



## CORPORATION MEETING

26 March 2015

### MINUTES

**Present:**

Carole Thorogood (Chair)	)	
Bill Colley	)	
Gill Lane	)	External governors
Clive Rix	)	
Dianne Roden	)	
Stephen Russell	)	
Malcolm Cowgill		Principal
Roger Fletcher		Staff governor (teaching)
John Feeley		Student governor
Adam Milling		Student governor

**In attendance:**

John Snow	Vice Principal Corporate Services
Yultan Mellor	Vice Principal Curriculum
Jason Folkett	Vice Principal Learner Services
Debbie Duggan	Vice Principal Organisation Development
Ian James	Clerk to the Corporation
Gurjit Sidhu	Head of Marketing (minute 143)

### PRESENTATION

143 The Board received an engaging presentation from the Head of Marketing informing the governors of the work and progress of her department. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked her for her interesting presentation which was well received by the governors.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

144 Apologies were received from Brendan Coulson, Richard Cox, Mark Shaw and Larry Greenwell.

### DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

145 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT GOVERNOR

146 **Resolved** that Adam Milling be appointed as a student governor until 31 July 2015

### MINUTES

- 147 **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

## **MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

- 148 The Committee Chair introduced the minutes of the Committee held on 5 March 2015.

### **Reappointment of auditors**

- 149 The Committee had recommended the reappointment of the internal and external auditors for a further year.

- 150 **Resolved** that Grant Thornton and Baker Tilly be reappointed as external and internal auditors respectively for a further year

## **MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE & SEARCH COMMITTEE**

- 151 The Committee Chair introduced the minutes of the Committee held on 26 February 2015.

### **Board membership**

- 152 The Committee had recommended that, in view of the lack of success in identifying suitable new governors to fill the current four vacancies and also the on-going discussions around collaboration with New College Nottingham, it would be prudent to reduce the number of governors in the external category by two and to take no further action on recruitment at this stage.

- 153 **Resolved** that a determination be made under clause 3(2) of the Instrument of Government reducing the number of governors in the external category by two to 10 and the total number of governors to 15

## **CURRICULUM PLANNING & FUNDING**

- 154 The Board received presentations from the Vice Principal Learner Services and the Vice Principal Curriculum providing the Board with details of the funding allocations from the EFA and SFA and the consequent impact on the College's finances and curriculum planning for 2015/16.

- 155 Overall funding was set to fall by 6% (£2.5m), the largest proportion of which was created by a 24% fall in funding for adult classroom based courses. In future, there would be a heavier emphasis on creating more apprenticeships as this area of provision was a high priority for funding by the SFA. Apprenticeships had already grown substantially in the current year (27% for 16-18 and 29% for 19+).

- 156 Applications for courses starting in September 2015 were currently running at around twice the number at the same point last year for 16-18 enrolments and even more than that for 19+. This was encouraging although, as always, it was uncertain how many of these would turn into actual enrolments.

- 157 The governors noted the information and would return to this topic in detail at their planning event in April.

## **OFSTED SUPPORT & CHALLENGE**

158 The Vice Principal Organisation Development submitted a report together with a letter from Ofsted following a support and challenge meeting held on 9 March 2015. The governors noted that the letter now reflected the 'requires improvement' Ofsted re-inspection grading and was rather less positive in tone than similar letters received prior to the re-inspection.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

159 The Board received the Risk Management Policy for re-approval on the recommendation of the Audit Committee. No material amendments had been made from the previous version.

160 **Resolved** that the Risk Management Policy be approved

## **INFORMATION REPORTS**

161 The Board received and noted a series of reports for their information as follows:

- Risk Management Update which had previously been reviewed by the Audit Committee
- 2013-14 Finance Record & Benchmarking (including a letter from the SFA confirming the College's financial health category as 'satisfactory')
- Quarter 2 Performance Management Report
- Development Plan Update
- Planning event agenda

## **TRUST UPDATE**

162 The Principal updated the Board on the latest developments regarding the Academy Trust including the appointment (subject to approval by the Trust Board) of a part time Trust Director. It is intended that the Director would work with the academies to improve the quality of their provision, facilitate sharing of good practice and market the Trust.

## **OFSTED COMPLAINT**

163 The College had lodged a complaint on several grounds against the 'requires improvement' grade awarded at the recent re-inspection. The governors now received a copy of a letter from Ofsted stating the outcome of a second review of the complaint by a senior inspector. They noted that this was a review of whether the complaint procedure had been followed rather than a review of the actual grounds for the complaint.

164 The next stage would be for the complaint to be reviewed by an independent person and the Board supported the pursuit of the complaint to this next level.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

3pm, 2 April 2015 (planning event)  
5.30pm, 23 April 2015

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Chair

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Date