



South West – NFEC Spring 2011 Regional Seminar (Host: PETROC, Tiverton)

1. Welcome and introduction

Jon Gill welcomed members on behalf of NFEC and noted their thanks to PETROC for hosting the event.

2. Qualifications / Frameworks updates

SummitSkills It was noted that SummitSkills were unable to provide a representative to attend the meeting. Members reiterated their concerns over the future of the building services curriculum for FT and non-employed students and the lack of any viable alternatives.

Note: This has now been partially resolved with Michael Gove, in his response to the Wolf Report, confirming that the current C&G NQF quals in Electrotechnical, Plumbing and H&V will be reinstated and funded for 2011 starts

SEMTA Brian Thornton from SEMTA presented to the group (slides attached).

- SEMTA are looking to build composites curriculum into future apprenticeship frameworks and also to introduce funded quals in composites going forward
- There is a SW Composites Gateway, a collaboration of Universities and Colleges, tasked with the development of composites research and training
- There is currently a Mastering Advanced Composites (MAP) course available for delivery into companies –Andy Davidson from Yeovil College can provide details on request
- Generally, a great deal is being invested in switching from metallic to composites, with NSAM providing support

Members raised their concerns over the removal of the PEO qual from the proposed new SASE compliant L3 apprenticeship Framework (the L2 framework will be the Industrial Applications Framework, which will/can retain the PEO – specs attached)

Brian advised that his understanding was that the “PEO” units would be included in the new L3 “Extended Diploma” NVQ that SEMTA and AB’s were developing. These would not be core compulsory within the qualification but SEMTA would make them obligatory as part of the new L3 framework. The question of funding was raised but no firm answers or guarantees as to the level of funding could be given.. Members were only partially reassured.

Note: Ian Carnell from SEMTA will be presenting at the NFEC National Conference on 26th/27th May and also running a workshop, where we will hope to get further clarification.

City and Guilds Karen West presented for City and Guilds.

Karen responded to further questions over the future of the current NQF Building Services quals. Her responses have now been superseded by the government's response to the Wolf Report as noted above.

Karen advised that the replacement for the C&G 2800 would be out "within weeks". The L1 and L2 specs are now on the C&G website, **but we still await publication of the L3 specs**. The new qual will be known as the 2850. JG has got hold of draft specs for the L3, which are attached.

Karen also brought attention to C&G's new range of carbon / green qualifications – attached.

3. National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies

Justin Olusunde gave an interesting and frank presentation on the work of the NSET to date, along with future plans.

The NSET operates a "hub and spoke" model, with the hub being Cornwall College and spokes at Taunton and Weston Colleges to date. Currently the NSET can only deliver quals mapped to current NOS (National Occupational Standards), which are produced by SummitSkills. C&G and EAL have produced NOS mapped qualifications to date. Existing micro-generation quals are not currently part of the NOS.

If Colleges deliver the approved NSET quals as part of the Skills Academy network, then there is a 50% funding subsidy available. There is no subsidy available if delivered independently of the NSA.

Those interested in joining the NSA as a hub or spoke can contact Justin, or alternatively Doug Burt at Somerset College. Costs would be involved in joining as the NSET is not fully funded.

Justin also highlighted the "Green Deal" government initiative, offering free consultancy and no up-front costs for installing green technologies, which was one of the drivers towards investment by industry / consumers in sustainable energy technologies.

4. National Centre for the Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics

Pete Griffin gave an interesting presentation on the work of the NCETM, including a maths activity to keep members on their toes! Notes attached.

He demonstrated the range and depth of resources available on the NCETM website and members are encouraged to look at this;

www.ncetm.org.uk

There is some doubt about the future of NCTEM as current funding has run out.

Note: NCTEM do however get a mention in the government's response to the Wolf Report.

5. National Skills Academy for Power

Steve Gibson presented for NSAP

Steve highlighted the huge investment planned for the Power Industry over the next few years, citing a figure of £200 Billion, focussed on 4 main priority areas / sectors as follows;

- Replacing all existing meters with new smart meters
- Transmission and Distribution – aiming towards more stable and constant supply, avoiding current spikes in T&D profiles
- Renewables – a target of 25GW of generation to come from renewable sources in the next few years
- Combustion generation (coal, gas, bio) and carbon capture and storage technologies

There will be new L2 and L3 Power Generation qualifications released within the next few weeks and Steve highlighted the fact that there already exists an Education and Skills Providers (ESP) advisory group which is feeding in to the training needs side of the above investment.

6. A.O.B.

Pete Griffin suggested that the next NFEC Regional Seminar could invite someone from the SW local Enterprise Partnership

JG plugged the NFEC National Conference on 26th/27th May

JG offered for Bridgwater College to hold the next meeting in the autumn term at their new Engineering and Energy Skills Centre