



**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATION MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2025 AT
4.30 PM IN IOT 301 AND REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS**

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MINUTES OF THE CORPORATION MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2025 AT 4.30 PM IN IOT 301 AND REMOTELY VIA MS TEAMS

Present: Andrew Cochrane (Chair), Alan Brady, Ranjit Singh Dol, Andrew Dymond, Jill Matthews, Martyn Marples, Jane McNeil, Narinder Sharma, Mandie Stravino.

In attendance: Jo Clifford, Aaron Denton, Heather Kelly, Melanie Lanser, Brian Malyan, Rose Matthews (Clerk to the Corporation)

PART ONE - GENERAL MINUTES

53/24-25 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed Ranjit Singh Dol to the Corporation and Brian Malyan, Vice Principal- Technical and Vocational Education and introductions took place.

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Blackmore, Sue Bradley, Stuart Ellis, Bismah Latif, Sophie Sanderson and Anju Virdee.

54/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, CONFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND QUORUM

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

55/24-25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2025

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2025 were formally approved as a true and accurate record.

56/24-25 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

57/24-25 CHAIR’S UPDATE – HOT TOPICS

The Chair led on key strategic discussions and updates for the Corporation, which related to a number of areas.

This included governance failings at Weston College – Members had received DCG’s response to the recommendations by the FE Commissioner, which provided assurance on practices at DCG. The Chair reiterated the need to have robust checks and balances in place.

Other areas of discussion included external board recruitment, curriculum business planning panels, automotive launch, rail engineering event, the delay with the Accountability statement, GCSE resits and teacher pay and recruitment.

The Chair had recently met with the Chair of the University of Derby and a meeting was being scheduled with the Chairs and CEOs of the local colleges.

Action Date

Evidence the College had provided to the Select Committee's call for evidence in relation to further education and skills relating to GCSE resits, teacher pay and recruitment and the impact of these issues was presented. The College had submitted its own individual response in addition to contributing to the collective response from the Association of Colleges.

The Chair handed over to the CFO who delivered a comprehensive funding update.

RESOLVED: The Corporation accepted the updates provided.

58/24-25 FUNDING UPDATE

The CFO detailed funding allocations, including growth funding, Post-16 budget grant and National Insurance grant.

Changes in 16-19 funding, T level funding rates, adult skills and apprenticeship funding were discussed.

Members noted the ad hoc nature of capital funding and the challenges it posed for long-term planning were shared.

The CFI discussed Construction and technical excellence and the College's position to take advantage of related funding opportunities.

The Chair emphasised the importance of recruiting and retaining staff, and the impact of funding on pay negotiations.

RESOLVED: The Corporation accepted the funding update.

59/24-25 REPORT FROM THE CURRICULUM PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 APRIL 2025

The Committee Chair summarised key business discussed at the Curriculum Performance Committee on 30 April 2025.

The Committee had received a detailed Organisational Performance Management Report (OPMR) report, which had highlighted improved retention rates and quality of teaching and student satisfaction.

Attendance was still an issue which stemmed from Covid. The Committee had heard that the College were making sure the wider curriculum was embedded, such as British values, transferable skills, the digital, green and environmental agendas. The new Routes programme was also discussed and an overview of the provision was shared with the wider Corporation.

The Committee Chair asked how many students this was open to. The College had budgeted 168. **He asked if the Routes programme would cover foundation apprenticeships.** It was aimed at students undertaking a full-time course, who could then progress onto a foundation apprenticeship.

MM asked if the Routes programme was DCG designed. It was.

The Vice Principal – Student Experience explained that IAG had changed this year, they had meet with careers leaders at schools and seen a spike in the number of applications that had come through.

The Committee Chair said he had visited carried out his Academic Link visit and discussed staffing. The Head had said he was fairly confident there were not too many surprises for the 31 May. He asked if that was the same in the wider college. It was explained resignations could be at any time in the year, it was not like schools – there was less uncertainty than previous years. Routes was a new team and some staff had applied internally and a manager had been recruited.

The Committee Chair also pointed out the Academic Head had said attendance at exams had been good and he was pleased to hear that mini buses were on standby for those who were absent.

Members also discussed Early Years, which had been a huge success and was no longer in intervention, along with the other academies still in intervention.

The Vice Principal -Student Experience had shared the Destinations Annual report, with 93% of leavers progressing to positive destinations. Members discussed social mobility and providing students with high aspirations, particularly in terms of university progression. **JMc said it should be the best university to meet the student's need, sometimes the redbrick universities were not the most suitable learning environment for some students.** The DFE still measured colleges going to Russell group universities and it was the College's responsibility to make students aware, some students wanted to move away from home and Derby, which was why UoD may not be a choice for some.

The Committee had also received an update on the nursery and higher education and were compliant with the OFS Conditions of Registration.

RESOLVED: The Committee accepted the report.

60/24-25 REPORT FROM THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 MAY 2025

The Chair of FRC presented a report summarising the meeting held on 12 May 2025.

The current Period 8 Management Accounts showed a positive outturn and surplus ahead of budget, although adult budget was quite tight. The financial health was currently in an outstanding position so far.

The draft Income and Expenditure budget for 2025-26 had been reviewed in detail by the Committee, who had debated the different EBITDA scenarios proposed. A lower EBITDA provided scope for the College in terms of capital spend and a better pay award offer. All scenarios modelled had 'good' financial health. The Committee following careful consideration recommended the 4% EBITDA model.

RESOLVED: The Corporation approved the draft Income and Expenditure budget and the 4% EBITDA model.

Approval was sought for the sub-contracting allocations for next year with a proposed sub-contracting budget of £1.5m, with £1.4m allocated to current sub-contractors and £100K retained in the budget. This was based on good partner performance, with positive outcomes with a strong educational rationale.

Subcontractor	2024/25 Original Contract	2024/25 Revised Contract	2025/26 Proposed Contract	Variation
Tempus Training	£500,000	£560,000	£560,000	£0
Skills College UK	£400,000	£480,000	£480,000	£0
The Construction Skills People	£300,000	£360,000	£360,000	£0
Additional allocation subject to performance			£100,000	£100,000
			£1,500,000	£100,000

There was a risk that some sub-contractors had bid directly to EMCCA, but they had all expressed interest in higher value contracts with the College. Although it was noted that may change if they were awarded direct from EMCCA.

RESOLVED: The Corporation approved that ASF contract variations for 2025-26 are awarded to Tempus Training, Skills College and The Construction Skills People to the value of £1,400,000.

Two policies were recommended by the Committee. A new policy on Sexual Harassment which was in response to the legal requirement and the Student Financial Support Policy, which had undergone a review.

RESOLVED: The Corporation approved the Sexual Harassment Policy and the updated Student Financial Support Policy.

61/24-25 STRATEGIC REFLECTION

Members reflected on how the agenda items provided assurance against the College enacting the strategic objectives and engaged in a wider strategic discussion around the challenges.

Strategic Priority 1: **Deliver Educational Excellence**

Strategic Priority 2: **Champion Social Mobility**

Strategic Priority 3: **Enable Economic Prosperity**

The Chair explained this agenda item had been introduced to focus on DCG's strategic objectives and how the College were meeting them and he referenced the recommendation from the External Review of Governance.

The Chair said in his view, from the curriculum business planning sessions, the main inhibitors of doing anything more which were out of the College's control and related to space and staffing.

Members provided feedback from their link governor visits, which provided oversight of action towards achieving the strategic objectives.

The Vice Chair said the exams were a huge undertaking with the whole of the atrium at JWC used for exams. He acknowledged the AP – Academic Studies was now overseeing English and Maths across the College. They had talked about individual subjects and the challenges in some areas. The gap was hardly there with the disadvantaged students and the EPQ was strong. The VP had raised issue during Curriculum Business Planning about capacity at JWC.

In terms of wider capacity, the automotive facility is too small, but this can't be expanded due to money and land constraints. The Deputy CEO discussed the Estates masterplan.

MM said the Routes programme was championing social mobility by early recognition to support students that are struggling. The Vice Principal – Student Enrichment said a lot of work had been done with parents on transitions days and held a special event with DCG's looked after young people who might struggle which included social workers and foster carers.

Another element is the College's teachers and the challenges some find when teaching these students. Those recruited from industry can sometimes struggle with challenging student behaviour. Routes is targeted to deal with these elements.

Members discussed links with industry and the ESBs, particularly rail and professional construction.

JM said she had seen some DCG students at the hospital last week who were promoting the College and its benefits and one DCG student volunteer achieved Volunteer of the Year .

The Corporation Strategy Day planned for 10 July was discussed, this was following on from last year when the Corporation approved the Corporate Strategy. Progress towards the strategy will be reviewed much more closely through the Annual Operating Plan and monitoring the KPIs. There was quite a bit of work taking place which should address the gaps from the external review of governance.

Clerk 30/05/25

KPIS were pretty much on track at this point in the year.

RSG asked if the College had a risk register. The Chair of Audit explained there was a corporate one which was reviewed at each Audit Committee meeting and a curriculum one. The Corporate risk register is fed into the Corporation meetings, except for May, when there is no Audit Committee. It was agreed the Clerk would send RSG the latest strategic risk report and register.

RESOLVED: The Corporation discussed progress towards the strategic objectives and accepted the KPI document.

62/24-25 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

There were no consent agenda items brought forward for discussion. The agenda items for approval had already been discussed as part of the main agenda.

All employees left the meeting, with the exception of those who attend the Audit Committee and the CEO.

The meeting finished at 6.15 pm