

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Minutes of meeting

Date	3 rd March 2006
Subject	South West Regional Board
Location	Dillington House
Time	09.00 to 12.30
LSC office	South West Region
Publication intent	Internal

Present	John Savage CBE (Chair) Jane Barrie OBE Professor John Bull Richard Dimbleby Malcolm Gillespie Brian Kemp Bryan McGinity Catherine Christie Mark Harvey Paul Lucken Peter Marsh Denis Miles Marinos Paphitis Janet Rice Trish Taylor Mike Davies (Note-taker)
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Guests	Giles Clarke
Apologies	Pauline Bailey Paul May Chris Minett

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Giles Clarke from the LSC National Council, and explained that as this was a special meeting,

the minutes and matters arising from the previous one would be dealt with next time. This would enable as much time as possible to consider the Annual Plans.

Item 2. Annual Plans

- 2.1 Malcolm Gillespie explained that a thematic approach would be used in presenting the plans as this had proved successful at the meeting with the Chief Executive on the 27th February. Each Board member had received copies of all the local plans as well as the accompanying summaries.
- 2.2 John Bull asked if resources will be linked to the plans and Catherine Christie confirmed that this was work currently being done and the outcome will be reported at the next meeting.
- 2.3 Brian Kemp stressed the importance of working with the RDA to strengthen the link between skills and enterprise. Malcolm Gillespie acknowledged the point and thanked Brian Kemp for all his work with the SWESA (now the Regional Skills Partnership).
- 2.4 Malcolm Gillespie opened the presentation and explained the context for delivery, the regional priorities and the main areas of partnership working critical to the success of the plans.
- 2.5 Executive Directors then presented the local plans for the region under the thematic headings of Young People, Adults, Skills, and Providers/Partners.
- 2.6 Brian Kemp said that the timetable for producing Area Prospectuses was tight and would require resourcing. Malcolm Gillespie acknowledged this and by way of illustration, Paul Lucken said he had already calculated £150K as an approximate amount for Devon and Cornwall.
- 2.7 Professor John Bull commented on the impact of the natural demographic changes on the achievement of the Adult Level 2 target. The potential changes will likely impact on the FE sector. Malcolm Gillespie acknowledged the need to do more work to understand the breakdown of people taking up Level 2 in terms of age and where they are in the job market. This would help inform decisions on the future deployment of resources across the region.
Action: Catherine Christie to model the Level 2 take up across the region taking into account anticipated demographic changes.
- 2.8 On the question of Skills for Life, Brian Kemp stressed the need to place a greater emphasis on numeracy rather than literacy.
- 2.9 Professor John Bull asked if the smaller skills sectors that had high added value had been recognised. Malcolm Gillespie confirmed that although they are not listed, that would not preclude them from being funded, and said that the Skills Matrix needs to be developed further. Jane Barrie stressed the importance of the LSC and RDA priority sectors being aligned.
- 2.10 Brian Kemp commented that the plans did not recognise the importance of language training and its benefits to international trading. He said that there is a possibility that this could be covered by Train to Gain which would also help with the Level 2 target.

- 2.11 Each Executive Director summarised the key issues in their respective LSCs and Malcolm Gillespie reminded the Board of the Regional Offender Learning programme.
- 2.12 Giles Clarke welcomed the more concise template for the Plans and suggested contacting the LSCs at Norfolk and Cumbria for good practice on addressing learner access difficulties in rural areas.
- 2.13 Malcolm Gillespie summarised by saying that this year's approach to planning will help make informed decisions on the movement of funding across the region but he pledged it would not be done in a way that would destabilise any of the Colleges. Malcolm Gillespie said that the Association of Colleges had been kept informed throughout the allocations process and although there had been considerable negotiations with the Colleges the Provider Plans had not yet been finally signed off.
- 2.14 The Chair then recommended all of the Plans for approval to the Board.
- The South West Regional Board unanimously approved the 2006/07 annual plans for each of the local LSCs that are Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole, Devon & Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Somerset, West of England, and Wiltshire & Swindon.***

Item 3. Capital Strategy

- 3.1 Mark Harvey the Regional Property Adviser referred to the paper sent to members and invited comments saying that the final submission was not due to go to the Capital Committee until late April.
- 3.2 Bryan McGinity asked if there is an impact for projects like ParkLife in Gloucestershire. Mark Harvey confirmed capital support is already available for leases.
- 3.3 Brian Kemp suggested that the document needs to include a reference to sustainability before it is sent to the RDA for consultation.
- 3.4 Richard Dimbleby asked if projects for the 14 to 16 age group were eligible. Mark Harvey explained that this was acceptable where it provided facilities that could be accessed by the 16 plus age group.
- 3.5 John Savage said that Colleges may need encouragement to invest the necessary time to plan for the future that will then generate the necessary capital projects.
- 3.6 Malcolm Gillespie proposed that a virtual sub group be formed to approve the final draft of the strategy. John Savage agreed to lead this and asked Malcolm Gillespie and Professor John Bull to be the other members. It was also agreed that all Board members would receive a copy of the final draft.

Item 4. Any Other Business

- 4.1 Malcolm Gillespie gave an update on the progress with Theme 7.
- 4.2 Bryan McGinity said that Digby Jones was due to attend a business event in South Wiltshire on the 3rd of May but had cancelled due to a commitment in his diary in Exeter. Bryan McGinity asked if a regional council event could be scheduled in Exeter on that day with a view to getting an input from Digby Jones.
- Action: Malcolm Gillespie to investigate the availability of Digby***

Jones to attend a proposed Council Member event on the 3rd of May in Exeter.

Item 12. Dates of future meetings

19th May – ***cancelled, a new date being arranged.***

12th July

13th September

20th October

20th December (meeting to start with lunch and finish approx 4pm.)

Venue: Dillington House (unless confirmed otherwise)

Timings: Start at 9am, finish after lunch (except December meeting)