



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2017

Report: Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 February 2017
Author: Clerk
Action: Approve
Status: Open

Present: Ian Renwick (Chair)
Judith Doyle (Principal)
David Mitchell
Emily Cox
Josh Everest
Darren Heathcote
Christine Jones
John McElroy
Chris Macklin
Mark Taylor

In attendance: Emma Moody (Clerk)
Suzanne Clark (Minutes)
John Holt
Chris Toon
John Gray
Mark Thompson
Ivan Jepson

2006 Chair's welcome, apologies and conflicts of interest

Apologies were received from Robin Mackie, Nick Hurn, Sally Hancox, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Nadine Hudspeth. In the absence of the Chair to the Corporation Ian Renwick took the Chair.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and asked Committee members to declare any interests they may have in items on the agenda. Members were reminded to declare any conflicts that arose during the meeting.

2007 Minutes of the meeting dated 8 December 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 December 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

2008 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2009 Strategic update / horizon scanning

The Chair reported that the Governance Sub-group had met recently. At this meeting the group discussed the importance of dedicating time at each meeting to focus on strategy. A strategic update will take place at the start of each Board meeting for approximately 30 minutes (longer if needed). Report authors were advised that members will have already read the content of reports in advance of the meeting so presentation of the report would only be required if there had been any relevant changes since the report was originally circulated.

2010 Area Review outcomes and what next

The report was presented by the Principal.

THIS ITEM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT PUBLICATION.

Action: Principal to advise members when the Area Review Report is published.

The report was noted and members approved the Area Review recommendation.

2011 Strategic Plan

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

2012 Governance Update

The Clerk to the Corporation gave a verbal update.

The Clerk reported that the Governance Sub-group had met recently. The group considered the exercise completed by Governors at the October Board meeting to determine governance priorities. These fell into 3 categories:

- strategy/horizon gazing. The strategy item on the agenda is a result of this and it was felt that this had been very successful today.

- Governor representation and influence. Using networks to the College's advantage. The Clerk and the Principal will be looking at opportunities for Governors to be better represented at College events including award ceremonies. It was hoped that Governors would better represent the College through their networks, and spot opportunities accordingly.

- Training and development opportunities. Training will be scheduled across the next year to update Governors in terms of their duties and responsibilities – ensuring they are up to date with best practice and relevant legislation.

In addition to monitoring the achievement of the three above priorities, the Governance Sub-group will be looking at succession planning for Governors (in particular those in key roles).

The group will also be looking to refresh the skills audit which was completed a number of years ago to ensure that the skills of members are maximised. Members will be asked to complete / update their skills audit in the near future.

The report was noted.

2013 Budget update following securing of ESF funding

The report was presented by the Deputy Principal: Operations / Finance Director.

THIS ITEM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT PUBLICATION.

The revised budget for 2016/17 was approved.

2014 Estates Update

The report was presented by the Deputy Principal: Operations / Finance Director.

The Chair advised that this has been discussed in detail by the Corporate Services Committee. The Board was advised that planning consent is being sought from Gateshead Council at its meeting in March and subject to this being approved the College should be in a position to sign over the building on 9 March 2017. In response to a question from a member the Deputy Principal - Curriculum & Quality advised that the 15 year tie in period would not be an issue should the College need to expand. The Board was assured that the Executive Team have discussed this at length and the College can be very flexible in the use of space available across both sites at the Team Valley. Work has already taken place to make better use of the space available at the Construction Centre (Phase 1) which has been very successful. The Chair asked whether there was a break clause in the lease. The Finance Director confirmed that it is a 15 year lease with no break clause in the lease. Sevcon have asked for the ability to request an extension beyond the 15 years. It is felt that 15 years gives both parties security to plan and invest.

The Board approved the letting of the Construction Centre Phase 2 to Sevcon plc and approved payment to UK Land Estates to vary the underlying leases and use conditions of the Construction Centre.

2015 Chair's review of business

THIS ITEM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT PUBLICATION.

2016 Any other business

There was none.

2017 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 6 April 2017 at 12.30pm.