NOTE OF KEY POINTS

- Council noted a number of “latest news” items including the launch of the Children’s Plan; successful events for NES employers and Third Sector representatives; the launch of ESOL and Informal Adult Learning consultations and planned non-executive recruitment.
- The previous afternoon’s discussion session with Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education had been a useful and open session, in which Council members had the opportunity to question the Minister about the Machinery of Government changes. Work on Post 19 and 14-19 future arrangements continued, and Council was to be kept fully informed of developments as they occurred.
- Nicky Brunker gave a presentation to the Council on the LSC Marketing and Communications programme of work. A challenging work programme of 12 separate campaigns (integrated under the 2In your hands" banner) was in place for 2008, and Council noted that some of the language from the campaigns so far was already passing into common usage in the sector which was a positive step. It was seen as especially important to keep up with the ways in which young people access information as this continues to evolve.
- The regular Finance Report showed a slight reduction in the underspend, and in November the Train to Gain programme had been broadly in line with the trajectory. Council noted that some underspend could be reversed in year – but not all. The projected end year position remained steady.
- Apprenticeship starts performance was back on track with 5,000 more starts than the same time last year. The imminent Apprenticeship Review was expected to announce a National Apprenticeship Service.
- Encouraging progress had been seen on Train to Gain in the space of a year, although there was still more to do. Regional variations in take up were slowly diminishing, with London showing a significant increase. Although members were pleased with progress, there was felt to be a lack of clarity over the offer in certain sectors, including the public sector.
- Members noted the regular Management Group Report.
- Council noted and approved the LSC’s proposed response to the merger of QIA and CEL into a new body.
- Members agreed to review the Capital proposals (9 in all) and respond to David Russell with any comments or queries within 48 hours of the meeting. Authority was delegated to the Chair and Chief Executive to approve the proposals subject to any comments from Council members.
- Council agreed to delegate the exercise of powers in relation to the provision of services to other bodies to the Chief Executive.
- Council approved a slightly revised version of the Statutory Intervention Policy.