first draft of the plan will be completed by mid January in order to contribute to the Regional Plan. The date of the March Council meeting will tie in with the Regional Board meeting when local plans are requested to be presented.

Item 7. Thames Valley Capital Plan

- 7.1 This previously separate planning process will now run along side the annual planning process.
- 7.2 Council raised that the capital plan should link with the future skills need of local areas. The volume of projects may make it difficult to secure strong project managers.
- 7.3 Council expressed concern about the number of planned capital projects. As part of the updating of the plan the key projects for action during 2007-2008 will be identified.

Item 8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 The Chair gave thanks to Matthew Williams for his service to the MKOB Council over the last 6 years. Matthew has moved to work in the Regional Marketing and Communications team as a Communications Advisor.
- 8.2 Council noted that attendance at this and the previous meeting was poor. It was considered not a good use of time to call a meeting unless there was specific business to endorse or address. Other forms of approval could be sought i.e. electronic, if this proved a better use of time available.

Item 9. Date of next meeting

- 9.1 Two further meetings of the Council are planned in 2007, in March and July.
- 9.2 There is limited availability in March as the meeting of the Councils will need to fit in with the planning cycle and Regional Board Meeting. The proposed date is the 6th March.
- 9.3 Proposed dates for July at 10th, 17th and 19th July. **Action: Katie Macdonald to circulate dates following the meeting.**

Publication no.

Meeting chair Dr. Pat Upson

Minute taker Katie Macdonald

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