NOTE OF KEY POINTS

- Council noted updates on the Minimum Apprenticeship Wage, Train to Gain, and EMA delivery issues
- The next Annual Statement of Priorities was due to be published in late October. Council asked for an additional meeting to be convened specifically to discuss the Statement once a final draft was available
- In an update on Apprenticeships, Council noted a number of developments including preparatory work for “Clearing House” arrangements for construction apprentices, and development of a training prospectus. Two major areas of work were underway: ensuring all starts resulted in a completion; and increasing the involvement of the public sector in offering apprenticeships. Council agreed that it would not issue a formal response to the proposed contents of the draft Apprenticeships Bill. This was because it was not usual for the LSC to respond on legislation on which it had worked so closely, and LSC officials had direct access to those drafting the Bill which had afforded plenty of opportunity for comment and feedback
- Council welcomed John Denham, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to the meeting. The Secretary of State thanked the LSC for the leadership it continued to show throughout the current period of change and uncertainty. He went on to outline a number of areas where the LSC would be asked to continue to lead for the foreseeable future. These included change management, Train to Gain and the demand led systems, and bureaucracy reduction. The Secretary of State went on to compliment the recent round of skills publicity, before stressing the need to extend eligibility for capital spend to private providers, specifically where they would assist in improving provision. Other areas covered during the Secretary of State’s visit were colleges’ developing community leadership role, and the quality of careers advice and guidance for young people
- Council formally established nine regional learning and skills councils and delegated a list of functions to them. Council also formally abolished the nine interim regional boards
- Council agreed to amend the quorum of the Council from a proportion of the current membership (50%) to a set number (5)
- In the regular Capital Proposals item, Council considered four projects, three of which were applications in principle. Council approved applications for Stoke on Trent College, Great Yarmouth College and City of Bristol College. Council asked for more reassurance on the Bradford College application. It agreed to allow the project to proceed as set out in the paper so as not to hold the project up, but asked that final approval be sought from a meeting of the full Council, not delegated to the Capital Committee
- A proposed item on Level 2 and 3 targets was postponed to the next meeting
- Following a presentation on the recent PMDU (Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit) report into the likelihood of the 2010 target for NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) being met through current policy and practice, Council asked that the evening session prior to the
next meeting be dedicated in part to examining plans to address the NEET issue

- Council noted a “for information” paper on **finance and performance issues**
- Council noted the regular **Delivery Report** which was mainly for information
- Council noted progress on implementation of the **Qualifications and Credit Framework**
- Finally, as he was leaving the Council, members thanked **John Taylor** for his contribution to the Council since joining in 2005. In addition to being a Council member, John had also been a member of the Capital Committee and provided the liaison between the Committee and Council.