



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards - Corporate Issue

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Cabinet

20 February 2006

**Leicester City Council Representation on the
Learning and Skills Council (County Employer Engagement Group)**

Report of the Corporate Director of Resources, Access and Diversity

1. Purpose of Report

To determine the future City Council representation (one place) on the Learning and Skills Council (County Employer Engagement Group).

2. Report

A County Employer Engagement Group in Leicestershire has been established under the auspices of the Employment Skills and Productivity Partnership for the East Midlands. Its principal purpose is to ensure that the actions of public agencies seeking to further the interests of employers are co-ordinated on a county-wide basis.

The Chair of the Group has written to invite the Council to nominate a representative to attend the Group in order that the Council's own activities can be taken into account. A copy of the terms of reference is attached at Appendix A, along with the current membership.

The matter was discussed at the Whips Meeting on 9 January 2006, when two nominations were put forward. Such appointments can be determined by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Group Whips. However, where there is not unanimity, the matter is brought before the Cabinet for determination. Cabinet is, therefore, asked to determine which of the two nominations submitted should be appointed to serve on the Learning and Skills Council County Employer Engagement Group.

The two nominations submitted are:-

Councillor Farmer
Councillor Waddington

3. Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to determine which of the two nominated Members should be appointed to the County Employer Engagement Group of the Learning and Skills Council.

4. Financial, Legal and Other Implications

(i) Financial Implications

None

(ii) Legal Implications

The making and revocation of an appointment to the Learning and Skills Council County Employer Engagement Group is a Cabinet matter which Cabinet has delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Group Whips. Given that there is not unanimity it is appropriate for this matter to be brought before Cabinet for determination. One place is available on the Group. (Peter Nicholls)

(iii) Other Implications

None

5. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Report on Outside Bodies to Whips' Meeting – 11 January 2006

6. Consultations

None

7. Report Author

Charles Poole
Service Director (Democratic Services)
extn. 7015

DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)

Terms of Reference for Leicestershire County Employer Engagement Group

Purpose

Determine the key skills challenges for Leicester Shire and develop a 'Common Skills Strategy' with short, medium and long-term objectives.

Ensure that the aims and priorities of the East Midlands Employment Skills and Productivity Partnership (ESP) are delivered at a local level.

Aims

- Contribute to economic development of Leicestershire within the framework of the Regional Economic Strategy.
- Improve skills and qualifications, at all levels, amongst the Leicester Shire workforce.
- Address current and future skills shortages.
- Link national, regional and local priorities on skills.
- Identify an agreed focus for collaborative working between agencies.
- More people to get into better jobs in better businesses.
- Make sure our trainers, schools, colleges and universities provide the skills our businesses need.
- Ensure that employer demands are met.

These aims will encompass six main themes:-

1. Regional Economic Strategy (RES)
2. Employment (Jobcentre Plus)
3. Employer Engagement
4. Skills
5. Social inclusion
6. Entrepreneurship/Enterprise

Key roles

The group will:-

- Provide a planning and co-ordination function, by ensuring that the delivery mechanisms and resources are in place to deliver the priority actions.
- Be accountable to local partners as well as our customers.
- Evaluate the impact of our work to see if we are making a difference.
- Determine the sub-regional priorities around the skills agenda and identify key activities to meet the short, medium and longer term objectives.
- Work with partnerships to co-ordinate delivery arrangements.
- Align partner funding and influence the allocation of discretionary funding to support the skills agenda and, where possible, influence mainstream funding priorities.
- Stimulate demand for business services.

The work of the Group will include:

- Seeking the elimination of confusion regarding initiatives available to local employers; moving towards a single offer of employers specifically to ensure that the value of ESP partner organisations working together at a local level exceeds that of them working independently.
- Helping to make no wrong door a reality; ensuring that all employer facing staff have adequate knowledge and contact in all other partner organisations, in order that a single contact by an employer will open the door to the full range of available support.
- Establishing a work programme and delivery framework with key partners to tackle the key skills challenges over a defined time period.
- Identifying areas where a dedicated project co-ordinator or pump-priming funding is needed to drive complex collaborative projects. The CEEG should oversee the work of the project co-ordinators and the allocation of discretionary funding associated with collaborative projects.

Membership

David Nelson	Leicestershire LSC (Chair)
Garry Bryant	GOEM
Jim Connelly	Jobcentre Plus
John Dixon	Leicestershire LSC
Alan Helliwell	Leicester Partnership
Mike Jewitt	Business Link
Libby Kingsley	Welland Partnership
Cynthia Onions	EMDA
Kishor Tailor	Leicester Shire Economic Partnership