

Cross Party Group on Skills

Minutes (Draft) of the meeting held at 12.45 p.m. Thursday, 14 May, 2015

Committee Room 2

The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh

Apologies	Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anne Meikle – WES• David Lonsdale – Scottish Retail Consortium• John McKinney - FSS• Aileen Ponton – SCQF Partnership• Laura Peacock, liP• Helen Brown, Barnardos• Gavin Donoghue, Scottish Renewables• Sarah Jane Lasing, Scottish Highland Estates• Tommy Laughlin, Scotland IS• Peter Russian, liP, Scotland• Colin Dalrymple, STF• Stephen Williamson, Scottish Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gavin Brown MSP (Co-Convener)• Anthony O'Reilly(Secretary)• Fiona Stewart – SDS• Irene Bell – EDAS• Ian McCulloch, Independent Training Consultants Ltd• Gordon MacDonald, MSP• Anne Galbraith, SECTT• Ian Stirrat, SELECT• Sandy Burgess – The Institute of the Motor Industry• George Brown, SQA• James Morgan, SQA• Simon Williams, NHS Education for Scotland• Kate Still, Rathbone Training• Jay Smith, Employment Enterprise• Elaine Murray, MSP• Margaret McCulloch, MSP (Co-Convener)• Louise Ker – Universities Scotland• Ian Stirrat – Select• John McKinney – NSCC• Joe Wilson, CDN• Rebecca Chad, Education Scotland• Victoria Wilson, Learndirect• Stephen Sheridan, CITB• Violeta Ilendo, Fife College• Paul Mitchell, EDAS

1. Agenda Item 1

Welcome

1.1 Gavin Brown MSP as Co-Convenor opened the Annual General Meeting and welcomed members. Mr Brown thanked Jay Smith of Employment Enterprise who were the meeting sponsors.

2. Agenda Item 2

Apologies & matters arising

2.1 Mr Brown noted a number of apologies from Members. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

3. Agenda Item 3

AGM

3.1 Mr. Brown asked the group if there were any nominations for the post of Co- Convenor. Gordon MacDonald, MSP nominated Gavin Brown, MSP and Margaret McCulloch, MSP was nominated by Elaine Murray MSP. The nominations were seconded and carried unanimously.

3.3 As there was no further business for the AGM, Mr Brown formally closed the AGM meeting and returned to the meeting agenda, welcoming Tony Stapleton of the South Lanarkshire Energy Academy to address members.

4. Presentations

Tracy Blake and Gillian Mitchell then delivered a presentation on South Lanarkshire Energy Academy and the Rural Energy Academy respectively.

Tracy opened the presentation by giving an overview and aims and objectives saying that the academy was a key feature of South Lanarkshire's local economic strategy. Key aims were to harness training and employment opportunities for local unemployed people. Some of the main points of the presentation were:

- Clients can develop lifelong transferrable skills
- Employers become a network committed to social inclusion and community regeneration
- Clients were spread over a large geographic area
- Clients also faced multiple barriers including access to transport, limited access to training facilities and issues ranging from depression, stress and low confidence to literacy and numeracy problems and low skills levels

Members observed that there were difficulties engaging females to the Academy and it was pointed out that this was similar to the construction industry. The Academy was working closely with Skills Development Scotland to address these problems and encourage people into sustainable rather than subsidised jobs.

Jay Smith observed that the attitude to windfarms was changing; they were producing the majority of Scotlands renewable energy and so the legacy would be more sustainable jobs in the long term. Members agreed but it was noted that there needed to be more funding for rural communities to help address the problems mentioned in the presentation.

Paul Mitchell from CITB also pointed out that if there were industry specific skills CITB could help with basic construction skills training for applicants

5. Agenda Item 5

Dates of future meetings and presenters

5.1 Dates of future meetings were confirmed and presenters were suggested as follows:

17 September 2015 CR6	Education Scotland (Rebecca Chad) Investors in People (Laura Peacock)	Developing Scotland's Young Workforce Building Scotland's Talent pipeline
19 November 2015 CR2	EDAS (Irene Bell)	Routemap for Common Ambition
4 February 2016 CR2	Colleges Scotland & CDN	Joint presentation with employers on Energy Skills Partnership – to be confirmed

5.2 While the above dates and locations are confirmed, presenters have yet to be confirmed.

5.3 Mr Brown concluded by thanking Anthony O'Reilly who was stepping down as secretary of the group and he thanked him for the work and organisation he had done on the group's behalf. A replacement will be in place in time for the next meeting of the group

6. Close of meeting

6.1 With no further business to conduct Mr Brown thanked everyone for their ongoing support, reminding members that the CPG was their group and if they had any suggestions for the format or agenda items for future meetings they should let them be known.