

# Minutes



Leading learning and skills

**Date** 13 September 2007  
**Subject** WoE Council Meeting  
**Location** LSC  
**Time** 09:00 - 10:00  
**LSC office** West of England  
**Publication intent** Public

**Present** Steve Parsons - Acting Chair  
John Temple  
Dr Paul Phillips  
Mike Amos  
Andy McDowall  
Shirley Arayan (proxy vote)

**LSC staff** Moyra Pascoe  
Denis Miles  
Mike Croker  
Mark Harvey  
Matt Hempstock  
Judith Richley

## Welcome

Steve Parsons opened the meeting standing in for John Savage. The Council wishes John Savage a full and speedy recovery and for the Council's outstanding work to date.

## Declarations of interest

Steve Parsons The Chair of Governors of the Cathedral School  
Mike Amos Member of the Board of Governors of St Catherine's School  
Member of the Rural Strategy Group  
Member of the WoE Rural Tourist Group  
Dr Paul Phillips Provider of Bristol Airport training

**Amendment to page 1, point 4 – the figure £3,816,246 should in fact be £8,816,246. This is a typo and it does not affect any of the calculations in the document.**

## South Bristol Skills Academy Capital Bid

The Council has been gathered to decide if it will recommend a capital grant of £8,816,246 to the City of Bristol College for the building of the South Bristol Skills Academy.

### Education Case

Moyra Pascoe gave an overview of the project which in the main consists of moving students from two buildings which are not fit for purpose into new purpose build accommodation. There is a very small amount of growth involved in this project. The curriculum on offer currently at the Bedminster site is too narrow and the proposed Academy will be an opportunity to widen this. Jobcentre Plus, the RDA and the universities have all been involved in discussions regarding the Academy. There is a proposal for a new hospital and leisure centre on the site and they are encouraging the Academy to join them.

Dr Paul Phillips queried the use of the word "academy". Is this being used in the real sense of the word? Moyra Pascoe confirmed it is not a true academy.

Dr Paul Phillips was concerned about the amount of the loan – 30% - for a multi sited college. Denis Miles reassured the Council that long-term loans were normally in the range of 30-40% of income subject to affordability.

Dr Paul Phillips noted that the paper does not state how successful the College has been and he feels that this is a crucial issue. Matt Hempstock gave a brief summary of the Colleges Inspection Report (Grade 2), success rates, apprenticeships and Train to Gain. It was noted that this information would be useful for future capital bids.

Mike Amos asked for reassurance that an impact assessment on all of the surrounding area had been carried out. Mike mentioned that Redland Green had had an adverse impact on neighbouring schools which are subsequently a form down.

John Temple agrees this is a good point however the loss of new capacity for Redland Green and the other schools was due to an overall loss of capacity and not a consequence of Redland Green. It is estimated that 90% of capacity will be transferred to the Academy.

Mike Amos pointed out that this area is not serviced by public transport and 10 year plans show that this is not going to change. John confirmed that the college have been in discussions with the local authority and the RDA with transport as a focus. Moyra Pascoe confirmed this.

### Property Case

Mark Harvey briefed the Council on the property case. There is a slight decrease in space from both sites. Some abnormal costs highlighted but we do not feel that these are unreasonable. The area does not provide enough surface car parking so one deck is also being provided. Valuations for the disposal of the sites will form part of the overall funding package (overage provision). These valuations err

on the conservative side. One area that needs to be managed is the College's supply of resources for the project. Moyra confirmed that it has been agreed with the College Principal as 60% of the Resources Director. There are also set quarterly reviews with the College to make sure the project is on track.

Dr Paul Phillips noted that the documents say that the College will mitigate VAT and was interested to know how they were going to do this? Mike's response was by taking professional advice.

#### Financial Case

Mike gave an overview of the financial case while Denis finished with a note on policy. Denis believes there is a risk with this project and that the National Capital Committee will challenge it. Finance do fully support the bid but a battle may ensue.

The impact of a 1% increase in interest rates will not affect the College as they have assumed a 6.5% rate in their figure work. Sensitivity analysis has been done in this area.

Denis suggested that the year 2010 be taken out from the table for the paper which goes to the National Capital Committee. This will not affect the figures as this is the finishing / reporting back time of the project. All agreed to this.

Mike Amos raised concern regarding the output of the Academy is not what is needed by employers, the skills are not relevant for the workplace. John Temple noted that this related to appropriateness of the curriculum offer across the board and not necessarily to this project.

#### Recommendation

All Council members present voted in favour of taking the South Bristol Skills Academy bid to the National Capital Committee.

#### **Publication no.**

#### **Meeting chair**

Steve Parsons

#### **Minute taker**

Judith Richley

#### **Date created**

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#### **Document ref.**

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