

MINUTES of the meeting of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills

held on 4 February 2015

PRESENT

Sir Charlie Mayfield, Chair;

Michael Davis, Chief Executive

Commissioners:

Barbara Spicer, Bill McGinnis, Dave Prentis, Deirdre Hughes, Douglas McCormick, Dame Fiona Kendrick, Frances O'Grady, Gail Cartmail, Jeremy Anderson, Prof John Coyne, Julie Kenny, Nigel Whitehead, Paul McKelvie, Scott Johnson, Sean Taggart, Seyi Obakin and Toby Peyton-Jones.

IN ATTENDANCE

Huw Morris, (Group Director, Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (SHELL), Welsh Government), Rona Sweeny (Deputy Director, Scotland's Skills Unit), Ruth Curry (BIS), Simon Perryman, Ian Kinder, Lesley Giles, Moira McKerracher, Simon Renny and Sarah Beal.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from David Fairhurst, Grahame Smith, James Wates, John Cridland, Liz Sayce, Scott Waddington, Valerie Todd and Will Butler-Adams.

Catherine Bell (DELNI), Rachel Sandby-Thomas (BIS) and Mike Keoghan (BIS).

1. Welcome, apologies and minutes of the last meeting.

The Chairman, Sir Charlie Mayfield, welcomed Commissioners. The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 October 2014 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

Sir Charlie reported that this would be the last meeting to be attended by Northern Ireland Commissioner Bill McGinnis who had reached the end of his term of office. Bill was thanked for his support and valuable contribution over many years.

2. 2014/15 Progress and Business Planning 2015/16

Michael Davis introduced paper **UKCES C [15] 01** and asked Commissioners to consider progress during 2014/15 and priorities to inform the Business Planning process for 2015/16. In small groups, Commissioners considered priorities for the remainder of 2014/15 and for inclusion in the 2015/16 Business Plan.

Concerning activity for the remainder of the year, there was a detailed discussion about each of the Objectives.

For Objective One – leading the debate with industry. There was consensus about the importance of telling the UK's 'productivity story' from the perspective of both sectors and localities. It was reported that a detailed labour market story, the underpinning evidence base to the 'Growth through People' report, would be published in February. A series of events would be organised to demonstrate the Growth through People proposition to encourage industry and government to think

about the wider policy levers that can positively impact on how the skills and talents of people support productivity.

For Objective Two – on industrial partnerships, there was a discussion about how these partnerships can work and the role of UKCES within this.

For Objective Two - on National Occupational Standards, it was acknowledged that they remained important to employers, industry and the Devolved Nations. A paper was planned.

For Objective Three – UK Futures Programme. A good first year was reported. A process that focused on the learning and policy outcomes from the inception point of every competition had been established.

For Objective Four – Investors in People. A great opportunity existed through the marketing campaign for the IIP standard.

AGREED – That Commissioner comments on priorities for the remainder of 2014/15 be captured and Commissioner input into the 2015/16 Business Plan be taken forward by the Strategic Management Group.

3. Items for information

The Commission received and **NOTED** update reports and minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Management Group **UKCES C [15] 02**, Audit and Risk Group **UKCES C [15] 03**, Investors in People Group **UKCES C [15] 04**, Research Group **UKCES C [15] 05**, and the Risk Register **UKCES C [15] 06**.