

**MINUTES OF SOUTH EAST REGIONAL FORUM**  
**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014, 12:30 – 2:30**  
**Llanhilleth Institute, Llanhilleth, Blaenau Gwent**

Item No.	Agenda Item
	<p><b>Present:</b></p> <p><i>Staff:</i> David Ashman, James Fleming, Tracy Garnett, Louise Gilmore, Martyn Reed, Dafydd Rhys, Leanne Saunders  <i>Learner Forum Reps:</i> Catherine Clark, Helen Murphy, Nathan Morgan, Keely Jones,  <i>Branch Reps:</i> Marilyn Thomas, Huw Williams, Anette Alexander  <i>Individual Members:</i> Jenni Jones-Annetts, Jeremy Gass  <i>Translator:</i> Sion Aled Owen</p>
	<p><b>Agenda</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome</li> <li>2. Election of Chairperson</li> <li>3. WEA Cymru’s new democracy</li> <li>4. Provision and plans for the region</li> <li>5. Election of regional member for the Council</li> <li>6. Date of next meeting</li> <li>7. Any other business</li> </ol>
1	<p><b>WELCOME</b></p> <p>James Fleming (JF) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the South East Regional Forum.</p>
2	<p><b>ELECTION OF CHARIPERSON</b></p> <p>Dafydd Rhys (DR) introduced the item and gave an explanation on the types of WEA membership and the associated voting rights of each membership category. One nomination for Chairperson was received and Nathan Morgan (representative of the Blaenau Gwent learner forum) was duly elected.</p>
3	<p><b>WEA CYMRU’S NEW DEMOCRACY</b></p> <p>DR informed the meeting of the merger between Coleg Harlech WEA North and WEA South Wales and how the model for democracy is central and important to the new organisation. He explained how each of the five new regions elects one member to the Council and the timeline for the democratic process through learner forums, Branch meetings and regional forums, leading to the AGM in March. He explained the model of elected members to WEA Cymru Council and the timetable for Council meetings.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the number of meetings of the Council and the regional forum and the mechanism for feedback to and from the Council. Comment was made that this was a complicated and confusing model. Jeremy Gass (JG) explained the rationale behind the model and clarified that a review process was already built in to the constitution, so that if things needed to be changed, they could be.</p>

	<p>Further discussion took place on the representation of Branches to the Council (only one Branch representative for the whole of Wales). Concerns were expressed as to how the representative would be elected and DR stated that a personal statement would be circulated so that all Branches would be aware of the nominee's credentials prior to the election. David Ashman (DA) suggested that this would present Branches with the opportunity to meet and work more closely together.</p> <p>The process for the election of the Regional Forum representative and the learner representative was clarified at the meeting. Questions were raised regarding the learner representative to Council and the position should the elected representative cease learning with the WEA. JG confirmed that should this happen, there would need to be a re-election. He stated that these points would be taken back to Council for review, with the suggestion that the learner seat should be for a 12 month period.</p> <p>DR confirmed the dates of the upcoming elections and the dates by when nominations needed to be submitted by. Members of the forum expressed concern that with such a tight turnaround, there allowed little time for them to feed back to and consult with their Branch members. DR informed the meeting that all learners, who have provided an email address, should have been contacted by email within the last 10 days informing them of the forthcoming elections. Learners and Branch members attending confirmed that they had not received an email to this effect. It was stated that timescales for elections were far too tight.</p> <p>Concerns were also expressed about the learner vote being completed online and it was felt that this could be open to abuse. DR explained that a number of options had been explored and this was considered to be the most practical system. Survey monkey was to be used, which can be used to identify computer use and misuse.</p> <p>Further concerns were raised around the issue of learners who attend one day courses and their entitlement to vote. It was suggested that the vote be given to Branches. JG requested that this be fed into the review by the Branches.</p>
4	<p><b>PROVISION AND PLANS FOR THE REGION</b></p> <p>An overview was given by the Learning Managers on the provision and plans for the region. DA explained that in the last 18 months there had been a restructure on a local level, with a merger of offices and teams. He thanked all the learners and staff for their contributions in making the provision successful.</p> <p>The region has a number of Branches and the first Branch within WEA Cymru had been recently launched in Perthcelyn. JF encouraged all Branches to offer their support to new and upcoming Branches.</p>
5	<p><b>ELECTION OF REGIONAL MEMBER TO THE COUNCIL</b></p> <p>DR explained the role and responsibilities of the Regional Forum Council member. It was clarified that expenses would be reimbursed for travelling to meetings.</p> <p>One nomination had already been received for Jenni Jones-Annetts and nominations were</p>

	<p>also invited from the floor. A further three nominations were received from the floor – Annette Alexander, Catherine Clark and Nathan Morgan.</p> <p>Nominees were given the opportunity to give a brief statement on why they would like to stand for Council. All nominees left the room while the vote was conducted. Catherine Clarke was duly elected as the SE Regional Forum member to Council.</p>
6	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10am in St Catherine’s Church, Caerphilly</p>
7	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>7.1 Regional Activities Members were asked for suggestions on what regional activities could be put in place. Ideas received were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Parliament</li> <li>• Coleg Harlech</li> <li>• South Wales Miner’s Library</li> </ul> <p>7.2 Questions from the floor The Caerphilly Branch had put forward an motion at the Caerphilly learner forum on February 7<sup>th</sup>, which they believed was to be taken at the Regional Forum to be passed on to the AGM. DR stated that the closing date for AGM motions was January 31<sup>st</sup>. It was agreed that the motion be forwarded to Stephen Thomas, Clerk to Council with the request that the motion be accepted as a late request by the Regional Forum.</p> <p>7.3 JG thanked all those involved in organising the event and presenting. Thanks were also given to the Interpreter.</p>