

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, 3 October 2007 at 2.00pm

PRESENT: Sashi Siva (Vice-Chair, in the Chair), Lesley Ansari, Gussie Andersen, Andrew Baxter, Paul Bird, Naz Bokhari, Peter Butler, Barry Carpenter, Liz Carter, Patricia Castro Castro, Philip Cole, Chris Cook, Sam Crooks, Tony Cuthbert, Suma Das, David Dewhurst, Janet Draper, Dorothy Elliott, Anne Garner, Robert Gordon, Christine Green, John Hawkins, Gloria Hyatt, Max Hyde, Derek Johns, Anne Madden, Pete McAleer, Robert Millea, Kirit Modi, Michael Moore, Gail Mortimer, Arthur Naylor, Tony Neal, John Rimmer, Alice Robinson, Gill Stainthorpe, Oona Stannard Philippa Stobbs, Angela Stones, David Storrie, Pete Strauss, David Whitewright, Anthony Wilkes Dave Wilkinson and Nicola Wilson.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of: Martin Allen, Sarah Bowie, Nigel Bowler, Janis Butler, Ron Clooney, Peter Cooper. Anthony Handley, Conchita Henry, Barbara Hibbert, Misbah Mann, John Mayes, Bulvinder Michael, Sheila Mountain, Judy Moorhouse, Jean Scott, Ralph Ullmann, Geoff Whitty and Eileen Baker (Alumni Association).

1. Welcome

The Vice Chair of Council welcomed the following new Members of Council.

- Gussie Andersen who has replaced Tony Woodward as the NAHT nominee on Council
- Pete McAleer who has replaced Terry Bladen as an elected secondary teacher Member
- Alice Robinson who has replaced Neil Tailor as an elected secondary teacher Member.

Council placed on record their appreciation of the services of Terry Bladen, Neil Tailor and Tony Woodward as well as Suma Das who resigned from the Council on 30th September and Peggie Harrison who retired from the Council on 31st August 2007.

The Council stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for the former Council Member, John Peebles, who recently passed away.

The Vice Chair of Council welcomed Gavin Scott (GTC Scotland) and Haydn Llewellyn (GTC Wales) to the meeting.

Finally the Vice Chair welcomed Additional Committee Members Rosalind Burford and Wayne Jones who had stayed on from the morning development session to observe Council.

Council noted it was Barry Carpenter's last meeting before he retires from Council in January 2008 and they placed on record their appreciation of his services to the Council particularly with the Disabled Teacher Taskforce.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 4 July 2007 and Matters Arising

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

The Director of Finance and Administration updated Members on the position regarding disabled access works to the Birmingham office. Council Members and Additional Committee Members will shortly be notified of the temporary access arrangements by the Council Secretary.

In response to Member questions following the debate on the motion at the previous meeting, the Director of Communications outlined issues relating to the accountability of the Council to the teaching profession and wider public, vis a vis the Communications Strategy.

3. Declarations of Interest

None at this meeting

4. Decision Tracking

The standard paper from the Council Secretary was noted.

In response to a Member question, the Director of Communications outlined the nature of the perception audit and Council noted that the audit would form part of the wider communications strategy to be considered by the Executive Committee. Council also noted that the Policy and Research Committee would be receiving a paper at their October meeting regarding the configuration of the Policy Groups for the 2007/8 Council year and Member involvement in supporting the policy process.

5. Chair's Business

Council noted the previously circulated reports from Members representing the GTC on the National College of School Leadership, the Training and Development Agency, the College of Teachers and the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. Council noted that issues raised by Barry Carpenter on concerns regarding regulations governing the entry of disabled employees into professions such as teaching and social work would be reported back to Committee following discussions at the next meeting of the Disabled Teacher Taskforce. Further discussion covered progress with the Chartered London Teacher Status scheme and its alignment with the Teacher Learning Academy upon which the Director of Policy provided clarification.

Council noted the diaries of the Chair and Vice Chair circulated in advance of the meeting.

(N.B The Chair of Council would respond outside of the meeting to issues raised by Pete Strauss in respect of the NCSL feedback)

6. Chief Executive Report to Council – Verbal Report from the Chief Executive

The Council under its revised governance arrangements received its first verbal report from the Chief Executive which covered the following areas

- Current, emerging or anticipated external contexts and issues relevant to the GTC that may inform future work which also included reference to the recent restructuring of

Government departments in respect of education and the impact on the Council vis a vis the Children Plan. This included work on testing and assessment, early work with the introduction of the Independent Safeguarding Authority in 2008 which will report to the Home Office, work on provisional registration and new EU directives, early thinking on more active forms of registration for teachers outside of maintained settings

- Key Stakeholder meetings that he had undertaken in the past six months including meetings with the professional associations
- School visits he had undertaken and he extended this invitation to include visit to Members schools on request
- Speeches and public appearances
- Organisational information.

In concluding his report back, the Chief Executive referred to a forthcoming paper he would be submitting to the Executive Committee on GTC “transformation work” and how this would influence the future Corporate Plan.

Council welcomed this first report and discussion covered areas such as provisional registration, the wider workforce and developments in the 14-19 field in schools with the development of vocational courses and the use of non qualified teachers. In response the Chief Executive stated that discussions with the Department were taking place on issues around wider registration. He also referred to the introduction of the Institute for Learning and a meeting held with the Sixth Form College Forum. In response to a Member question the Chief Executive undertook to reflect on whether elements of his report should be in a written form circulated in advance.

8. Proposal to Establish an Award in Memory of Carol Adams (Ref 01/07-08)

The Director of Communications introduced the paper and the thinking behind the development of the two options that had been put forward for Council’s consideration. Council supported the principle of establishing an award in memory of Carol Adams.

Some Members expressed concern that option one in the paper would seem to preclude recognition of Carol’s interest and professional work over many years in the promotion of equality and diversity. It was argued that there should be a national teaching award for equality and diversity. The Director of Communications outlined both advantages and constraints under the current Teaching Award Trust structure for a combination of both options and other administrative considerations including value for money and raised regional media profile if a separate award was created and the implications for the Council. The Director of Communications stated that option one represented awards being presented at a regional level as there were significant financial costs involved in creating a national award. Other Members spoke in favour of the option for a regional award for excellence in continuing professional development which they believed could still encompass work on the promotion of equality and diversity, and consider option two constrained the award in terms of teachers who could qualify for it. Other Members believed that option two could be looked at in the future.

The Director of Communications outlined the financial implications of both options both for this and future years and reminding Members of the need to make a decision with Carol’s anniversary taking place in January 2008.

A motion was moved that this matter be deferred until January Council in order that further consideration be given to the options in the light of the debate. The Chief Executive summarised the steer that this Council should give to the Director of Communications and this was recorded in the decision below.

Council confirmed its decision to established an award in memory of Carol Adams.

Council deferred a final decision pending a paper to the January 2008 meeting exploring the possibility of combining recognition of continual professional development and the promotion of equality and diversity into one award to be administered along the lines of the Teaching Awards Trust framework.

9. **Governance Update (Ref 02/07-08))**

The Director of Finance and Administration briefly summarised the update paper on the outcome of the various Committee Member appointment and election processes following the decisions taken by July Council in respect of the revised Committee structure.

Council unanimously endorsed the recommendation in respect of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee which is set out below.

Council:

noted the outcome of the Member processes undertaken since July, and approved that the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council act as ex-officio Chair and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee.

10. **Summary of Work of Committees (Ref 03/07-08)**

The Chair of the Audit Monitoring and Review Committee, the only Committee to have met in the current cycle prior to the Council meeting, updated Members on the business considered at their September meeting. She welcomed David Storrie and John Hawkins as new Members of the Committee. She referred to the Committee's recommendation in respect of revisions to Member Declarations of Interest, its scrutiny role in respect of the work of the Executive Committee and a minor change to the remit. She placed on record the Committee's surprise at the National Audit Office's decision to replace Baker Tilly as external auditors and as a separate issue that the Committee Members had completed their self assessment. She was pleased to report a significant improvement on the past position with bank reconciliations in respect of teacher's fees which had been recognised by the auditors.

Council

noted the report back from the Audit, Monitoring and Review Committee.

endorsed the recommendations set out in section 2 of the appendix relating to : the Committee having powers to procure external expert opinion if required and subject to appropriate funding being available and / or value for money justified – this is to be included in the remit of the Committee.

the Director of Finance and Administration attending Committee meetings and that the Chief Executive, as accounting officer, remaining an attendee with the approval of the Chair of the Committee.

noted that the Committee will consider at its December meeting, the most effective way of fulfilling its scrutiny role in respect of the new Executive Committee and report back to Council in January.

Council also agreed the recommendation in respect of Members' declaration of interests and the issue in respect of former Council Members representing teachers at a regulatory hearing; this work will be carried out in conjunction with the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

11. Financial and Service Monitoring (Ref 04/07-08)

The Director of Finance and Administration summarised the key areas of his paper in respect of budget underspend which would shortly be the subject of a mid year review by Committee. He also drew Members' attention to the casework strategy which would be the subject of review by the Registration and Regulation Committee at its November meeting. In response to a Member question he confirmed that the review paper to the Committee would include a forecast of the number of cases likely to be heard by the end of the financial year and information in respect of cancelled hearings. Members raised the reputational risk of not delivering the casework strategy.

Council noted the report.

12. Consideration of Motions Notified by Members in Advance of the Meeting –

None Received

13. Any Other Urgent Business

None at this meeting

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 22nd January 2008, Woburn House, London.

The meeting ended at 4.00pm.

Sashi Siva
VICE CHAIR (in the Chair)