

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006  
**Subject** South West Regional Board  
**Location** Somerset College for Arts and Technology  
**Time** 12.30  
**LSC office** South West Region  
**Publication intent** Internal

**Present** John Savage CBE (Chair)  
Jane Barrie OBE  
Richard Dimbleby  
Malcolm Gillespie  
Brian Kemp  
Bryan McGinity  
Catherine Christie  
Paul Lucken  
Denis Miles  
Mike Davies (Secretary)

**Apologies** Apologies have been received from:  
Professor John Bull  
Pauline Bailey  
John Chudley  
Richard Greenwood  
Marinos Paphitis  
Trish Taylor  
John Temple

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

1.1 John Savage welcomed everyone and explained that the Area Directors were attending a conference and therefore were unable to attend this meeting.

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

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2006 were agreed as a true record.

## **Item 3. Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

#### **Item 4. Regional Director's report**

- 4.1 Malcolm Gillespie referred to his written report and highlighted the items on Transition, IIP, and Skills Sectors. Brian Kemp asked about budget under-spends on Work Based Learning (WBL) and the Local Initiative Discretionary Funding (LIDF). Denis Miles said that the WBL under-spend followed a national trend and that all under-spends in the region were being managed. Malcolm Gillespie said that the Senior Management Group will soon be reviewing the LIDF budget and said that Area Directors will report any decisions to their respective Chairs.
- 4.2 Brian Kemp asked if the region was on target to achieve the Skills for Life target in view of the small percentage of immigrants who qualify for language training. Paul Lucken assured that this had been taken into account and was confident that the region was on course.
- 4.3 Brian Kemp queried the target areas for marketing of Train to Gain and Paul Lucken said these were currently under review in the light of the most recent performance information. Bryan McGinity asked about the research to look into the non-engagement of employers and Paul Lucken confirmed that the results will be available in March.
- 4.4 Catherine Christie referred to the pack of performance information provided to Board Members and the recent performance review with the Chief Executive. Catherine Christie said that although there were still areas where progress needs to be quickened, overall it was a positive review.
- 4.5 Brian Kemp asked for a break-down of performance by location in order to make comparisons and asked that this be supported with analysis of the performance shortfalls. Malcolm Gillespie referred to the key issues listed in the pack and agreed that more detail would be helpful but there would have to be a focus rather than just providing a lot of information about everything. Catherine Christie said that all of the performance information is used to inform the commissioning document for next year which would represent the necessary analysis that the Board might find useful.

#### **Item 5. Skills Partnership update**

- 5.1 Paul Lucken reported that good progress is being made with the relationships within this forum especially around the issue of 'worklessness'. Paul Lucken went on to say that the LSC's Regional Skills Action Plan was an important link into the work of the Partnership.
- 5.2 Brian Kemp asked what programmes on employability skills do the LSC fund. Paul Lucken said LIDF is used and there is E2E as well as a foundation level qualification in employability. More funding is likely to be allocated to the area of 'worklessness' in the next financial year.

#### **Item 6. Overview of National Skills Academies**

- 6.1 Paul Lucken tabled a paper that summarised the latest developments.

### **Item 7. Leitch report**

- 7.1 Paul Lucken summarised the key implications of the Leitch report proposals and tabled a supporting document.

### **Item 8. Regional Council and local arrangements**

- 8.1 John Savage reported that there were no new developments towards the formation of the new Regional Council. Existing arrangements remain in place until the changes are enacted through Parliament.
- 8.2 Bryan McGinity referred to a meeting he had attended in which he had been surprised to learn of another LSC Region creating Skills Boards in lieu of the local Councils. John Savage and Malcolm Gillespie reaffirmed that this would not be replicated in the South West as it was contrary to the directive received from Chris Banks.
- 8.3 John Savage confirmed that the Audit Committee had been formed and that Colonel Tim Moore from the Swindon and Wiltshire Council had been offered and accepted the role of Chair.

### **Item 9. Connexions partnership**

- 9.1 Jane Barrie reported the concerns of the Chief Executive of the Somerset Connexions service that the strength of the partnership between the LSC and Connexions appears to have diminished, possibly due to the planned move to local authorities. Malcolm Gillespie said that the LSC would continue to work closely with the Connexions service in whatever way was appropriate to the structure they were incorporated into.

### **Item 10. LIDF budgets**

- 10.1 Brian Kemp asked whether the LIDF budget for this year was fully committed and if not, proposed that action could be taken locally to bring forward proposed projects. Malcolm Gillespie said that the Senior Management team are closely managing this year's spend and he will inform each local Chair of next years allocation as soon as it is known. Malcolm Gillespie went on to say that nationally it is anticipated there will be a 40% reduction of this years budget in the 07/08 allocation.

### **Item 11. Any other business**

- 11.1 Bryan McGinity referred to the proposals for the constitution of the Regional Council which stated that there should be one representative for both Work Based Learning and School 6<sup>th</sup> Forms. Bryan McGinity said that this was illogical and that there should be one representative for each category. John Savage agreed and said we would have to wait for the recruitment guidance to see how much flexibility there would be.

### **Item 12. The next meeting of the Committee**

- 12.1 This will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Board members agreed to the cancellation of the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2007 as being too soon after this one.

<b>Meeting chair</b>	John Savage
<b>Minute taker</b>	Mike Davies
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