

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

<b>Date</b>	26 June 2006
<b>Subject</b>	Somerset LSC Council Meeting
<b>Location</b>	East Reach House, Taunton
<b>Time</b>	4.30pm
<b>LSC office</b>	Somerset
<b>Publication intent</b>	Internal until approved

## **Present:**

Jane Barrie Chairman  
Marinos Paphitis  
Trish Taylor  
Chris Hyde  
John Bloomfield  
Peter Hillman  
Bryan Leaker  
Rhinannon Prys-Owen  
Margaret Luck  
Peter Renshaw  
Ian Bennett  
Sally House  
Brian Archer  
Judith Richardson

## **1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chairman welcomed all members and observers to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Cathy Bakewell, Rob Sly, Rupert Elliott, Jon Gray, Susie Barker and Tim Render.

## **2. Minutes from the meeting on 24 April 2006**

One amendment was made to the attendance list and then the minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes of 24 April 2006**

*FE White Paper* – this item would be discussed under agenda item 8.

*Annual Plan and budgets* – Marinos has met with Adult Learning and Leisure to discuss the concerns on adult provision.

*Somerset Performance Committee* – national guidance is expected in the next few months to help local Chairs discuss and agree local committees.

*Local Area Agreements* – Sally will provide a paper at a future meeting.

### **4. Report from the Executive Director**

*Theme 7* - Marinos Paphitis updated members on Theme 7 developments. He explained that the band 3 interview process had been completed. In Somerset one member of staff had gained Band 3 Partnership Manager post in Somerset (Liz Dennis) and another staff member had been offered Regional Provider Development Manager (David Roxburgh). Four members of staff had been unsuccessful in promotion. Band 2 interviews were currently being taking place. Trish agreed to update members at the next meeting.

**Action: Trish Taylor**

*National Apprenticeship Awards* – Marinos was very pleased to inform members that Lucy Wilkins, had won the Personal Achiever of the Year Award in the 19-24 age category. The event was well attended by Somerset County Training and Somerset Learning and Skills Council.

*Agenda for Change* – Mark Haysom, Chief Executive will be updating College Principals on progress on agenda for change at a south-west regional roadshow on 13 July in Bridgwater, Somerset.

### **5. Streamlining LSC accountability**

Jane Barrie updated members following the last Chairs event in London on 16/17 May 2006 when this piece of work was discussed in some depth. The discussion focused on LSC requirements to streamline and engage better with employers, and what the implications would be for the role of the non-executives.

It was also agreed that all regional boards should be strengthened, enhanced with key regional partners and should act as the main formal decision making body below the National Council.

There is an ongoing discussion at the National Council and a submission to ministers and we await further developments.

## **6. Update on TEC legacy/LIDF Funding**

Sally House explained that the previously unallocated £22k outlined in the April Council paper had now been allocated, and the concern on the national slippage issue had been resolved. A long list of possible projects for LIDF in 2006/07 was considered and will be discussed in more detail and agreed at a LIDF Panel on 6 July.

There was some discussion about funding for 'learners with learning difficulties and disabilities' in the Mendip area of Somerset. Ian Bennett explained the local situation regarding the specialist provision and specialist resources and local demand was now triggering the project. Judith Richardson informed members that Somerset County Council would be contributing £149k to the 14-19 Action Plan.

Due to the ongoing success of the Champions of Learning Event, it is anticipated that providers and agencies would be approached for sponsorship to ensure its continued success.

## **7. Future of VCS in Somerset**

Rhiannon Prys-Owen introduced three colleagues from the Somerset Youth Partnership (SYP) Board and one colleague from ViSTA. Rhiannon outlined the membership of SYP and the key partners it works with across the county. The SYP works with many volunteers, organisations/groups and young people to offer a wide variety of activities for young people aged 11-25 seven days a week all year. Each member of the SYP Board outlined a project which had been funded through the voluntary sector.

Rhiannon and her team were thanked for their comprehensive and thought provoking presentation.

## **8. FE White Paper**

Marinos Paphitis outlined the key points from the FE White Paper. He outlined the challenges facing the FE sector, and the reform principles. He went on to explain the programme of reform and the economic mission at the heart of the FE sector. He said that the FE sector must become more specialised and referred to developing specialist excellence, national skills academies and taking a broader role in 14-19 reform alongside introducing a new Centre of Excellence status. It is vital that the sector meets the needs of learners and employers and that provision is tailored to the needs of individuals and organisations.

Capital expenditure will be increased and new relationships will be developed with the sector to cut bureaucracy and develop a self improvement system. These new processes and developments will take some time to embed but it is hoped that by 2008 the system will be in place.

#### **9. Area Director Appointment for Dorset and Somerset LSC**

The Chairman asked council members to endorse the appointment of Trish Taylor as the Area Director for Dorset and Somerset, and to confirm her place as a Council member. This was unanimously agreed. Trish Taylor thanked members for their support and then updated members on the latest Theme 7 information.

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

Teaching Awards - Peter Renshaw said that Jim Castle, head of the Somerset College of Arts and Technology based Pupil Referral Centre gained the Plato Award (the top teaching award) as Special Needs Teacher of the Year. Two other teachers, Kevin Freedman, head of Castle School gained a distinction in the RAF Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School; and Helen Renshaw, teacher at Bishops Fox's School gained distinction in the Guardian Newspaper Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School.

The Chairman thanked Marinos Paphitis for all his work over the last eleven months, and presented him with a hand-made jug as a thank you present from the Council Members. She said how well he had done to increase morale and build up the team over a very difficult period.

The Chairman also thanked Lisa for her work in supporting the Council over several years and Lisa wished everyone well for the future.

#### **11. Future meeting dates**

The next council meeting will be held on Monday 25 September 2007, 5pm at ERH.

<b>Meeting chair</b>	Jane Barrie
<b>Minute taker</b>	Lisa Ardley
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