



CORPORATION MEETING

23 January 2014

MINUTES

Present:	Carole Thorogood (Chair))	
	Bill Colley)	
	Richard Cox)	
	Mark Dunwell)	External governors
	Gill Lane)	
	Clive Rix)	
	Stephen Russell)	
	Malcolm Cowgill)	Principal
	Brendan Coulson)	Staff governor (non-teaching)
	Roger Fletcher)	Staff governor (teaching)
	Dylan Smith)	Student governor

In attendance:	John Snow	Vice Principal Corporate Services
	Yultan Mellor	Vice Principal Curriculum
	Debbie Duggan	Vice Principal Organisation Development
	Ian James	Clerk to the Corporation
	Michael Luczynski	Specialist Learning Support Assistant
	Janice Thompson	Head of Partnerships (minute 102)
	Terry Brickles	Head of Construction (minute 102)

PRESENTATIONS

102 The Board received presentations from the Heads of Partnership and Construction informing the governors of the work and progress of their respective departments. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked the Heads for their presentations which were well received by the governors.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

103 Apologies were received from Tony Bates, Larry Greenwell, David Jackson, Mark Shaw and Jason Folkett (Vice Principal Learner Services)

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

104 The Chair reminded governors of the requirement to declare their interest in any agenda items. Following any such declaration governors would not be able to speak or vote on the matters under discussion.

MINUTES

105 **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

College funding (ref: minute 72)

106 The Principal commented that there was currently a good deal of debate in the FE sector regarding the controversial EFA announcement that funding for students who had reached the age of 18 at the start of an academic year would be reduced by 17.5%. He also advised that the SFA had recently published the rather surprising fact that FE colleges had delivered unfunded provision with value of £62m in 2012/13.

NOTTINGHAM COLLABORATION

107 The Principal updated the Board verbally on recent discussions with the New College Nottingham (NCN) and with the local authorities on future collaboration between the colleges. A joint prospectus had been proposed and work was now taking place on this development which was intended to promote FE in Nottingham.

108 There was a possibility of closer working through collaboration on curriculum and the Principal had prepared a paper on this which had been shared with the Acting Principal of NCN and would now be discussed with the two Board Chairs. He commented that, in his view, the two colleges would be obliged to rationalise provision and sites in the near future in response to the current financial pressures on colleges.

109 The governors discussed this matter at some length and remained of the view that greater collaboration was essential to ensure the efficient and effective future delivery of FE in Nottingham.

PAY STRATEGY

110 The Vice Principal Organisation Development submitted a report on options for the Board's pay strategy for staff addressing the issues of incremental progression and the annual pay award.

111 Incremental progression had been suspended in 2013 in order to reduce the number of redundancies required to meet the College's reducing funding. However, this was not a sustainable policy as incremental progression was a contractual provision.

112 With regard to the annual pay award, the governors were reminded that the AoC made a recommendation to colleges annually as to the level of award to be made but it was noted that, in the current period of financial austerity, many colleges were not making pay awards. The Board was also aware that an award of 2.5% had been made in 2012.

113 **Resolved** that incremental progression should recommence this year and that the position regarding an annual pay award be reviewed as part of the preparation of the 2014/15 budget

SITE DISPOSALS

114 The Board had discussed the future of College sites in some detail as part of the Estates Strategy the Vice Principal Corporate Services now presented a report requesting the Board's approval to the disposal of several College sites and the endorsement of bids for capital funding.

115 The governors considered this matter carefully in order to satisfy themselves regarding the financial consequences of the proposals and their impact on students. They were also mindful of the need to spend money wisely and not to invest significant sums in property that was intended for disposal in the relatively near future if the proposed 'hub' was constructed. As a result, the proposals were amended and it was –

116 **Resolved**

- 1 that the City Learning Centre be closed at the expiration of the current lease
- 2 that the future of the Peoples First centre be referred to the Estates Task & Finish Group for consideration against the wider strategy for College sites
- 3 that discussions should continue with Toyota GB to encourage them to move their base from Highfields to Ruddington
- 4 that the Arthur Mee Centre be retained
- 5 that the bid for funding from the SFA's College Capital Investment Fund for the refurbishment of the Beeston Centre be approved and that the application for funding of £540k from the College Condition Fund be noted

EMTECH COLLEGES LIMITED

117 The Board received a report recommending the establishment of a Wholly Foreign Owned Entity (WFOE) in China to support the work of Emtech Colleges Limited. The governors considered the advantages and the risks associated with this proposal and were satisfied that this step was necessary to underpin the financial position of the Company in China.

- 118 **Resolved** that the proposal to establish a WFOE in China for Emtech Colleges Limited be approved

MAGNIFY

119 The governors noted that a report on the collaboration with Confetti, named Magnify, would be presented to the next Board meeting.

POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN

120 The Board received the current version of the action plan for information noting that progress was on track.

2012/13 MINIMUM STANDARDS

121 The Board received this report and noted the improvements being made in relation to meeting Minimum Standards.

TRUST UPDATE

122 The Principal briefly updated the Board on current developments relating to the Academy Trust.

DASHBOARD

123 The Vice Principal Organisation Development submitted the routine dashboard report enabling governors to monitor progress on Key Performance Indicators.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROL & RISK MANAGEMENT

124 The Vice Principal Corporate Services submitted this annual report following a review of internal control & risk management. The review showed that the College could evidence good strengths in most areas although a weakness was recorded in respect of

financial planning reflecting the inaccuracies that had been discovered in the preparation of the 2012/13 budget as previously discussed by the Board.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5.30pm, 27 February 2014

Chair

Date