Change Board: Update on the 2007/08 Business Cycle and FE White Paper

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Background and introduction

1 In order to ensure the LSC leads and delivers business change across the organisation in an integrated way, the Change Board was established to ensure a more coherent cross-functional approach to the development and implementation of policy nationally. It also provides greater consistency in the delivery of practice regionally.

2 To achieve this, the Chair of the Board's remit through the LSC’s scheme of delegation, is to take decisions on any areas of policy or activity that impact on the Business Cycle and business processes, either directly or indirectly. Initially, the focus is on co-ordinating and overseeing the business changes necessary for the development and implementation of a demand-led system for 2008/09. The remit will widen later in the year to take on all of the LSC change programme.

3 The Board is supported by a dedicated Implementation Group which works as a virtual team to deliver the changes needed for a demand-led system.

4 The Board also has a direct relationship with the External Advisory Group, using it to consult informally on issues relating to the development of a demand-led system, as well as the wider business changes necessary for the reform of the FE system.

Purpose

5 This paper informs Council of the progress made by the Change Board on the development and implementation of the 2007/08 Business Cycle in support of the wider Demand-led System programme of work.
**Recommendation**

6 Council are asked to note the contents of this paper.

**Key points/issues**

7 The work of the Change Board is focussed on the changes needed for the Business Cycle for 2008/09. The broad areas are set out below.

**Demand led Funding**

8 The implementation issues concerning the 16-18, Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive Models continue to be an important focus. A raft of technical and implementation issues have been discussed by the Board and Group and decisions taken. Some issues are still outstanding and work continues.

**Business Cycle Plan 2007/08 for 08/09**

9 Annex A and B provide the first drafts of the Business Cycle Plan 07/08 for 08/09. The Business Cycle is presented in different ways to accommodate different preferences and audiences. It is intended that the Plan is developed further following iterations and regional briefings, but will remain high-level in its focus.

10 The Plans show each process step of the Business Cycle (marked 1-14). Annex A is mapped against a timeline of July 07 to August 08, showing key outputs from each of those processes (marked in bold). Annex B has each process step mapped against the three core areas; Planning, Commissioning and Performance.

11 The Plans are supported by a more detailed chart, which has been developed with colleagues both nationally and regionally and it is not proposed this will be brought to Council.

**Confirming Strategic Priorities**

12 Following publication of the CSR, work continues on the publication of the Statement of Priorities (SoP). The publication date for the SoP is scheduled for 5 November.

13 The Policy Summaries Document (previously known as Single Statement of Requirements) will be published after the SoP on 6 November.

**Budgets, Allocations and Delivery Priorities for 2008/09**

14 Issues concerning the 16-18, Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive Funding Models continue to be an important focus for the Board and work is progressing to map out the end to end budgets and allocations process for the three funding models, including school sixth forms to ensure the process is clear, robust and appropriately meets the needs of regional and local colleagues.
Staff Briefings and Development

15 The Change Board had recommended that the LSC co-ordinate its approach to delivering all National Office led ‘staff briefings and development’ for regional and area teams.

16 The focus between September and October has been to ensure all Bands 4 and 5 have the opportunity to be briefed on key changes for this year and this has been achieved by holding one day briefings in each region including National Office. The focus of the day included Priorities and Settlement, Funding Policy changes, Skills developments and Minimum Levels of Performance. The intent was that this would lead to greater consistency and to inform the regions for their Regional Provider Briefings.

Delivery of the FE White Paper: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chance

17 A new set of PSAs is due to be published later this month. A key priority for DIUS will be the Skills PSA covering skills for life, level 2, 3, 4, HE participation and apprenticeships.

18 The Skills PSA covers our commitment to: “Improve the skills of the population by 2011, consistent with the aim of having a workforce that has a world-class skills base capable of sustaining economic competitiveness by 2020.” DIUS is implementing a revised Board structure focused around delivering this PSA.

19 Work previously covered at the FE System Programme (FESP) Board will now feed into this structure, through a number of the 6 supporting programme boards. The new structure means that the current FE System Programme Board will no longer operate in its current format. Instead, a new FE Reform and Performance Board will have membership from across the FE Sector including a range of partners with direct responsibility for some of the original FE White Paper commitments. The LSC will be represented by Rob Wye. This means the existing FESP Board will be formally closed.

Other issues

Partnership Bulletin

20 A Partnership Bulletin, aimed at regional and area teams, is being developed for monthly publication. This will act as an aid memoir for colleagues to ensure all policy changes, outcomes and required actions and are communicated in line with Business Cycle timelines.

Clearance

21 The paper has been cleared by David Hughes, Regional Director for London and Chair of the Change Board.

Legal implications

22 There are no legal implications arising from this paper.
Financial implications
23 The Change Board is monitoring budgetary implications arising from its proposals and decisions.

Risk management
24 A risk management process is in place and being monitored by the Change Board. There are no significant risks to report to Council.

Communications
25 There are no communication requirements or issues arising from this paper that are not being taken forward by the Marcomms representatives on the Change Board.

Information Systems Implications
26 The Change Board is working with the Information Management teams to address any IS requirements arising from the decisions made by the Board.

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