

# minutes



Meeting SKILLS: NOW AND THE FUTURE SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 16 June 2008 (commencing at 2.00 pm)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

John Knight (Chair)  
Joe Lonergan (Vice-Chair)

	Peter Barnes	A	Lynn Sykes
	Jen Cole	A	Kevan Wakefield
A	Jim Creamer		Brian Wombwell
	Philip Owen		

## MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 May 2008, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Creamer, Sykes and Wakefield.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

## MAKING THE CONNECTION

Matt Lockley, Greater Nottingham Partnership gave a presentation on Making the Connection, an inter-agency project aimed at getting hard-to-place people into work. In reply to members' questions, he explained that the project covered a wide age range, that childcare was more available than people recognised, that there was a trial project with GPs and health centres, and that he saw part-time work as a stepping stone rather than an end point.

## TAILORING COURSES TO EMPLOYERS' NEEDS

Tim Grant, Vice Principal, West Nottinghamshire College spoke about the college's work with employers. He pointed out that over half the college's turnover was work in businesses, that it was the largest IT and IT training provider in the East Midlands, and

that it had national training contracts with some employers. Employers expressed their needs through an advisory group.

Councillor Knight hoped that the college's good practice could be shared. In reply to Councillor Owen, Mr Grant explained that the college worked with employers in various ways, depending on their needs. He indicated that a large number of 14-16 year olds attended the college to study practical subjects not offered at school. A new campus incorporating a business park was due to open in 2010. He said that the college's retention rate, at 94%, was good. He explained that Train to Gain was intended to help people in employment gain basic literacy and numeracy skills, and Level 2 qualifications.

### **SKILLS BENEFITS FROM UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM'S LINKS WITH CHINA**

Vincenzo Raimo, Director of the International Office, University of Nottingham gave a presentation on the university's campus at Ningbo in China, and its links with China arising from Chinese students studying in Nottingham, British students studying in China, and Chinese staff working at the university. The main benefits were economic, educational, social and cultural.

### **MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT - RAISING EXPECTATIONS: ENABLING THE SYSTEM TO DELIVER**

John Slater, Service Director, Learning and Achievement, Children and Young People Department, introduced a report on the government's proposals for training, including winding up the Learning and Skills Council, and transfer of funding to County Councils for 16 to 19 year olds. Plans were in hand to collaborate with the City Council, and to prepare the County Council for the transfer of responsibilities. He said the authority hoped to work with local FE colleges, and use their respective capital programmes in strategic ways.

In reply to members' questions, he explained that adult training would be the responsibility of the Communities Department. Partnerships with industry would begin from September. Councillor Owen welcomed the developments, but was concerned by the arrangements for delivery, and the County Council's commissioning role. Mr Slater replied that the purpose of the county's commissioning role was to reflect the needs of local employers and students, rather than schools and colleges provide courses they were familiar with.

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The next meeting of the Select Committee would be on 21 July, when the draft final report would be considered.

The meeting closed at 3.25 pm.

### **CHAIR**