

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE GENERAL
TEACHING COUNCIL FOR WALES**

DATE: 22ND OCTOBER 2008

LOCATION: THE COED Y MWSTWR HOTEL, COYCHURCH NEAR BRIDGEND

Present:

Members:

Mal Davies (Chairperson)	Angela Jardine
Jacquie Turnbull (Deputy Chair)	Hélène Mansfield
Phil Bassett	Jane Morris
Tim Cox	Suzanne Nantcurvis
Beth Davies	Sue O'Halloran
Elwyn Davies	Hugh Patrick
Susan Davies	Jane Setchfield
Roberto De Benedictis	Cleo Sollars
Mike Edwards	Anna Spokes
Ian Guy	Jacky Tonge

Apologies:

Frank Bonello	Sheila Drayton
Gareth Jones	Anne Robertson
Sarah Stockford	

Officers:

Gary Brace	Chief Executive
Hayden Llewellyn	Deputy Chief Executive (Qualifications, Registration and Professional Standards)
Julia Evans	Deputy Chief Executive (Finance, Personnel and Corporate Services)
Karen Evans	Policy and Planning Manager
Jo Read	Council Secretary
Amy Pike	Executive Officer - Administration
Richard Skyrme	Professional Development Officer

1. Welcome and Preliminaries

- 1.1 The Chairperson welcomed members to the thirty-third meeting of the Council and confirmed the meeting would be conducted bilingually. Apologies had been received from Frank Bonello, Sheila Drayton, Gareth Jones, Anne Robertson and Sarah Stockford.
- 1.2 The Chairperson welcomed the new members, who had begun their terms of office on Council on 1st September 2008, to their first meeting. He went on to welcome Sarah Bowie (Vice-Chair, General Teaching Council for England) and Glenise Borthwick (Head of Communications, General Teaching Council for Scotland) who were attending the meeting as observers.

- 1.3 The Chairperson then drew members' attention to the papers which had been circulated prior to and tabled at the meeting. These were agenda item 21 (GTCW 60 08) *Financial impact of professional standards work* and agenda item 17 (GTCW 58 08) *EUNEC conference report*.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Phil Bassett declared an interest in agenda item 11 "*Chartered Teacher pilot – progress report*".

3. Chairperson's correspondence

- 3.1 The Chairperson drew members' attention to the annex in agenda item 9 "*Funding of Induction & EPD progress report*" (GTCW 50/08) which was a response from the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills dated 16th August 2008. The letter had been sent in response to 3 letters the Chairperson had sent regarding the Induction & EPD and Professional Development Funding programmes; the extension of the Chartered Teacher pilot programme and the outstanding advice given in Council's advice on strands 3 and 4 of its Professional Development Framework.
- 3.2 The Chairperson went on to report on the annual meeting which he, the Deputy Chairperson and the Chief Executive had attended with the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills on 16th September 2008. At the meeting the Minister had echoed her earlier written correspondence which outlined the Assembly Government's current financial constraints. The Chairperson reported that a subsequent meeting with Professor David Hawker, Director of Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills on 17th October 2008 had been a little more positive but generally slow progress was being made in discussions with Assembly officials. Members were informed that more detailed reports would be given during the meeting on specific issues.

4. Draft minutes of the Council meeting held 11th July 2008

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters arising:

- 4.2 Minute 8: Audit & Scrutiny Committee meeting 9th June 2008: The Chairperson informed members that Paul Griffiths had accepted an invitation from the Audit & Scrutiny Committee to join as a co-opted non-Council member of the committee. He would attend his first meeting on 3rd December 2008.
- 4.3 Minute 15: Draft Council position on Future Inspection Arrangements: The Chairperson reported that Dr Bill Maxwell, HMI Chief Inspector, had seemed to welcome Council's advice document on future inspection arrangements during a meeting which he and the Chief Executive had requested to convey the Council's position. He added that Dr Maxwell had made positive references to Council's position during an ADEW Workshop Day on 26th September 2008 which the Chairperson had also attended.
- 4.4 Minute 17: Revised Disability Equality Scheme: Members were reminded that a presentation would be given by Miranda Evans from Disability Wales in the afternoon session of Council.

4.5 Minute 19.2: Reports from Council representatives on external groups:
Correspondence had been received from Welsh Assembly Government officials which confirmed that the Council would be offered a place on the Foundation Phase Implementation Task & Finish Group. Members would be invited to offer expressions of interest once the invitation was received.

4.6 There were no other matters arising.

5. To receive notification of any issues which members wish to raise in respect of the 'Information' Agenda items (15 to 17)

5.1 One member sought clarification on the current status of Council's *Annual Report 2007-08* and *Annual Accounts 2007-08*. The Chief Executive reported that both documents had been laid before the National Assembly for Wales and were now in the public domain.

5.2 There were no other points raised.

6. Draft minutes of the Executive Committee meeting 15th September 2008.

6.1 The Chief Executive introduced these minutes and advised members that almost all issues would be covered on the meeting agenda.

Matters arising:

6.2 Minute 6: International Teaching Councils Conference 2009: Member's attention was drawn to the detailed minute of the progress made with arrangements for the International Teaching Councils Conference which would take place on 24-26 June 2009. One member reported difficulty accessing the website on one occasion. Officers confirmed the micro-site was functioning and international delegates had been using the on-line proformas to register their attendance.

6.3 Minute 7: Welsh Language Scheme – 6 monthly monitoring report: The Chief Executive reminded members that the Executive Committee had oversight of the Council's scheme. He then drew attention to the office-based exercise which had been undertaken with callers who wished to conduct their business in Welsh when making telephone contact with the Council. The exercise had concluded that the vast majority of Welsh speaking callers were content with the level of service provided.

6.4 There were no other matters arising.

6.5 The unconfirmed minutes were noted.

7. Draft minutes of the Policy Committee meeting 15th September 2008

7.1 In presenting these minutes, the Chief Executive advised members that most issues would be covered on the meeting agenda.

Matters arising:

7.2 Minute 3: Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy for Wales – consultation: Members were informed that Council's response had been completed and was provided at agenda 16 of the *For information* papers.

7.3 Minute 7: Teacher Recruitment and Retention data in Wales: Attention was drawn to this information paper which had been discussed by the Policy Committee.

- 7.4 Minute 8: Organisation of Supply Teacher Provision in Wales: The Chief Executive highlighted this information paper which provided an analysis of data available to the Council on the organisation of supply teacher provision. The findings were of interest as they provided a different picture to previous anecdotal evidence. The information paper was available to members and could be obtained from officers upon request.
- 7.5 One member sought clarification on whether the Council had been invited to respond to the *Learning and Skills Measure* as he was concerned about the implications on the teaching profession in Wales. The Chief Executive advised that an invitation had not been received but assured the member that officers would be proactive. Karen Evans (*Policy and Planning Manager*) had attended a *Transforming Education Seminar* on 8th October 2008. Finally, another member reported that the *Learning and Enterprise Committee* had been collecting evidence and that Council officers might be able to establish communication.
- 7.6 There were no other matters arising.
- 7.7 The unconfirmed minutes were noted.

8. Draft minutes of the Registration Committee meeting 17th September 2008

- 8.1 Hugh Patrick briefly presented these minutes to Council, explaining that most items would be covered by the agenda. He highlighted a number of points.

Matters arising:

- 8.2 Minute 3.4: Update on Registration, QTS and Induction: Members' attention was drawn to a discussion which had taken place in the Registration Committee regarding the number of qualified teachers who were taking roles as Teaching Assistants as they were unable to obtain a qualified position.
- 8.3 Minute 3.8: The Administration and Award of QTS: Clarification had been given to Registration Committee members that QTS certificates were only issued to qualified teachers on 30th July 2008 due to the date in Assembly regulations (1st August).
- 8.4 Minute 5: Professional Standards Committees membership and decision making: The Chief Executive went on to draw attention to the discussions which had taken place following the in-principle decisions taken by Council at its meeting on 11th July 2008 about the membership of panels and consistency of decision making. Further work would be undertaken by officers and further discussions would take place at the next Registration Committee meeting on 5th December 2008.
- 8.5 One member questioned draft minute 5.5. He did not recall that the majority of the Committee took the view that "the involvement of the Committee Chair" in signing off cases which were considered for 'no further action', was not needed. The Chair of the Registration Committee confirmed that no decision had been made and Hayden Llewellyn (Deputy Chief Executive, Qualifications, Registration & Professional Standards) assured members that no procedural changes had been made. The Council Chairperson invited the Chair of the Registration Committee to deal with the challenge to the minute at the next committee meeting on 5th December 2008.
- 8.6 Another member sought clarification on whether the Registration Committee remit allowed for such a decision to be taken without reference to Council. The Chief Executive confirmed that it could if Council had delegated such a matter. However, it had asked the Registration Committee to undertake the detailed work on changes to membership and decision making and report back with proposals to Council in due course.

8.7 There were no other matters arising.

8.8 The unconfirmed minutes were noted.

9. Induction & EPD Funding Programme – progress report (GTCW 50/08)

9.1 Hayden Llewellyn (*Deputy Chief Executive, Teachers' Qualifications, Registration and Professional Standards*) presented this report drawing members' attention to the progress with the settlement of payments to schools for the funding of teachers' Induction and EPD in Wales.

9.2 The Council had assumed responsibility for administering the funding of Induction & EPD in Wales on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government on 1st September 2006. Since then, almost £10 million had been settled to schools in respect of funding for teachers' Induction and just over £3 million had been settled in relation to EPD funding.

9.3 Members were informed that payment profile had been undertaken and these confirmed that both funding streams were now settling down. He added that the majority of outstanding payments on both streams had been settled and outstanding queries were small in number and were being actioned by Council officers.

9.4 Hayden Llewellyn went on to confirm that the shortfall in grant funding provided by the Welsh Assembly Government for the 2008-09 operational year still existed. Members had received a report to this effect at the Council meeting on 11th July 2008. Whilst a commitment had been received from the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills that the shortfall, in this year and future years, would be met, it meant that officers were required to make complex in-year forecasts of predicted expenditure.

9.5 Finally, members were advised that officers continued to work closely with LEAs, schools and teachers. Sessions undertaken with mentors and headteachers were proving to be valuable to NQTs.

9.6 The Chairperson reminded members that, so far, Assembly officials had declined to increase the level of annual grant funding to the Council for the funding of teachers' Induction and EPD in Wales. This was despite the provision by the Council of an accurate estimate of the correct amount needed. Assembly officials wished to hold the 'balance' between the budgeted amount and the actual amount required to meet needs during the year.

9.7 One member commented that the situation appeared to question whether the Council was totally independent of the Welsh Assembly Government. Officers were urged to put forward the Council's case to Assembly officials for the full budget to be included once more.

9.8 Council officers were complimented by one member for the efficient administration of the funding programmes. Members concurred.

9.9 Members were content to note the report and no other points were raised.

10. CPD Funding Programme

(GTCW 51/08)

- 10.1 Hayden Llewellyn (*Deputy Chief Executive, Teachers' Qualifications, Registration and Professional Standards*) presented this paper which provided members with a progress report on the Council's work in administering the Professional Development Funding Programme on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 10.2 A sum of £2.978 million had been made available to the Council for the 2008-09 funding year of which £360,000 had been identified to cover the cost of piloting the Chartered Teacher programme in Wales. Taking into account administrative costs and dissemination activities approximately £2.4 million had been available for allocation.
- 10.3 However, all funding had been allocated by Friday 10th October 2009 and consequently the funding programme had been closed.
- 10.4 At the meeting of Council on 11th July 2008, members had been made aware of the high number of application forms received to date and the fact that Assembly officials had indicated that it was unlikely that additional 'in-year' funding would be provided as in previous years. This was due to pressure on Assembly budgets.
- 10.5 Hayden Llewellyn reported that letters had been sent to all headteachers so that they could inform all teaching staff and to key stakeholders such as LEAs, teacher unions, ITET institutions and other interested parties on 10th October 2008. Members were assured that early notification of the closure of the programme had been achieved swiftly. Only a small number of applications had since been received and Council staff had handled these appropriately.
- 10.6 Moving onto the remainder of the paper, members' attention was drawn to the evaluation and 5 year analysis of the funding programme and the proposals for discussion, namely, to refine and revise the CPD Funding criteria for 2009-10.
- 10.7 Members were invited to comment and raise questions. One member requested that such correspondence, about the closure of one of the Council's funding programmes, should in future be copied to members for information purposes. This request was noted. The Chief Executive explained that the papers for the Council meeting had been issued on the same day and contained the letter in question for members' information.
- 10.8 The proposals to revise the funding criteria for the 2009-10 programme were welcomed by a number of members. Members discussed the long-term issue of the inappropriate accessing of funds for courses which might be seen as 'maintenance' type CPD. It was accepted that it would always be difficult for the Council to know whether some courses were for an individual's development or simply to assist a school in achieving its own priorities. However, applications had to be taken on face value and it was acknowledged that, in some cases, applicants and headteachers did not always ensure that proposals were for individuals' development needs.
- 10.9 One member gave his opinion that the Council appeared keen to take the credit when things were going well and to blame the Welsh Assembly Government when they were not. Another member recalled concerns which had been expressed to the previous Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning during a meeting of Council about the erosion of available funds for schools. Looking at the current government agenda in Wales, including rollouts of the Skills framework, Foundation Phase and 14-19 initiatives, he felt that there was not sufficient money being made available for training for teachers.

- 10.10 Another member commented that teachers in Wales had an entitlement to be prepared for the various initiatives which were being introduced. She suggested that Council might articulate to Assembly officials the need for sufficient funding in order that both the aspirations of the Welsh Assembly Government and individuals' professional development would be met. Other members concurred that further discussions should be undertaken with Assembly officials to make available funding for "maintenance" training. Another view was offered regarding the lack of control the Minister would have over budgets delegated to LEAs and similar parties and the current conflict that existed between the programmes set by the Welsh Assembly Government and LEAs.
- 10.11 In making revisions to the programme criteria, one member acknowledged that the Council had no choice but to reduce the number of persons who would receive the available funding but urged that implications of each change to the criteria be carefully considered.
- 10.12 One member voiced her opinion that the improved clarity would enable teachers' decision making when choosing to apply for funding from the Council. Having spent many years raising awareness, there was a danger that teachers in Wales might lose interest in the programme.
- 10.13 GTCW staff were congratulated for the allocation of this funding year's budget. A suggestion was also made that publicity should be used to promote the programme and to reinforce the message to teachers in Wales that the programme was for individually-focussed continuing professional development.
- 10.14 During the discussion, the Chief Executive reminded members of the coherent stance on funding in Wales which Council had already made as part of the Council's advice on a Professional Development Framework in 2005 which detailed the need for a coherent approach to CPD funding on individual, local and national levels and for 'maintenance' type training.
- 10.15 Members were invited by the Chairperson to provide a steer on the revision of the funding criteria for the 2009-10 programme as this would need to be completed by the end of November 2008. However, further detailed discussions would be required and members agreed that, once a steer had been given, it was proposed that the final decision should be remitted to the Executive Committee. In addition, all members of Council would be invited to provide their comments to Hayden Llewellyn in advance of the Executive Committee meeting.
- 10.16 One member also suggested that, in addition to remitting the Executive Committee with the short-term matters, a Task & Finish Group might be set up to handle the long-term issues of discussion for the 2010-11 programme. Members concurred consideration could also be given to inviting partner groups such as ADEW.

Revisions to funding criteria for 2009-10

- 10.17 Members then sought clarification on some of the proposed revisions to the criteria for the 2009-10 funding year, in particular, the proposal to reduce its support to some or all middle leader provision. Hayden Llewellyn explained that a number of LEAs had very active provision which included a large number of teachers who were undertaking Middle Leader training. Whilst the training was LEA-led, it was mostly funded by Council bursaries and it was suggested that, in future, the Council's Chartered Teacher programme might replace support for this type of middle leader provision. It also appeared that funding was available directly from the Welsh Assembly Government for this area of development.

- 10.18 The Deputy Chairperson suggested that a definition be included in the *CPD Funding Programme Information booklet* detailing the Council's perception of personal development. Later in the discussion she also stated that it would be important to make teachers aware that funding would be available in the future but that savings were needed in the short-term.
- 10.19 Referring to the list of possible revisions, members offered the following comments: that it might not be feasible to reduce its support for just 'some' of all middle leader provision; that the loss of funding for an additional supply day in order for individuals to reflect on their CPD activity should be avoided and that a radical decision might be taken not to fund any courses which supported examination syllabus updates, however, this was not clear cut. What might be a personal development opportunity for one teacher might not be for another.
- 10.20 Having provided a steer, members were content to remit revision of the funding criteria for the 2009-10 programme to the Executive Committee. An extraordinary meeting would be convened.
- 10.21 No other issues were raised.

11. Chartered Teacher pilot – progress report (GTCW 52/08)

- 11.1 Further to his earlier declaration of interest, Mr Phil Bassett took no part in this discussion.
- 11.2 Hayden Llewellyn (*Deputy Chief Executive, Teachers' Qualifications, Registration and Professional Standards*) provided an update on this area of the Council's work, inviting members to note the progress made. 4 further modules of the pilot programme route had been commenced and the final module *Leading the Learning* would commence at South West and Mid Wales Consortium (SWAMWAC) on 6th November 2008. The pilot of the accreditation route, which had commenced on 29th February 2008, was approximately 50% complete.
- 11.3 Council had developed as part of its Professional Development Framework, a programme for teachers in Wales to attain chartered status. The pilot of this programme had commenced in September 2007.
- 11.4 Member's attention was drawn to the arrangements for the mainstreaming of the Chartered Teacher programme in Wales, highlighting the proposed timetable which would enable mainstreaming by September 2010 at the earliest. It detailed the preparatory work which would need to be undertaken, including the schedule for the bringing forward of draft documents to the Policy Committee and Council for discussion and approval.
- 11.5 A question was raised on the number of teachers who had not completed modules. Hayden Llewellyn reported that, out of the 10 who usually commenced, on average 8 or 9 teachers completed their modules. The reasons given for 'dropping out' were often personal although some simply did not turn up on the first day despite contact being made in advance to confirm their attendance. An assurance was given that such data would be analysed and fed into the mainstreaming of the programme. Hayden Llewellyn agreed to provide further information on the 'drop outs' from each of the modules to the member raising the question.
- 11.6 The member went on to voice his concern that it was planned to mainstream the Chartered Teacher programme before the pilots had all been completed and the evaluation undertaken. The Chairperson confirmed that there would be no rush to introduce the programme.

11.7 Members were content to note the report and no other points were raised.

12. Revised Code of Conduct and Best Practice for Members (GTCW 53/08)

12.1 In introducing this paper, the Chief Executive reminded members of previous discussions regarding the Members' Code at Council in May and July 2008. Members were informed that, as there was no Audit & Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled between the July and October Council meetings, the Chairperson of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee had been invited to attend the meeting of the Executive Committee on 15th September 2008 and take part in the discussion on the Code.

12.2 The paper proposed a revised Code of Conduct and Best Practice for Members and members were invited to consider, and if seen fit, to adopt the revised Code.

12.3 Highlighting the main changes to the text, the Chief Executive also drew attention to the recommendation from the Executive Committee for members to receive training on Corporate Governance matters at the next meeting of Council on 6th February 2009. A provisional booking had been made.

12.4 One member sought clarification if the revised Code would be in-line with the Council's *Whistleblowing Policy*. The Chief Executive advised that the *Whistleblowing Policy* applied to Council staff only. There was no *Whistleblowing Policy* in existence for Council members.

12.5 A discussion then took place with a number of points made and views expressed. One member raised his concern that the paper had not included the original wording of the Code. He found this unhelpful particularly as he believed that new members of Council, who were present at their first meeting, would not have been aware of the previous wording. The Chief Executive provided clarification, reporting that the members who were new to the Council had been provided with a copy of the existing Code as part of their induction pack.

12.6 Referring to the section in the proposed document which detailed potential 'obligation to external organisations', the member went on to comment that a large number of members of the Council would be affected. He expressed his view that the text displayed a lack of confidence in the way the Council operated. Another member then expressed her view that it was positive that the Council had frank and open debates and that these should not be stifled. She added that members did need to accept collective responsibility.

12.7 Other members provided a number of comments on the proposed revision. The main points were namely: that it was a matter of conscience and that it was an individual's responsibility to be alert to potential conflicts; that having a non-pecuniary interest would not exclude a member from taking part in a discussion; that training on Corporate Governance was needed; the revised Code adhered to the Nolan principles and that similar guidance was in place for members of comparable bodies. One member offered the view that members should have been adhering to the existing policy since taking up their membership.

12.8 The Chairperson invited members to agree to the adoption of the revised Code of Conduct and Best Practice for Members. With one exception, members agreed to adopt the revised document. Members then agreed that a training session on Corporate Governance be arranged for the 6th February 2009.

12.9 No other points were raised.

13. Draft Council position on Professionalising the FE workforce (GTCW 54/08)

- 13.1 The Chief Executive provided a brief introduction to this paper which invited members to adopt the proposed position on the professionalisation of teaching in FE and a strategy for building support for the Council's position.
- 13.2 In light of 14-19 Learning Pathways and following the report of Sir Adrian Webb's Review, Council has been working to develop and agree a position on professionalising teaching in the Further Education sector. Following discussions at the June and September 2008 meetings of the Policy Committee, the proposed position paper had been refined and was presented to Council for discussion.
- 13.3 The Chief Executive explained that support from the Welsh Assembly Government would need to be sought before going on to build support for Council's position by re-opening discussions with *fforwm*, the FE employer's organisation; opening discussions with UCU and other FE unions and holding discussions with the Deputy Minister for Skills. Primary legislation would be needed should the Council be put forward to undertake regulation of the FE workforce but this would take some time to come into effect.
- 13.4 The Chairperson welcomed the paper, suggesting that a common set of standards for teachers and FE lecturers was needed, particularly as a result of the developments in the 14-19 sector. Members were invited to raise questions.
- 13.5 One member voiced his concern regarding the Executive Summary which quoted pay parity between school teachers and FE teachers. It was his view that similarities between the pay scales were not as clear cut and there were different conditions of service.
- 13.6 In response the Chairperson spoke about public perception. In particular that parents of 14-19 year olds made no distinction between school teachers and FE teachers, expecting their children to be taught by teachers who were governed by the same set of standards.
- 13.7 Members agreed that further work should be undertaken on the paper to incorporate references to the '*Transforming Education*' policy. It was also agreed that a separate position paper might need to be developed on the impact of the *Transforming Education* policy.
- 13.8 The Chief Executive agreed that a separate paper might be needed on *Transforming Education*, however, the paper under discussion was the result of a well thought through initial submission to the Webb Review and should not need great change to incorporate the references to the *Learning and Skills Measure* and *Transforming Education*. He assured members that further work would be undertaken and a revised position would be presented to the Policy Committee for discussion at its meeting on 3rd December 2008. He reminded members that the former Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, Jane Davidson, had decided that there should be exploration of the legislative and delivery implications of the Council becoming the professional body for the post-compulsory sector and argued that the draft position addressed such aspirations. The Deputy Chairperson supported a position paper which should open a full debate and be focused on the needs of Wales.
- 13.9 Members made a number of suggestions for incorporation into the revised paper, these were namely: that references should be made to recent government documents; that the current climate of considerable and across-sector change should be reflected and that the position would need to be developed from a regulatory perspective. Finally, one member pointed out the need to take into account the variety of standards that ITET institutions had to teach to which included LLUK standards as well as QTS.

13.10 The Chairperson invited all members to pass their comments and suggestions on the revision of the Council's position on professionalising teaching in the FE sector to the Chief Executive. The subject of *'Transforming Education'* including the *Learning & Skills measure* and the *14-19 strategy* would be agendered for the next Policy Committee meeting on 3rd December 2008.

13.11 There were no other issues raised.

14. Draft Council position on the Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education and Training (ITET) (GTCW 55/08)

14.1 Karen Evans (*Policy and Planning Manager*) presented this draft position paper on the accreditation of ITET courses which, it was hoped, would inform any engagement strategy with politicians and other influencers of policy and possible legislative change.

14.2 To enable the development of a logical argument relating to the apparent inconsistencies of the current approach to ITET accreditation in Wales (when compared with the approach of other professional bodies) it had been agreed that an analysis of the roles of professional bodies in respect of the approval or accreditation of initial education and training be made available. Member's attention was drawn to the annex to the paper which detailed the comparison.

14.3 Members were invited to consider the position, which had been revised by the Policy Committee at its meeting on 15th September 2008, and if seen fit, to adopt it. A proposal was also made, if appropriate, for the Policy Committee to be remitted to develop a strategy to build support for the position.

14.4 Members were content with the development of Council's position and agreed that it should be adopted. Agreement was also given for the Policy Committee to develop the strategy for support on the position.

14.5 There were no further points of clarification and members were content with the update report.

15. Any other business

15.1 The Chairperson drew members' attention to the Wales Education Lecture which would be given by Baroness Shirley Williams on Monday 10th November. The title of the lecture would be "Schools in the community: hubs of change".

15.2 Members were asked to notify the Council Secretary should they wish to attend.

15.3 There was no other business in the Public Session.

15.4 The Council then moved into Private Session.

**The next Council meeting will take place on Friday 6th February 2009
at
The Hill Education & Conference Centre, Abergavenny**