

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 22nd March 2007
Subject Birmingham and Solihull LSC Council Meeting
Location Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council
Time 08:30
LSC office Birmingham and Solihull
Publication intent Public

Present Mike Beasley
Carol Burke
Gerard Coyne
David Gray
Gill Howland
Les Lawrence
Clive Stone
Brenda Sheils
Joan Blaney

LSC staff Iris Flaum
Annella Mochan
Michael Kilduff
Claire Moore

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Carol Burke
Jabbar Khan
Paul Verity
Margaret Tovey

Item 1. Declarations of Interest

Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 Minutes of the November 2006 meeting were declared correct.

2.2 Clive Stone stated that the minutes of the January 2007 meeting were not an accurate reflection of the discussion on the future of the local Council. The Council voiced concerns regarding the process for dissolving the Council in its current form.

2.3 The Council would like some guidance on the key events between now and September and any key decision it has to make.

Item 3. Matters Arising

3.4 None outstanding.

Item 4. Draft Local Annual Plan

4.5 Gill Howland gave an overview of the Local Plan.

4.6 Brenda Sheils stated that the recent meeting between the LSC and Chairs of Governors and Principles meeting was very useful.

4.7 Gill Howland raised Train to Gain as an issue in Birmingham and Solihull, as a sub region we are substantially behind target for meeting starts. There are concerns from colleges that the brokerage system is not effective. Other reasons why there is poor performance on Train to Gain include ineffective consortium working and poor employer engagement.

4.8 Brenda Sheils stated that there needs to be a systematic way of pulling together concerns and problems and an organised way of resolving them. Gill Howland confirmed that the Regional Train to Gain team are in the process of doing this and that the LSC are meeting with the relevant staff at all levels within organisations to take the processes forward.

4.9 There was concern from the Council that College Principles were fully aware of the Leitch Report and comprehend the full extent to which the changes will affect Further Education provision.

4.10 The Council agreed that the plan was fit for purpose.

Item 5. Directors Report

5.11 Gill Howland stated that with reference to the proposed merger between Sutton Coldfield College and Matthew Boulton College, the LSC had not received a formal written proposal.

5.12 With regard to the Planning and Funding meetings with Colleges, preliminary meetings have taken place with all colleges and the LSC is at a stage where they can agree initial 16 -1 8 numbers with colleges.

5.13 Gill Howland stated that the LSC were working through the policy changes in ESOL and an approach has been developed that will not destabilise colleges.

5.14 It was also stated that there will be a reduction in the 19+ budget.

5.15 The Council agreed that the LSC needs to take a stronger role in educating Governors about changing policy. Gill Howland stated that it has been agreed that the LSC will meet with Governors twice a year.

5.16 Joan Blaney enquired how employers will be kept up to date, it was stated that this will be the role of the local Employment and Skills Boards.

5.17 Joan Blaney stated that the term 'worklessness' is potentially offensive as in Jamaican Patwa it means worthlessness.

5.18 Gerard Coyne would like to look at the outcomes from the South /South West review at the next meeting

ACTION : Any information presented by Paul Verity on the NEET group to be sent to Joan Blaney.

Item 6 – AOB

6.1 Information on the 14 – 19 Agenda to be presented at the next meeting

6.2 Mike Beasley would like a stock take of the LSC's work, year to date.

Date of next meeting

TBA

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Meeting chair	Mike Beasley
Minute taker	Claire Moore
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