

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	24 April 2006
Subject	Somerset Learning and Skills Council Meeting
Location	Taunton
Time	16:30
LSC office	Somerset
Publication intent	Internal

Present:

Jane Barrie Chairman
Cathy Bakewell
Ian Bennett
John Bloomfield
Rupert Elliott
Jon Gray
Peter Hillman
Chris Hyde
Bryan Leaker
Margaret Luck
Rhiannon Prys-Owen
Judith Richardson

In Attendance:

Tim Render
Peter Renshaw
Rob Sly
Trish Taylor
Sally House
Lisa Ardley

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman, Jane Barrie welcomed Trish Taylor, Area Director for Dorset and Somerset LSC; Rob Sly from Jobcentre Plus; and all members to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Brian Archer and Susie Barker.

2. Minutes from the 30 January 2006 meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the 30 January meeting

Agenda for Change/business process group – Marinos said that a regional group had been set up and was meeting on 3 May in Taunton, to start discussions on regional business processes.

Capital Plan – this item would be covered under agenda item 6.

4. Report from the Executive Director

Recruitment - Marinos updated members on the Theme 7 timeline. He said that the band 4 announcements were due out shortly. A review of the categorisation process has been undertaken and the results and implications would be known in early May.

High-risk offices – additional funding has been made available to Somerset LSC staff which will allow all staff to undertake additional training and learning activities.

Transition – a Director of Transition had been appointed and would be attending the next South West Management Group meeting. Members enquired about what support was being offered to staff and if there was any way that members could help. Marinos explained that there had been several away-days and a council member/staff event would be held in June.

FE White Paper – Marinos reminded members that he had included a presentation which Mark Haysom had recently given on the key points from the paper. He explained that the Paper would form the basis of the discussion with local Chairs on 16/17 May. This item would be included on the 26 June Council meeting agenda.

ACTION: Marinos Paphitis

SW Regional LSC Chair – John Savage had been appointed as the SW Chair for the Regional Board for one year.

5. Update on 2006-07 Annual Plan and budgets

Sally House updated members on the budgets for 2006-07 and outlined the comparison with 2004-05 and 2005-06 allocations. Marinos explained that growth in the 16-18 cohort had continued and that the funding settlement for 2005-06 was better in Somerset than the South West.

She said that there were still a number of unknowns, but the final plan would be available at the June council meeting as a below the line item. It was agreed that a meeting would be held with Adult Learning and Leisure before Marinos leaves Somerset to discuss the concerns on adult provision.

ACTION: Marinos Paphitis

Rupert Elliott sought clarification on any funding source for pre-Entry to Employment (E2).

6. Capital Plan

Sally House outlined the main changes in the updated Capital Plan since the last council meeting. She explained that the Somerset Capital Plan had been reviewed at the last Regional Board meeting and integrated into a SW Capital Plan. She said that capital funding for specialist colleges would be linked to the outcome of a national review of specialist provision.

Jane Barrie explained that the Somerset Capital Panel had met (just before this meeting) and they had approved two proposals - one for Strode College and one for Yeovil College. The latter would now be submitted to the National Capital Committee since the value was over £5million.

7. TEC Legacy 2006-07

Sally House outlined the key priority areas for the remaining £95k of TEC legacy money. The funding allocation for Somerset Learning Partnership had been approved previously. Council members agreed funding for VISTA and Learners with Learning Difficulties. £22k had been held back pending a decision on 'slippage'. A number of members suggested some ideas on future funding projects.

8. Performance and Audit Committee

Peter Hillman explained to members that the committee had reviewed the Risk Assessment Plan and some minor changes had been agreed. It had been agreed that Sally House would be the Somerset Risk Assessment Champion.

Sally referred to the decision to set up a Regional Audit Committee. It was agreed that she should prepare draft terms of reference for a Somerset performance Committee.

ACTION: Sally House

9. Any other business

Tim Render referred to the work on the Local Area Agreement. Sally was asked to do a paper for a future council meeting.

ACTION: Sally House

10. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting, scheduled for 3 July, would be brought forward to 26 June, 4.30pm, at Taunton. This would be followed by dinner.

Meeting chair	Jane Barrie
Minute taker	Lisa Ardley
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