NOTE OF KEY POINTS

- It was confirmed that Council member and NWDA Chair, Bryan Gray, would remain on Council for another year. Council member Gareth Cadwallader was appointed as Chair of the LSC’s National Audit Committee.
- Council noted an update on the EMA/Learner support position. A number of commercial issues had now been worked through and it was expected that the transfer of the contract to Capita would take place towards the end of January. Council member Claire Ighodaro had been asked to lead a high level formal review.
- Paul Holme has been appointed as Economic Response Director with an immediate remit to work closely with regional colleagues and the National Employer Service to understand the emerging economic issues that regions are facing.
- There had been a number of developments around Machinery of Government changes following the Queen’s speech, primarily involving an accelerated timetable for transfer to the new organisations. A significant amount of work was now being undertaken to ensure the revised timetables were met with minimum disruption to the day to day work of the LSC.
- A paper was presented that proposed some changes to the management and funding of the LSC’s further education capital programme to respond to a huge increase in the number and size of capital applications since August 2008. Council considered a number of medium to long term actions and agreed that it was necessary to take stock of the capital programme.
- The Finance and Performance paper reported a strong financial position with the expectation of a balanced budget by the year end. Performance in a number of key areas was going extremely well.
- Council noted an update on LSC involvement with Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) for young people, and welcomed the development of a coherent strategy to improve the quality of IAG offered to young people.
- In an update on Apprenticeship issues, Council noted the appointed of Simon Waugh as Chief Executive of the National Apprenticeship Service, the development of the Apprenticeship Blueprint Consultation, and that the National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service was on track for its planned roll out date early in the New Year.
- Council noted that a series of Train to Gain flexibilities had been well received by the sector, with a further package available from 2 January.
- There was excellent news to report on the delivery of the September Guarantee 2008, with 94.2% of that year’s year 11 leaver cohort having had an offer.