



**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATION 'STRATEGY AND QUALITY' EVENT
HELD ON 11 JULY 2024 AT 10.00 AM IN THE ENGINE ROOM, THE ROUNDHOUSE**

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.....2
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND
QUORUM2
STRATEGY: CURRENT STATE2
STRATEGY: FUTURE STATE2
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS3
REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE GUIDE AND AOC CODE OF GOVERNANCE3
SUMMARY CURRICIULUM PLAN.....4
CURRICLUM PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE PROCESSES4
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT 2024-25 (SELF ASSESSMENT 2023-24 AGAINST
THE EIF).....4

**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATION ‘STRATEGY AND QUALITY’ EVENT
HELD ON 11 JULY 2024 AT 10.00 AM IN THE ENGINE ROOM, THE ROUNDHOUSE**

Present: Andrew Cochrane (Chair), Richard Blackmore, Sue Bradley, Alan Brady, Phil Dover, Andrew Dymond, Stuart Ellis, Bismah Latif, Mandie Stravino, Anju Virdee

In attendance: Jo Clifford, Carol Dixon (am only), Heather Kelly, Melanie Lanser, Kate Martin, Tony McIlroy (am only), Rose Matthews (Clerk to the Corporation)

PART ONE - GENERAL MINUTES

64/23-24 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE,

Apologies for absence were received from Martyn Marples. Jane McNeil, Sophie Sanderson, Narinder Sharma and Kevin Slack. Richard Blackmore joined the meeting at 11.00 am.

The Chair welcomed Bismah Latif the new Student Governor to the meeting.

65/23-24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND QUORUM

All members were eligible, the meeting was quorate and there were no new declarations.

66/23-24 STRATEGY: CURRENT STATE

The CEO recalled governors’ responsibilities, regarding strategy and quality and the structures, processes and roles which support these.

She went on to lead on a presentation to review the enactment and impact of year four of the current 2020-25 Corporate Strategy under each of the three strategic priorities.

RESOLVED: The Corporation accepted and discussed the impact of the work of the College.

Rick Blackmore joined the meeting.

67/23-24 STRATEGY: FUTURE STATE

The Director of Strategy and Regulation shared the process and timeline for the new strategy. The 2025-2028 Strategy was presented and discussed.

He presented the framework for the development of the operational plans (to enact the Corporate Strategy) including the Core Strategies, Facilitating Strategies and Legislative Strategies.

Members discussed the wording ‘we pursue continuous improvement and new solutions’ under the Innovation value and felt ‘we evolve’ was more appropriate language. They went onto debate the wording

Action Date

'social justice' in the mission. The Student Governor said she felt the language was appropriate in this context.

RESOLVED: The Corporation approved the 2025-28 Strategy subject to the change in the wording to 'evolve' under the Innovation value.

68/23-24 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The CFO discussed the process for the setting of the Key Performance Indicators and how these are reviewed.

An update on period 10 for 2023-24 using in year data was shared.

During discussion around the attendance figures, the Student Governor mentioned she didn't realise students could swap and that may be a factor for others. She said it was also worth making sure staff were aware of external factors that may affect students' attendance or retention.

Sue Bradley said staff did ring those learners who didn't attend and referenced maths and English. She said the learners she spoke with said they were pestered to attend and she acknowledged staff put a lot of time and energy into getting learners into class.

The Chair noted the challenges around retention and the intention to increase the target for 2024-25 and asked what more was going to be done. The DCEO explained they were looking at a university style clearing process. That way students were enrolling on the programme they wanted to and wanted to study. They were also doing more work around ensuring learners were on the right programme and advertising this more widely.

Members noted the Swap don't Drop initiative, but acknowledged that colleges were on the backfoot with the challenge of teaching a group of students who are in college because they have to be, rather than through choice to get their benefits. They understood the triple hit colleges were measured against for the measures if they did not attend a programme, it also affected English and Maths or each A level they were enrolled on.

Members commented the missing element on the KPIs was benchmarking. An annual review of current years will take place when R14 closed, but some institutions were reluctant to share.

RESOLVED: The Corporation accepted the latest update on the KPIs and would continue to monitor.

69/23-24 REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE GUIDE AND AOC CODE OF GOVERNANCE

The Clerk delivered a session on the expectations of the DFE Governance Guide and the principles of the AoC Code of Governance.

Members reviewed current activity and identified areas that could be strengthened through the Board's oversight. This would be built into the cycle of business.

RESOLVED: Members revisited the Governance Guide and the Code of Governance and identified where further oversight was required.

70/23-24 SUMMARY CURRICIULUM PLAN

The Deputy Principal provided an overview of the Summary Curriculum Plans for 2024-25 – 2025-26, highlighting key influencers.

She shared the DFE priorities and local and national skills priorities and discussed the Accountability Agreement and the curriculum plan analysis including budgetary information was presented.

RESOLVED: Members received the Curriculum Plan and discussed.

71/23-24 CURRICLUM PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE PROCESSES

The flowcharts detailing the curriculum planning and curriculum performance improvement cycles were presented to Members and discussed.

RESOLVED: The Corporation received the Curriculum Planning and Curriculum Performance Improvement flowcharts.

72/23-24 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT 2024-25 (SELF ASSESSMENT 2023-24 AGAINST THE EIF)

The Vice Principal – Quality of Education refreshed members on the expectations in relation to governance in the Further Education and Skills Inspection Handbook and their key responsibilities.

As part of an activity, they identified headline strengths and areas for improvement in DCG's education provision.

A draft summary of the 2024-25 Quality Improvement Plan was shared and discussed focussing on actions and key improvements.

RESOLVED: Members completed the Self-Assessment for 2023-24 against the EIF and accepted the draft Quality Improvement Plan.

The meeting finished at 4.00 pm