

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date	29 June 2007
Subject	Council Meeting
Location	LSC
Time	15:00 - 17:00
LSC office	West of England
Publication intent	Public

Present	Mohammad Ali Shirley Arayan Jaya Chakrabarti Paul Phillips John Savage (Chair) John Temple Andrea Arlidge (late arrival)
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LSC staff	Moyra Pascoe Rachel Whiting Mark Harvey Mike Croker
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Apologies	Apologies have been received from: Mike Amos Christine Channon Therese Gillespie Andy McDowall Steve Parsons Geoffrey Shopland
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Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 2. Matters arising

2.1 Not applicable as no previous minutes included.

Item 3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 Two declarations of interest were made: Jaya Chakrabarti is a client of City of Bath College and Shirley Arayan is on the Board of Governors of the City of Bath College.

Item 4. Regional Chairman's update

4.1 The Chairman reiterated that the Council is still needed to move essential business forward and in particular to deal with capital proposals and the annual plan for the area. He said that he expected a number of further meetings of the Council would be needed and thanked members for their continued commitment.

Item 5. St Brendan's Capital Bid

5.1 John Temple introduced St Brendan's capital bid as a simple proposition: the college is a strong performer and very important in the area; its buildings seriously out of date and if they are not attended to soon quality and recruitment to the college will suffer. The educational case is therefore straightforward and compelling.

5.2 Moyra Pascoe continued stating that there were 3 significant issues in relation to the proposal (i) planning consent had not yet been received but was expected very shortly (ii) the level of grant is towards the high end of the range for these cases though there is a sixth form college which is proposing a higher rate (iii) the need for the proposal to set out more clearly the measures that will be taken to minimise the risk of a significant overrun on costs.

5.3 In the discussion the following points were made:

- Muhammad Ali commended Rachel Whiting on a well written, concise report;
- planning consent has been held up by the Environment Agency who have yet to respond to additional information the college has provided on the risk of flooding. However, it is expected that the Agency will give a positive response. Council members will be notified by email when planning consent has been given;
- Mike Croker explained that the level of grant is usually higher for 6th form colleges than for general FE colleges. While the grant rate is at the high end of the range, it can be justified on the basis of the implications of a lower grant for the assessment of the financial health of the college;
- Paul Phillips said that these figures assume a 10% increase in income and asked if that was realistic? Mike Croker said that the figures were on the

optimistic side. Also he undertook to check that the loan period is the usual 20 years;

- Mark Harvey mentioned his concern that all projects so far at St Brendan's have been small scale and that the college properly resource the project management of the build. Moyra Pascoe confirmed there would be a discussion with the College Principal to ensure adequate project management.

5.4 Due to unforeseen circumstances Andrea Arlidge arrived after the discussion recorded above. She was briefed separately by John Temple, Moyra Pascoe and Rachel Whiting on the proposal and the discussion that had taken place. She supported the application to progress to National Capital Committee with the provisos mentioned below.

5.5 Decision: The WoE Council endorse the project subject to planning permission and the length of the borrowing being confirmed.

Publication no.

Meeting chair John Savage

Minute taker Judith Richley

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