NOTE OF KEY POINTS

- Council noted a round up of current activity: receipt of the Grant Letter; publication of the Statement of Priorities; the Train to Gain Plan for Growth; the Adult Learning and Skills Prospectus; new legislation in the Queen’s Speech; receipt of the joint Machinery of Government letter from the two Secretaries of State; and the Self-Regulation Report. Two consultations were also likely to take place in the New Year on ESOL and Informal Adult Learning respectively.

- Consultation on the Machinery of Government changes was now expected in late February. Although the LSC was less well engaged in 14-19 discussions than in Post 19 discussions, this was being addressed and Council would be given the opportunity to review progress at its next meeting, before the formal consultation. The joint letter from the two Secretaries of State had reiterated and set out in more detail a number of points of which the LSC had been aware, such as the funding of institutions according to their location; introduction of a national funding formula; and a move from a 16-18 to a 14-19 funding formula. There was opportunity for a detailed discussion at the Council’s next meeting in January.

- The regular Finance Report detailed a current overall underspend of around £205 million, although actions were in place to address this. The predicted overspend on the admin budget was due to the hold placed on premises moves and therefore savings following the Machinery of Government announcements. In response to members’ requests, it was agreed that financial information would in future be presented alongside performance information.

- Council agreed the formal re-establishment of the Re-organisations Committee. Council members John Taylor, Ian Ferguson, Mary Marsh agreed to form the membership, with Chris Banks as Chair. The Committee would also have three members drawn from the Regional Boards (or Regional Councils when they were established).

- The Council received a short update on “Our future. It’s in our hands”, together with plans for the future of the campaign, but it was agreed that a longer item would be brought to the next meeting in January.

- Council noted the regular Management Group Report.

- Council agreed three in principle capital applications: East Surrey College; West Cheshire College; and Stockport College.
Agreement to the East Surrey application was subject to reconsideration by a quorate meeting of the Capital Committee.

- Council considered a paper that proposed strengthening the membership of the Regional Boards in the light of the likely gap between the abolition of local Councils and establishment of Regional Councils. Most Regional Boards currently have around 5 or 6 members, leading to problems with maintaining quoracy. Council agreed the proposal to ask each current Regional Board member to nominate one or two additional members from their local Council. It was clear that this arrangement was temporary.

- Council noted an update paper from the Change Board.