

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 19 September 2006  
**Subject** Council Meeting  
**Location** LSC  
**Time** 15:00 - 17:00  
**LSC office** Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole  
**Publication intent** Public

**Present** Richard Dimpleby  
**LSC staff** Sarah Hughes  
Julie Pike  
**Apologies** Apologies have been received from:  
Steve Attwill  
Simon Curtis  
David Henley  
Adrian Humphries  
Rob Sly  
Andrew Williams

## **Item 1. Welcome and introductions**

1.1 Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Martin Vowles from Connexions deputising for Andrew Williams. He noted that Andrew Slade would be arriving a few minutes late.

## **Item 2. Minutes of last meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on 23 May 2006 were approved.

## **Item 3. Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

## **Item 4. Director of Area's Report**

4.1 Trish spoke of the LSC's transition to the new organisation model. The new Dorset and Somerset team are starting to work across the joint area with the three Partnership Directors, Julie Pike, Sarah Hughes and Sally House, each taking responsibility for a PSA target. Both the Bournemouth and Taunton office are in the process of being let and new offices are being sought. The new style of working will adopt flexible working practices, home working and

hot desking. There will be quiet working areas and space for informal meetings but no personal space.

- 4.2 Trish invited questions on the remaining items in her report either during the meeting or outside.

### **Item 5. Feedback from Regional Board**

- 5.1 Richard checked that Council Members had received a copy of the Chris Banks letter relating to the future of Regional Boards and local Councils, copies of the letter were available on the table. Richard reported that John Savage, Chair of the Regional Board, has asked local Councils to work out how they want to continue over the next 6-10 months whilst legislation is put in place to dissolve local Councils. Most importantly he stressed that Trish wished to retain the expertise and grounding she receives from Members.
- 5.2 Trish said that she has grown to trust the judgement and view of what is needed in Dorset and she is worried about her ability to influence the strategic decisions of the Regional Board that impact on the people of Dorset.
- 5.3 Richard asked the Council in John Savage's works to 'seek to disappear with dignity' and to continue to carry out their responsibility for approving local plans, mergers and capital applications until the new legislation comes into force.
- 5.4 It was felt that Chris Banks has given an invitation to engage with policy formation whilst asking Councils to stand down. However the 07/08 plan could be a corner stone to influence policy for the next few years. Trish agreed and asked the Council if they would support a single plan to cover the newly combined Dorset and Somerset area.

**Decision:** The Council agreed to an 07/08 plan covering the Dorset and Somerset area.

- 5.5 Council also felt that it is important for Dorset to have representation on the Regional Board as the area has always been considered peripheral. BDP needs to have a stronger coherent voice at the Board. The size of the board was questioned in relation to the need to ensure fair representation whilst ensuring the Board remains small.
- 5.6 Trish thought that the decisions had been influenced by the London Mayors Review resulting in the setting up of an Employment and Skills Board with the LSC being a member of the Board. The Board is responsible for drawing up a plan for Adult Skills for London and the LSC will have to have regard to the plan and deploy its resource in accordance with it. The LSC's Regional Board will emulate this structure having an independent Business Chair.
- 5.7 The wording in the Chris Banks letter relating this decision being a result of extensive consultation was commented upon with Members unconvinced that their views have been considered. Concern was expressed that the region will be run on an axis between Bristol and Plymouth.
- 5.8 A grave worry was expressed about the regional approach and it was felt that the future is ominous. The strength of the LSC has been its ability to listen to and respond to local needs. From a business point of view the LSC should

be more local rather than less. Local delivery is a nonsense if the LSC is doing away with the local body responsible for articulating local need.

- 5.9 On a positive note, the Council felt that the Strategic Partnerships will help Trish to continue to receive the views and feelings on the ground but these are likely to be diluted.

**Decision:** The Local Council agreed to continue its responsibility and decided to go ahead with the joint planning event at the Haven Hotel in November.

**Action: Members asked Richard to respond to the Chris Banks letter expressing their disappointment at the decision but also their understanding.**

### **Item 6. Blandford Camp**

- 6.1 Julie explained the issues facing Blandford Camp and asked the Council to lobby and demonstrate their support.
- 6.2 It was noted that one round of rationalisation has already taken place and although Blandford's campaign was launched yesterday they are late starting and have a lot of catching up to do. The launch is an all party campaign with local MPs in support. A petition is being raised and it is hoped that 50,000 will sign by 3 November.
- 6.3 Council asked whether there was any single big issue that we could use to influence the MOD decision.
- 6.4 Trish suggested we mobilise the young people in the area to safeguard their future.

**Action: Council Members to sign petition and take copies away to pass on to their own contacts.**

### **Item 7. Building Schools for the Future**

- 7.1 Trish advised the Council that Building Schools for the Future means that by 2015 the stock of secondary schools needs to be re-built/built and LA's are putting forward their plans. Bournemouth and Poole LA's have used the findings from the LSC's Strategic Area review to undertake a review of the provision to configure their offer. They have asked the local Council to support their bid as it will be strengthened by its support.
- 7.2 It was suggested that when the timing is appropriate we would give some publicity to this.
- 7.3 Trish also suggested that Council might benefit from inviting John Nash and Pratap Deshpande to join them for their planning event in November.

**Decision:** Council endorsed the bid from Bournemouth and Poole LA's in relation to Building Schools for the Future.

**Action: Trish to invite John Nash and Pratap Deshpande to the November planning event.**

## **Item 8. Local Area Agreements**

8.1 Trish explained that Local Area Agreements have been enormously helpful in linking the LSC into Local Authority planning. Through Children's Trusts and in particular the economic strand, the LSC targets are starting to become better aligned and good progress has been made.

## **Item 9. 2012 Games Update**

- 9.1 Trish informed the Council that Paul Pettigrew has been appointed to a regional post specifically to respond to the 2012 games.
- 9.2 The legacy is one of skills and it is an opportunity for us to become world class. The opportunity is transformational for BDP and its young people.
- 9.3 The Dorset Group is shortly to appoint an entrepreneur who will be responsible for changing the view that the games are just about sport. Trish has heard Lord Coe say that there are only 306 Monday's until the games.
- 9.4 Trish is attending an event in Weymouth & Portland on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Lord Coe will be at the opening.
- 9.5 It was mentioned that the whole area of customer service is critical and that the Council would be influential in raising its importance. Trish suggested that the Council include this in its thinking on the planning day.
- 9.6 It was pointed out that the Legacy paper is being amended by Ian Cambrook to include skills.
- 9.7 The FSB is holding a business awards event this year to embrace some of these issues and they are trying to get the business community more engaged.

**Action: Trish to ask Sue Farrell to talk to Valerie about the business event.**

## **Item 10. Any other business**

- 10.1 The Council discussed the feedback given to The Bournemouth Dorset and Poole Economic Development Partnership (BDPEP) from Bruce Voss, Head of Operations of the RDA. He has said that following a review of local economic partnerships they were coming to the view that there should be two local partnerships rather than one. One partnership to cover Dorset and the other the conurbation of Bournemouth and Poole.
- 10.2 Trish thought that this was a step in the wrong direction and that it was not advantageous and asked the Council whether they would like to respond to the suggestion.
- 10.3 Council felt that this was a classic case of Government trying to use the LA boundaries. BDPEP has spent a long time bringing together the partnership and splitting into two will weaken the voice at a regional level.
- 10.4 It was agreed that it has taken along time to break down the barriers and now most of the partners are facing in the same direction. With the proliferation of groups in the area there is a lot to say for keeping it simple.
- 10.5 Since BDPEP was formed the LA's are now working together and supporting each others needs. Richard said that the era of working separately has gone and issues can be better served by working collectively whilst recognising the

needs of each area. It was pointed out that the two areas are intrinsically interlinked and separation would cause duplication and confusion.

10.6 Council suggested in addition to a letter from the local Council, BDPEP should ask all its partners to respond.

**Action: Richard to write to the RDA on behalf of the Local Council supporting the view for a single Economic Partnership.**

10.7 Richard reported that he had been asked by Adrian to present awards to students from 38 schools who had been involved in a programme of engineering, marine engineering and motor engineering. It was an excellent event but Richard noted that all the students were boys.

#### **Item 11. Date of next meeting**

11.1 The next meeting of the Council will take place at 9.30am on 24 November at the Haven Hotel. This will be a joint planning event with LSC staff.

#### **Publication no.**

**Meeting chair** Richard Dimpleby

**Minute taker** Judith Dewar

**Date created** 24 September 2006

**Document ref.** H:\bou-councilmeeting-publicminutes-19sep2006.doc