

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	20 November 2006
Subject	Council Meeting
Location	Taunton
Time	4.30-7.30pm
LSC office	Somerset
Publication intent	Internal

Present	Jane Barrie, Bryan Leaker, John Broomfield, Peter Hillman, Trish Taylor, Judith Richardson, Chris Hyde, Jon Gray, Margaret Luck
In attendance	Andrew Slade, Peter Renshaw, Rob Sly
LSC staff	Sally House, Marie Honor
Apologies	Apologies have been received from: Brian Archer, Ian Bennett, Rhiannon Prys-Owen, Cathy Bakewell

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 Jane Barrie opened the meeting and welcomed Marie Honor

Item 2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the following amendments

- The action point at para 6.3 to read “uniform” rather than “consistent”
- Reference to the West Somerset capital proposal to be included in the minutes

Item 3. Matters arising

3.1 Rhiannon Prys-Owen had volunteered to join the Champions of Learning judging panel ; Bryan Leaker indicated that he would also be prepared to join the panel. Champions of Learning 2007 had been launched at the Skills Exhibition/Business Conference earlier in the month. Andrew Castle will be the key note speaker at the Awards evening which takes place on 15 March at the Holiday Inn Taunton.

- 3.2 Sally House gave an update on the Skills Exhibition evaluation report including:
- 3,200 students 14-19 age group attended over the two days
 - 240 parents attended in the evening
 - 95% of exhibitors commented that they would exhibit again
 - 100% of young people enjoyed the event
 - 95% of young people commented on the usefulness of the materials available
 - 26% said that they had changed their mind over their choice of career as a result of attending the exhibition

School Transport did an excellent job of getting students to the event and were to be congratulated.

3.3 Premises update – two properties on the Blackbrook Business Park have been looked at, both are suitable although the Quad building would be the preferred option. East Reach House will be vacated by the LSC by the end of February, a similar date to the Bournemouth office.

3.4 Regional Board update – see item 4

3.5 Andrew Slade provided an update on the NEETs target – the Local Area Agreement stretch targets are not the same for Somerset and Dorset as different factors are taken into account for each county.

- Somerset - 4.8% down to 4.0% (without stretch 4.2%)
- Dorset - 5.6% down to 4.5% (without stretch 4.8%)

These figures are seen as a fair reflection. In England the lowest NEET target is Rutland at 1% followed by Buckinghamshire at 2.7% and Surrey at 2.9%.

3.6 Trish Taylor had raised the issue of capital funding in relation to sports facilities with national and regional LSC colleagues.

3.7 The Nuclear Skills Academy expression of interest has received the go ahead and the next stage for Cogent is to prepare the business plan.

3.8 Judith Richardson gave an update regarding the 14-19 Joint Area Review During the first week the inspectors had been looking at data. Part of their consideration is to judge to what extent plans are aligned. Next week will see a neighbourhood study (Frome & Glastonbury) and in the following weeks an extensive schedule of interviews will take place

3.9 Capital Committee update – the Autumn round of meetings with colleges and Adult Learning and Leisure had been completed with some capital bids identified. The Capital Committee would meet in March to consider the West Somerset proposal.

Item 4. Regional Board update

4.1 The Regional Board met as Chairs of the Councils, Regional Chair and Regional Director to consider a way forward for local engagement. The paper 'Streamlining LSC Accountability' gives a flavour of what the new Regional Council will do and how it is likely to be made up. It is likely that the local Council will be wound up June/July 07. Jane highlighted the importance

of Council members attending for the full term and being fully committed. Statutory duties including the annual plan, mergers and capital bids need to be fulfilled. The paper refers to local stakeholder input. The Regional Board recognises that they should be engaging with existing partnership bodies eg Local Strategic Partnerships. This may require a Memorandum of Understanding to be drawn up and will be taken forward by the Regional Chair and Regional Director. Each Local Chair put forward their ideas on which partnership body would be appropriate. Council members discussed how to reflect localness; the involvement of the voluntary and community sector was also raised.

Action: Jane Barrie to feedback comments to the Regional Chair

Item 5. Autumn Performance Review

- 5.1 Sally House presented slides illustrating Somerset's performance at the mid-year stage including references to young people, adults overall success rates, 14-19 strategy, employer engagement and capital investment.
- 5.2 Council members were keen to ensure that good news stories and the positive promotion of the LSC continued.

Action: Council members to receive copies of press releases (pack to be provided at council meeting and then on an ongoing basis)

Item 6. Annual Planning

- 6.1 Sally House presented slides on Developing the 07/08 Annual Plan focusing on:
 - Annual Statement of Priorities
 - Key actions – Young People
 - Key actions – Adults
 - Raising performance
 - Key targets
 - Annual Plan 07/08 timetable

Council members recognised the strength and maturity of the current plan and felt that we should build on existing strategy rather than identify new actions. It was important to protect what we are good at, to maintain the growth curve and to align resources so that we are all facing in the same direction. Objectives need to be challenging but possible.

Emphasis was placed on developing indigenous businesses, enabling those who want to grow to do so. Cultural change within small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) was a massive task needing effective brokerage and imaginative solutions. SMEs needed help to see how investment in training would increase productivity. It was proposed that an additional Champions of Learning award should be given for SME "Learner of the Year" to help raise awareness.

Action: Peter Renshaw and Sally House to take forward

There was discussion on how to build on and take forward the achievements of Somerset LSC as part of the Council's legacy. Sally House referred to the heightened and increasing profile that the LSC's activities and targets have within the Somerset Strategic Partnership – particularly within the Economic Leaders Group and the Children and Young People's Steering Group. A number of Council members and observers are involved in these partnerships. A newsletter was suggested and membership of task and finish groups.

It was agreed that as in previous years, a focus group will be held in January to consider an early draft plan. An invitation to attend will be sent to all Council members.

Action: Sally House

Item 7. Any other business

7.1 Jane Barrie wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and suggested that Council members and LSC employees might like to meet before Christmas for a buffet lunch.

Action: Sally House to arrange

Item 8. Date of next meeting

8.1 The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday 26 February at 4.30pm at East Reach House.

Meeting chair	Jane Barrie
Minute taker	Debbie Stanley
Date created	21 November 2006
Document ref.	G:\00Fileplan\Governance\Council\council papers by year\Papers 2006\Nov 2006\som-councilmeeting-mi-20nov2006v2.doc