

Minutes



Leading learning and skills

Date 12 July 2007
Subject Council Meeting
Location Mount Hotel
Time 15:30
LSC office Black Country
Publication intent Internal

Present Andy Brown, Bruce Gilbert, Ian Millard, Phil Osborne, Ben Reid, Jane Nelson, Jaigirdar Mahmudur, Ranjit Sohal, Viv Wylie, John Hammond, Kathy Lee-Cole, Ian Cruise-Taylor.

LSC staff Henry Seaton, Julie Cosgrove, George Hardwick, Kully Chima.

Apologies Apologies have been received from:
Roger Lawrence, Gary Cowdrill, John Reader

Item 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 The Chair formally opened the meeting; the meeting was quorate with 8 members present.

Item 2. Minutes from the meeting on 21 March and 7 June 2007 and Declarations of Interest.

2.2 The minutes of the meeting on the 21 March 2007 and 7 June 2007 were agreed and signed as a true record.

2.3 Ian Millard, Jane Nelson and Viv Wylie declared an expression of interest in respect of Item 6.

Item 3. Dudley & Stourbridge College update.

3.4 LSC Partnership Director (Dudley) presented the Council with an update on the Dudley and Stourbridge merger. Key Issues highlighted were the two possible types of mergers that could take place;

- Type A – Dissolution of merger; this would dissolve both colleges

- Type B – Dissolve one college and the remaining college would take over.
- Council Members raised concerns around the Wulfrun and Bilston college merger and lessons to be learnt.
- The Area Director emphasised the merger will be a new experience for the two colleges and the focus will be placed on the costs and benefits and on how the merger will take place.
- There was general support for the concept of the merger.

Item 4. Walsall Competition

4.5 LSC Partnership Director (Walsall) updated the Council on the 14-19 Competition. The competition closed in late spring. The LSC decided neither of the bids received were suitable and employability aspects were not addressed.

Item 5. Walsall Capital Application

5.6 The Area Director updated the Council on the outcome of the Walsall Capital Application. The National Audit Committee has approved the application.

5.7 The Chair formally thanked the Area Director for taking the application through to approval.

Item 6. City of Wolverhampton Capital Application

6.8 Ian Millard Principal of Wolverhampton College presented the Council with stage one of the property strategy proposal at the Wellington Road Campus. In assistance to the Principal's presentation the Finance Director Paul Polowyj and Estate Manager Andrew Brodie were present to answer any questions. The key issues highlighted during the presentation included;

- The multisite strategy will support strategies to reduce deprivation, worklessness and NEETs.
- The project is designed to address sustainable development for example solar heating. There will be provision for bicycle parking and bus stops on the campus.
- Mix of provision; there will be an increased focus on higher level skills and movement from level 1 to level 2 and 3 and build on existing sports specialisms and existing civil engineering and groundworks investment.
- The project will enhance provision that is supportive of city and area strategies for Diploma developments and 14-19 proposals, tackling NEETs, reducing worklessness and supporting skills linked to economic regeneration. It will invest in the most deprived areas and fits in with the Wolverhampton and Black Country economic regeneration strategy.
- LSC Partnership Director highlighted the work Wolverhampton College are undertaking on OLASS.
- The Chair highlighted the presentation went well and questions were addressed during the presentation.

6.9 The Council received a copy of the presentation.

6.10 The chair closed the discussion and Members reached a decision to endorse the application for consideration by the national committee on the 2nd August.

Item 7. Black Country LSC looking back and looking forward.

7.11 The Area Director presented the board with the achievements of the LSC from the April 2001. Key items highlighted were;

- Black Country Consortium
- Black Country Challenge
- Impact on Young people's learning
- Impact on employers and employees
- Impact on Worklessness
- Future Direction

7.12 Council received a copy of the presentation

Item 8. AOB

8.13 The Chair announced the re-location of the Area Director to Yorkshire & Humberside in October 2007. The Chair formally thanked the Director for his valuable contributions towards the Black Country.

8.14 The farwell dinner followed this final Local Council meeting, members thanked LSC Officers and Sub Committees for their support.

Meeting chair	Ben Reid
Minute taker	Kully Chima
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