

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 21 September 2006
Subject Council Meeting
Location Princes House
Time 16:00
LSC office Sussex
Publication intent Public

Present Norman Boyland, Keith Conniford, Nigel Lambe, Debra Shandley, Jenny Barnard-Langston, John Scott,
LSC staff Michael Nix (Partnership Director), Elizabeth Funge (Partnership Director)
Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Chris Andrews, Karen Silk, Lynn Conolly, Michelle Pooley, Phil Wood, Richard Parker

1). Apologies

Noted above

2). Minutes of last meeting, 24th July 2006

Minutes noted but will be taken forward to next meeting for approval (7th Nov)

3). Matters Arising

Michael Nix updated the council on LID Funding (Paul Stoggles was present)

Key points raised: A tendering exercise has taken place, resulting in a good response with a list of consultants entering into contract negotiations: Successful consultants are as follows:

- Alan Jenkins (Adult Skills/14-19), Cuckmere (14-19), Debbie Betteridge (14 - 19)
- Bill Grady (Quality)
- KPMG, FE Associates (Infrastructure)
- Open Agenda/Effective Contracting (Skills)

4). Theme 7 update

4.1 National, Regional and Local structures

Council examined National, Regional and Local structure charts.

Key points raised:

- There are a large number of regional vacancies, which may create some issues due to lack of capacity
- There has been a delay on external recruitment to vacancies but, following discussions with PCS, we can now recruit to the majority of posts
- Locally we still have a few vacancies, mostly admin posts at Band 1. These will be recruited for ASAP
- We are still trying to find a suitable location for the new office and there are issues around finding a tenant to take over the lease of the Brighton office. We are re-organising ourselves on a temporary basis in Brighton.
- The council expressed concerns about capacity (especially administrative) and the delay in getting people into posts where there are vacancies

4.2 Local Council development including council reappointments

Chris Banks has written two letters, one to the Chair of Local Councils and the second to all Local Council members. Norman updated Council members on the future of non-executive arrangements. The Council discussed the letters and future arrangements.

Key points raised:

- Council expressed concerns that decisions have already been made regarding the future of Local Councils – with no discussion or input from Council members
- Norman expressed his view that the decisions had been made and that Local Council's challenge was to make it work
- It was agreed that Norman would discuss the issues with Local Council further and feed this information into the Regional Board and Chairs Day (where Bill Rammell will be present)
- Council agreed to respond to Chris Banks' letter. It was agreed that Debbie Shandley would lead on this and that a draft letter would be produced and discussed further on the 20th October at the extra-ordinary meeting of Council.
- Council agreed they have a statutory responsibility to feed into this process and express concerns in a positive way – it was also noted that risks need to be highlighted in the response to Chris Banks
- Key risks discussed and noted:
 - Losing the expertise and momentum that currently exists in local councils
 - Difficulty of getting employers to engage (yet alone lead) a regional board
 - That the local perspective would be lost, especially as letter indicated that local areas were not to have formally constituted groups
 - Difficulty of regional board being effectively linked into LSP, and other local bodies and being informed by/ about local needs
- Norman expressed his support for the Council in this action. Norman will also ensure the strength of feeling of Local Council will be feedback in relevant meetings
- Council expressed serious concerns regarding the restructure and regionality of these arrangements

- Debbie will consult other Council members to enable her to proceed with the response – it was also agreed that a footnote would be included to highlight Norman's position.

5). Strategic Framework 06 - 09

Council examined the summary of 'Key Elements' of an LSC Sussex Strategic Planning Framework

Key points noted:

- We need to understand the new context and priorities emphasised in David's paper when putting together the strategic plan
- Elizabeth pointed out that further work will be done to develop the plan at the next Directors' meeting, as part of longer term planning following Theme 7 transition.
- **Action:** Agreed that Directors will prepare a draft paper for the next council meeting

6). Business Plan 06/07

6.1 Key Priorities & Risks

Council examined Key priorities and Risks. Agreed that the Audit Committee will work on the risk document making sure actions are in place to limit risk

6.2 Performance Update

- City College have cut their A Level provision
- It was confirmed that AS/A2 performance at Bexhill College was highlighted as a concern
- Still concerns regarding the A Level provision in the Hastings area
- Merged Colleges have shown improvement

7). Key Theme – Quality/The Excellence Agenda.

It was agreed that Elizabeth's presentation would be brought forward to the next council meeting (7th Nov)

8). AOB

- It was agreed that we would cancel the Council meeting planned for 12 October. The next Council meeting will be on 7 November. Agenda items for this meeting to include a discussion about quality plus the 3 year strategic framework, timetable for producing this year's annual plan and information about this years business cycle.
- There will be a discussion about non-exec arrangements on 20 October from 9 – 10am at LSCS, to follow the Audit Committee from 8 – 9am
- Council members agreed to produce a response to Chris Banks.

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Meeting chair

Norman Boyland

Minute taker

Melissa Slate

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