

# **Cross Party Group on Skills**

Minutes of the meeting held at 12.30 p.m. Thursday 19 November 2015

Committee Room 2

The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh

## **Present**

- Gavin Brown MSP (Co-Convener)
- Margaret McCulloch MSP (Co-Convener)
- Gordon MacDonald MSP
- Joanne Buchan (Secretary)
- Jim Brown, Energy Skills Partnership
- Christine Powell, Essential Skills Plus Ltd
- Jay Smith, Employment Enterprise
- Irene Bell, EDAS
- Emma McGregor, Raploch URC
- Robert Girvan, CITB
- Simon Williams, NHS Education for Scotland
- Anne Galbraith, SECTT
- Sophie Dawes, Investors In People
- Michael de la Haye, PLMR Scotland
- Fiona Stewart, Skills Development Scotland
- Jim Murphy, LearnDirect
- Stephen Young, GMG Construction

## **Apologies**

- Baljinder Birdi, Pearson Work Based Learning for Colleges
- Kenny Stewart, The Open University of Scotland
- George Brown, SQA
- Eoin Welsh, West College Scotland
- Joe Wilson, College Development Network
- Ian McCulloch, ICT Academy
- Robert Bruce, SEMTA
- Polly Purvis, ScotlandIS
- Devin Scobie, Caledonia Public Affairs Ltd
- Anne Meikle, Women's Enterprise Scotland
- Kelvin Thomson, Pinnacle Food and Drink
- Andrew Witty, College Scotland

## **1. Welcome**

Margaret McCulloch MSP as Co-Convenor opened the meeting and welcomed members.

## **2. Apologies & matters arising**

Ms McCulloch noted that there were a number of apologies from Members. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

## **3. Presentations**

Jim Brown, Director, Energy Skills Partnership presented on 'Maximising the Impact of Strategic Partnerships'.

Jim provided an overview of Energy Skills Partnership and the activity it undertakes, working with all colleges as a consortium to provide the capacity and skills required by the engineering, construction and energy sectors whilst working with key government and industry partners to identify and develop emerging technologies.

The main message was that the Energy Skills Partnership model is demand-led and that working in partnership with industry to undertake activity was key to its success. Jim explained that the Energy Skills Partnership model is now informing similar models for other sectors.

Irene Bell from EDAS asked about key measures of success and lessons learned. Jim Brown commented that success was down to facilitating and developing relationships as well as listening to industry and colleges then delivering actions.

A question was asked about the number of people progressing into jobs. Jim Brown highlighted an example that SSE now no longer have a problem recruiting in rural areas.

A question was asked on what is being done to address barriers for women and BME groups into the energy sector. Jim Brown noted that it was about making people aware of opportunities available, particularly in schools and educating parents.

## **4. Dates of future meetings and presenters**

Dates of future meetings were confirmed as follows:

4 Feb 2016	EDAS	Routemap for Common Ambition
CR2	(Irene Bell)	

## **6. Any other business**

It was requested that all presentations are circulated.

With no further business to conduct Mr Gavin Brown MSP as Co-Convenor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.