

Notes of Meeting

Chief Executives Management Board

Monday 19th July 2010

Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham

1pm – 3.00pm

Attendance:

Debbie Bridge, Elaine McClean, Emma Alexander, Hugh Broadbent, Gail Richards Ian Kendall, John Archer, John Saxby, Jon Bloor, Michael Jameson, Tim Mitchell, Tim Forber, Veronica Jackson

Apologies:

Alun Francis, Carolyn Wilkins, Charlie Parker, Clare Fish, John Eley, Marie Gillott, Paul Argyle

1 Minutes from last meeting and matters arising

Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record.

One matter arising related to the election and Emma Alexander confirmed that Oldham Council, now has a joint administration between the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives. Cllr Howard Sykes continues as Leader of the Council.

2 Apprenticeships Update - Jon Bloor

Jon Bloor, Head of Service - Towards a University Town discussed with the meeting the report provided to the Executive Management Board regarding apprenticeships. JB provided the meeting with an overview of the current situation on apprenticeships; the coalition government has maintained their aspirations to increase the proportion of young people into apprenticeships. The recession has had a profound impact on the more traditional apprenticeship routes for 16-18 year olds as evidenced by the reductions in apprenticeships schemes locally, sub regionally, regionally and nationally. The government had set a target that 20% of young people, would undertake an apprenticeship that equates to approximately 640 young people. In Oldham 525 residents aged between 16-18 started an apprentice programme with a total of 922 participating across the two year groups. This suggests at least a shortfall of around 320 16-18 year olds not accessing apprenticeships. Jon Bloor outlined the possibility of the Future Jobs Fund scheme (FJF) which has had a major impact within the public sector, providing the potential platform for how future apprenticeship programmes can work. Gail Richards said this was a timely update and welcomed the option of looking at apprenticeships in a different way due to the current climate. Tim Mitchell advised that we could rely on the Oldham economy to support positions, analysis is required on where the apprenticeships are being undertaken in neighbouring towns.

Action: The Board has requested a further piece of work to be carried out and brought to the next meeting to look at a number of potential apprenticeship models. A further report will follow that outlines a number of options as to how to encourage increased provision across the public and private sector.

3 Regional Science Centre - Jon Bloor

Jon Bloor gave a brief overview on the Regional Science Centre, which will provide a science based education facility for over 2000 students and pupils. Jon Bloor confirmed that there is one final barrier to overcome which is to obtain Secretary of State consent. This was submitted at the end of May and a formal decision is yet to be made, The Council Leader, on behalf of the Oldham Partnership, has contacted the SoS to attempt to speed up the decision. Once a decision has been made the refit of the building can commence.

4 Social Marketing - Carolyn Wilkins/Kenny Beer

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5 FCHO stock transfer update - Hugh Broadbent

Hugh Broadbent informed the meeting on the current situation of the stock transfer. Included with the Executive Management Board reports is a Team Brief which was presented by Hugh Broadbent to all FCHO staff. There are some finance issues still to be addressed including writing off the existing debt and transfers of assets. Some services which are provided by the Council maybe market tested to ensure value for money. Gail Richards added the looking at market testing for support services was something at Oldham would be looking at during this current climate, sharing good practices and knowledge. Emma Alexander also added that additional work around mapping support services under SLA was required and the Council could support the process with procurement advice.

Action: Emma Alexander to look at mapping and framework.

6 ABG Review

The Executive Management Board was asked to note the progress of planning to implement the £2.8 million reduction to the ABG programme. A Partnership Challenge Panel has been established to agree the format of the review and key areas where savings can be achieved. £1.2 million has been identified, but there is more work to be done before the balance is identified, including the production of a risk register to ensure the impact of ceasing individual programmes is understood and that mitigating actions can be implemented where possible.

7 14-19 Update

Chris Hall and Michael Jameson provided the meeting with an update on the 14-19 agenda. It was noted that from April 2011 a new commissioning approach will be undertaken and that a local commissioning strategy has to be submitted by September / October. Originally, when the 14-19 initiative was transferred to the Council a budget of £14 million was set to continue for 3 years, however due to efficiency savings this was likely to need to be reduced by 25%.

It was agreed that the draft of the commissioning document would be circulated to all members for comments. Michael Jameson asked if this could also be an agenda item for the next EMB meeting.

8 Date of next meeting:

Monday 16th August 2010, 1pm-3pm. Crompton Suite