

**EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD**

**Meeting held in the LSC offices, Wynyard Park House, Wynyard Avenue,  
Billingham, TS22 5TB (formerly the Samsung Training Offices)  
at 2.00pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

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ATTENDEES

Steve Davidson	Jobcentre Plus	Chair
Tom Crompton	Learning & Skills Council	
Jan Douglas	Middlesbrough BC	
Allan Cassidy (attending for Maurice Bates)	Redcar & Cleveland BC	
Gwenda Lyn Jones	Darlington BC	
Antony Steinberg	Hartlepool BC	
Mark Rowell	Stockton on Tees BC	
Sandra Cartlidge	Middlesbrough BC	
Cynthia Welbourn	North Yorkshire CC	
Karen Milburn	Skills Share North East (VCS)	
Shaun Place (attending for David Wilshaw)	Colleges of Further Education	
Bob Ward	Durham CC	
Nick James	Learning and Skills Council	
Chris Livingstone	Jobcentre Plus	
Laura Woods (attending for Professor Cliff Allan)	University of Teesside	
Mike Lakinski	Business Link North East	
Keith Hunter	TTE	
Terry Owens	Inbiz	
Professor Ray Hudson	University of Durham	
Malcolm Potter	Tees Valley Engineering Partnership	
Robin Beveridge	One NorthEast	
Neil Kenley	Tees Valley Regeneration	
Richard Brine	Corus	
Colin Stratton	Federation of Small Businesses	
Stewart Atkinson	Tees Valley Training Providers Forum	
John Lowther	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	

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APOLOGIES

Murray Rose	Darlington BC
Mike Lakinski	Business Link North East
David Wilshaw	Colleges of Further Education
Ann Baxter	Stockton BC
Jeff Fowler	TUC
Maurice Bates	Redcar and Cleveland BC
Professor Cliff Allan	University of Teesside
Chris Roberts	Learning & Skills Council
Joanne Wilson	TRMS Online
Adrienne Simcock	Hartlepool BC
Jonathon Spruce	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit

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Action

**1 CHAIR'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1.1 SD thanked NJ for hospitality and welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- 1.2 SD stated that the first meeting was setting the background and as a consequence there had been a lot of information to disseminate. He then stated that there were 3 main items on today's agenda.

**2 APOLOGIES**

- 2.1 As noted previously.

**3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- 3.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record.
- 3.2 With regard to minute 4, CL confirmed that a presentation on the Regional Employability Framework was made in September. She stated the intention to arrange future ones to ensure that all representatives had an opportunity to attend.
- 3.3 With regard to minute 11, SD confirmed that the parties had met and the report forms the main item on the agenda.

**4 EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD PROPOSALS PAPER**

SD gave Chris Roberts' apologies and stated that NJ was to present the Shared Intelligence Report – Employment and Skills Board in the North East.

NJ stated that the Leitch report is good but that it is not prescriptive about the way that Boards should be formed. The decision to form the Board was taken as part of Tees Valley Unlimited and it now needs to decide what is required. There are two major issues from the Shared Intelligence report

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Action

- No prescribed structure
- Employer engagement

NJ continued that the report is out for consultation and opened the discussion to enable a collective response be made. SD stated that it is an opportunity to influence how the Board develops and requested that all comments be forwarded to JL by 16<sup>th</sup> November 07 to enable a report to be prepared for presentation to the CEs on 29 November 07.

**ALL**

JL stated the TVU need to have influence in the delivery and to make sure that the linkages are properly put together.

He continued that he is impressed with the sector skills agencies and the issue is how to get them involved

He referred to the 14/19 year old agenda group, which the LAs are responsible for delivering and asked how it will be delivered. He stated that there are two papers - an Analysis and a report from the Regional Skills Partnership that is for consultation, which he intends taking to the TVU Executive Group.

SD enquired whether the representatives from the five LAs had any thoughts.

GLJ advised that DBC have had one meeting and that the initial reaction is that it is highly complex and that there will be an opportunity for the Board to help.

AC stated that it is very early days and that the guidance he has seen indicates that further guidance will be issued in the new year. The edict is to rationalise and this will involve the development of a Children's trust for delivery of integrated services. He stated that they would need some guidance.

SA stated that some guidance was published today.

All discussed the issue of employer engagement in detail. MP stated that there is interest in working within the engineering sector but people will also cross boundaries and therefore a co-ordinating body is required. KH stated that a sectorial approach is required as the needs of sectors are entirely different – one size does not fit all. SD and KH stated that NEPIC would give clear guidance.

## **5 THE EMPLOYER'S VIEW OF ENGAGEMENT IN SKILLS PLANING AND DELIVERY**

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Action

CL introduced the item and stated that there is a plethora of examples where this has not worked. She stated that employers want to engage, listen and respond.

CL requested that the Group split into three syndicates and circulated papers indicating the delegates in each syndicate and three questions for discussion and presentation to the rest of the group.

A member of each syndicate fed back their discussion and all discussed. CL stated that she is to arrange a meeting with NJ and representatives from each syndicate to discuss all of the issues raised and to prepare a report for circulation detailing a short-term, medium-term and long-term strategy. She stated that a special Board meeting would be arranged to discuss the proposals.

**CL**

SD thanked everyone for their input.

## **6 CURRENT ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS WORKLESSNESS/EMPLOYABILITY IN THE TEES VALLEY**

CL gave a presentation on the current activities in Tees Valley to address worklessness.

All discussed and agreed that there needs to be a long-term sustainable strategy to overarch and influence the strategic partnerships strategy. This framework is split into

- 19 year olds and below
- Post 19 years old through employment plans etc.

## **7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 7.1 CL stated that there is a presentation on the Shared Intelligence report on 12<sup>th</sup> November 07 and that invitations have been sent. NJ stated that it is an 'open house'.

## **8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 08 at 2.00 p.m. in the LSC Offices, Wynyard Park House, Wynyard Avenue, Billingham.