

BOARD OF GOVERNORS



WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2013

Report: Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11 April 2013
Author: Clerk
Action: Approve
Status: Open

GATESHEAD COLLEGE

Present: Robin Mackie (Chair)
Rebecca Anderson
Keith Cann Evans
Emily Cox
Sally Hancox
Darren Heathcote
Ivan Jepson
Chris Macklin
John McElroy
David Mitchell
Ian Renwick
Allan Steele
Richard Thorold

In attendance: Su Breadner
Judith Doyle
John Holt
Nadine Hudspeth
Gwyneth Jones
Emma Moody

1740 Welcome/Apologies

Robin Mackie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Chloe Barker, Catherine Dennis, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Vivien Shipley, Mark Taylor and Mick Brophy.

The Chair invited members to declare any interests on any item on the agenda. The Chair himself reminded members of his ongoing interest in the test track at Barmston, SASMI and other matters.

No other interests were declared at this stage in the meeting; however, members noted that should the direction of debate on any item on the agenda result in a potential conflict of interest, this should be indicated during the meeting. Members were also reminded to advise the Clerk of any changes to be made to the declaration of interests.

1741 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 February 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 February 2013 were accepted as a true record.

1742 Matters Arising

1723 - Training on Policy Governance/Carver

A member enquired whether there had been any thoughts about the Carver model following the presentation which had been given at the previous Board meeting. The Chair of the Corporation said that he had found the presentation confusing and thought that the College was moving in the right direction in any event. The College needed to look at its own position and there was no need at this stage to move to the full Carver model. The Chair of Governance and Search Committee thought that the Modernisation of Governance route should be discussed at the next Committee meeting on 2 May 2013. The Clerk had conducted a review of the various constitutional documents and would report findings to the Governance and Search Committee. Amendments would be suggested over the next couple of months and then be brought back to the Board.

1727 – AOC Pay Recommendations

A member enquired whether the pay negotiations had been concluded and the Principal replied that they had.

Ofsted

The Chair indicated that an update on Ofsted would be given under Any Other Business.

1743 Appointment/Ratification of New Members of Audit Committee

The Clerk advised that Anthony Garnett had resigned as a co-optee from the Audit Committee which had left the Committee inquorate. Chris Macklin had suggested that his deputy, Neil Weddle who was retiring from the NHS at the end of March 2013 would be happy to be a co-optee member of the Committee. Members of Governance and Search Committee had approved Neil's appointment and this meant that the Committee was now up to three people which was the quorum required. The Clerk explained that Vivien Shipley had also put herself forward to join the Committee, which had also been endorsed by Governance and Search and this appointment needed to be formally approved by the Board.

RESOLVED

- i) to approve the appointment of Neil Weddle as a co-optee to the Audit Committee**
- ii) to approve the appointment of Vivien Shipley to the membership of Audit Committee**

1744 Draft Strategic Plan 2013-2016

The Principal introduced a report on the draft Strategic Plan for 2013-2016. He explained that the purpose of the report was for Governors to discuss, debate and give direction to the Leadership Team. He advised that he had asked Su Breadner, Director of Human Resources and Nadine Hudspeth, Director of Marketing and Communications to attend the Board meeting as they had been an integral part of the discussions which had taken place.

The normal process was for Governors to debate a draft strategic plan which is normally a revised version of the plan developed the previous year, however it was proposed that Governors looked at the College from the point of view of what they

Agenda No: 2

wanted the College to look like over the next three to five years and then challenge the assumptions that are proposed. He indicated that the overall process of review, strategic discussion and debate was supported by five appendices which were:

- The current 2012/2015 Strategic Plan
- The five key Strategic Themes
- Environmental Scan
- The College of the Future
- Questions to Consider

There was a need to think about what a College might look like in the future. From 2013-2016 methods of learning will change and students will not just learn in the classroom as much as they used to do.

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

The College's Mission as agreed in 2010 is "Success for all through learning". The mission statement is not a promotional strap-line, but is used to inform the marketing strategy and other activities within the College. Since the last Board strategy sessions in April and July 2012 much debate has taken place around the College, with key stakeholders, key employers in the region and with governors and it had become clear that the College's USP is centred around employability and prosperity and preparing students for the best sustainable career most appropriate for them. Therefore it was proposed that given the College's commitment to this employability agenda the mission statement should be changed to:

"We will create a College which is fit for the future, built on sustainable growth and a reputation for being the best at preparing students for work and prosperity in a global economy"

The new mission statement is consistent with the Government's drive towards a more demand led FE system and their expectation that Colleges must improve their engagement and support to employers and business and develop the right skills for the employment of the future.

A member wondered whether 'global culture' should be 'global economy' and the Principal agreed that it should be 'global economy'. Another member suggested that the mission statement should have something about preparing students for more than work and prosperity, possibly referring to being prepared for life. A member commented that students learnt in different ways and the Principal replied that students could in the future learn in a virtual college which did not have buildings. He suggested that colleagues should take the proposed mission statement away and think about what changes could be made. The Chair of the Corporation thought that it needed to be broader and more expansive than a 'College'. A member said she liked the fact that 'sustainable growth' and 'the future' were included. The Chair of the Corporation questioned what 'prosperity' meant and the Principal replied that it was students being prepared to lead the successful life they wanted to lead (financial and otherwise). The Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality commented that it was a case of securing for the long-term, skills students needed for a changeable world. A member said 'constantly evolving' and 'constantly developing for the future'.

The Principal requested that ideas should be sent to him in the next month.

Agenda No: 2

A member enquired whether any students had been asked about the proposed mission statement. Nadine Hudspeth replied that the statement had not been tested but they had tested the overall Brand Review with students. The Chair of the Corporation suggested that the statement should be taken to the Student Body and Rebecca Anderson (Sabbatical President) said she would ask for comments at the Student Executive.

Vision and Values

The current Vision is to be “a college that is wholly entrepreneurial in spirit and action”. To guide the College towards the achievement of its Mission, values that were agreed and approved by the Board in July 2009 will continue to be embedded.

These values continue to inform and shape the culture of Gateshead College. They represent what the Board and the staff of the College stand for – how to undertake work and how to work together as a team of professionals. The 7 values are: Excellence, Achievement, Positivity, Purposeful, Respect and Partnership and no changes to these were proposed. A member commented that the values and behaviours needed to be fully entrepreneurial and needed something in the Values to be in line with the Mission statement. A member commented that the values needed to be embedded and evidenced in staff behaviours.

Strategic Questions

‘Do the Board agree with the 5 Strategic Priorities?’

The Principal advised that the 5 Strategic Priorities are Employability, Business Growth, Exceptional Customer Experience, Financial Strength and Culture and asked whether all Governors were au fait with them. A member replied that there were all important but said a statement about the Entrepreneurial College Spirit should appear in the Strategic Themes. The Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality thought it should be implicit around the term ‘employability’ making students more employable. A member agreed that it should be implicit, not explicit if the College wanted to be seen as different but another member disagreed and thought it was broader than ‘employability’; it was the brand inside and out, an attitude and a culture, and how the College works so she thought it should be explicit.

A member said he agreed with the 5 Strategic Priorities but he was worried that Success and Achievement were not included; everyone can have Experience but it may not be successful. Another member was surprised that there was no mention of ‘Outcomes’ and suspected it was implicit. A member commented that he was slightly underwhelmed by the statements and he thought that the College needed a stronger brand nationally and internationally and more ambition.

The Principal advised that sub-priorities sat underneath the 5 bullet points on the Strategic Themes. Success and Outcomes are there but not in the headline, although it could become more express. A member suggested having a sentence that would give a little bit more, not as long as the mission statement but which summarised the detail. Another member said having a statement that says ‘we will be the best at’.

The Chair of the Corporation commented that the last 4 could be any large corporate organisation in the world and wondered how they could be reflective of the College. A member thought that one or two strap lines could be included underneath each heading. Prospective employees should look at the website and say that Gateshead

Agenda No: 2

College was a bit different. Nadine Hudspeth advised that a lot of time had been spent by the Leadership Team working on the narrative about the Strategic Themes. They had debated about whether they told you about what staff felt. A lot of work had been done around brand and making it more bold and ambitious.

A member commented that young people were not bothered about the history of the College but would be excited by wording such as 'We want to be the best at getting people jobs'. The Principal advised that work Nadine Hudspeth had done on Brand Review and Sustainable Review had been quite telling. Gateshead College was seen as the college to come to for employability and brand. The College was competing with Newcastle College which was a bigger, vocational college which provided A levels and considerable amounts of Higher Education. Therefore, it was never going to compete on size. But Gateshead College was getting students into work and the wording used here should reflect that.

'Do the Board agree that the college should adopt a strategy to position itself as a technical/vocational college, known for delivering a vocational curriculum and no other?'

Delivery of only 'vocational subjects' ie not A levels

Another local College had dropped it's A level provision and others are considering it.

The Principal advised that if Gateshead College did not do A levels it would lose 250 students and £1m in revenue. A member enquired whether the College went further than most by preparing people for jobs that did not exist yet. She asked whether the College wanted to cater for the jobs of the future rather than just today. The Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality replied that it was a balance and wondered if young people would understand about getting a job in the future. The Chair of Academic Standards Committee commented that A levels in the College had not resulted in particularly successful outcomes and thought that dropping A levels was a serious issue to contemplate. The Principal replied that a debate would be needed within the next two months as dropping A levels would have a significant implication on staff and advertising. A member enquired whether there was secondary school provision for A level provision in Gateshead and the Principal replied that Cardinal Hume School did A levels and Lord Lawson School. A member who had attended a briefing on the Economic Review said that 65,000 jobs would be created by Skills North East and the College needed to be closely aligned to that providing quality and quantity of apprentices. The Principal advised that there would be double the number of youth apprenticeships in the region over the next two years. The Skills Funding Agency is likely to lose significant amounts of funding and this will go to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The College was in the right position as it was talking to Paul Woolston, the Chair at the North East LEP, and whenever Employer Engagement was mentioned he would defer to Gateshead College. It was too soon to know what implications the review would have in bringing the 7 councils together.

14-16 Directly funded delivery

The Principal advised that as of 1 September 2013, 11 or 12 colleges across the country would receive 14-16 Directly funded delivery. An advantage meant this programme would come with a significant degree of money (£6,000 per student) but the disadvantages meant colleges would have to be more careful about safeguarding and careful about where to locate them. A member commented that this system would work if by taking students it could help other strategies eg Mission and it was not just for the additional money. There was also concern expressed about the

Agenda No: 2

nature of the pupils that would be referred to the College for such provision. A member enquired whether Gateshead College could drop A levels and put 14-16 delivery in by September 2013. The Principal confirmed that the College could remove A levels by September 2013 but added that politically this would be very contentious. 150 AS students would need a commitment that they could finish off their A levels.

14-16 Directly funded delivery would require looking at the overall property strategy and getting staff in place. The Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality indicated that the College would get direct funding but it did not have the staff. The Director of Finance advised that Gateshead College would be going into an area of business which it did not have the skills or reputation to deal with. This would have an impact on OFSTED. A member said that he agreed with the Director of Finance and suggested that this area should not be debated until more research had been undertaken. The Principal concluded that no decisions on the matter were expected today, although the Vice Chair said he thought that the College needed to be agile in its decisions in this regard.

“Will the Board support an investment strategy to ensure the college is positioned as ‘The best for getting people into work?’”

This covered People investment; Physical resource evaluation and subsequent development Research; Innovation and Development. A member commented that he had experience of the Virginia Mason methodology; the strategy of the way they want to work. Another member indicated that it was important to invest in people and asked if staff sickness levels were monitored. The Principal replied that they were regularly monitored by Su Breadner, Director of Human Resources. The member commented that Gateshead College was the employer of choice in the region and this should be seen as a ‘key selling point’. The Director of Human Resources advised the Board about the Investors in People (IIP) standard acquired by the College. She explained that between December 2012 and March 2013 the College had been assessed against the Gold standard. The assessor had interviewed 85 members of staff whom he had selected and these included Trade Union representatives. Feedback had been received from IIP two weeks ago and they confirmed that the College had achieved IIP Gold. She advised that both Middlesbrough College and Darlington College had also got IIP Gold standard. Gateshead College had only just made IIP Gold but this had been achieved a year ahead of what had been expected.

The Chair congratulated and thanked Su Breadner on her efforts in this regard.

John McElroy left the meeting at 2.10pm.

‘Do the Board agree that the college should continue to grow in size/turnover accepting that this may return a smaller targeted surplus, at least in the short term?’

This question covered Mergers and Acquisitions; Capital Development; Franchise and Partnership Delivery; International Business. The Principal advised that Gateshead College’s current turnover was £45m and it would be difficult for it to grow in size as funding would be getting tighter and tighter, especially as regards adult provision. There was a need to diversify income streams.

In terms of Mergers and Acquisitions, Scottish colleges had been forced to merge along with colleges in Northern Ireland and Wales. It had been talked about a lot in

Agenda No: 2

England but had not happened. Mergers and Acquisitions are one area which Gateshead College could look at growing as well as cutting costs. A member enquired how this tied in with other priorities (eg the 14-16 provision and the risks associated with that) and how a change in government and senior management might impact upon it. The Principal replied that government changes were inevitable and the College needed to be flexible and agile. Mergers and Acquisitions should be looked at if they fit well with the College.

A member commented that by the College being entrepreneurial it was good at being 'fleet of foot' and having the ability to come to decisions. Another member said that being 'agile and fleet of foot' fit in with the strategy; reducing things that not doing very well in. The Principal replied that it was not just about growth for growth sake. We should think about Partnership and Collaboration as public sector funding declines and use Public funding in a more innovative way. Why do Health Care at Gateshead College? Working with others in the Health Service could be more effective? Public Service Academy is a virtual academy used in a more collaborative way for the public sector.

The Deputy Principal Curriculum & Quality said that there were "push and pull" factors that the Board needed to be aware of.

The Director of Finance commented that it was not only about growth. If we reduced Franchise Delivery the core college would be smaller. Shift from 20% -30% Franchise Partners to Direct Delivery – but there would be costs and investment needed to get there. We were eating into Gateshead College margin all the time with non-pay costs and pay awards for staff. The Chair of the Corporation advised that it was a case of ensuring that every decision made was well-founded. A member commented that fundamental to that was how things were done in the past may be very different to in the future; eg managing overheads in the future. Another member expressed the view that the case behind any major acquisition should be explored. Acquisitions should be reviewed to see whether they were a good investment or not. The Chair of the Corporation thought that disposals should be part of this process.

International Business

The Principal enquired whether the Board were still happy about going down the route of International Business. Matthew Hancock, the Skills Minister and David Willets, Minister for Universities and Science, had said that international business was providing skills to the wider world. It was a case of getting income into the College and protecting this. The Chair of the Corporation thought that the International Strategy should be managed as a project with milestones being reported to the Board in due course. A member enquired about the investment pot for the International Strategy and the Principal replied that this was reported through the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Another member commented that having agreed the International Strategy it would be a disappointment to end it.

Environmental Scan

Skills, Funding and Employer Engagement

On 3 April 2013, Matthew Hancock, the Skills Minister set out £214m investment in 47 colleges across the country, alongside plans for a more rigorous and responsive skills system which will have implications for all colleges. A new FE Commissioner would be appointed who would have significant powers to close down colleges. It was crucial that the work of Academic Standards Committee is monitored by the

Agenda No: 2

Board. It was not a case of whether the College was 'outstanding' but whether it has and continues to improve.

Future of Skills Funding

Lord Adonis had been commissioned by the Government but there was no reason to believe that what he proposed will happen. 81 of the 89 recommendations would be delivered by the LEP. The Principal advised that colleges needed to consider whether they have a LEP member for their bid. There was a FE regional representative on the LEP Board so this was advantageous to the sector.

Lord Heseltine's Review

On Monday 18 March 2013, the Treasury and BIS published their response to the Heseltine review which signals an intention to devolve 'elements' of the 19+ further education and skills budget to LEPs.

Apprenticeships

Skills Minister, Matthew Hancock, has published "The Future of Apprenticeships in England" which is the official response to Doug Richard's Review and sets out some proposals for further reform. The paper asks 24 questions with a 22 May 2013 deadline for replies. Government have decided not to go as far as Doug Richard suggests. The Principal advised that it would be a struggle to get employers to take youth apprentices (16-18) as employers do not view that age group as being ready to work.

University Technical Colleges

University Technical Colleges are a new concept in education. They offer 14-18 year olds the opportunity to take a highly regarded, full time, technically-oriented course of study. They are equipped to the highest standard, sponsored by a university and offer clear progression routes into higher education or further learning in work. The Principal advised that Gateshead College had been approached by Sunderland University about a UTC but they were also talking to every other college in the region too. LEPs will take on board what has been recommended; 30 UTCs are on the books.

Studio Schools

The Studio School is a new concept in education, which seeks to address the growing gap between the skills and knowledge that young people require to succeed, and those that the current education system provides. Studio Schools pioneer a bold new approach to learning which includes teaching through enterprise projects and real work. This approach ensures students' learning is rooted in the real world and helps them to develop the skills they need to flourish in life. Studio Schools are designed for 14-19 year olds of all abilities. They are small schools for 300 or so students; and with year-round opening and a 9-5 working day, they feel more like a workplace than a school. The Principal indicated that it was more like working in an industry rather than a Studio School.

Sponsoring Schools

The Principal advised that one or two colleges are sponsoring primary schools and secondary schools and this provides a supply chain to the college; City College

Agenda No: 2

Norwich is doing this. The Chair of the Corporation clarified whether sponsorship of schools was in name only or if it was financial. The Principal replied that New College Durham sponsored schools and the Chair of the Corporation commented that it was a good way of consolidating the supply chain. The Principal advised that the College would formally work with primary schools in Gateshead and then they would have more control over what students get to know about.

If the College sponsored a school/academy, it would become responsible for the standards and quality of educational provision and would have some control over the way in which the school was governed.

Higher Education

Higher Education has seen a decline in numbers whereas Further Education has not. Some colleges such as Newcastle College and New College Durham award their own degrees because they have gone through the process of 'higher awarding powers'. Colleges are being encouraged by Government HE Ministers to think about how to push the HE Participation agenda.

A Changing Marketplace

Since coming into power, the Government has introduced a variety of policy and funding reforms in the FE sector as part of its ambition to create a more transparent, 'learner-centric' experience for students. The introduction of the Education Act 2011 has provided loads of freedom for colleges but not much more power.

A look into the future

This related to what colleges will look like in seven years time. Some colleges could be forced to merge especially smaller colleges such as Derwentside College which has a turnover of £10m. Shared services could prove difficult as most colleges do not want to change IT systems.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

The DfE has issued statutory guidance in relation to RPA. The duty to participate in education or training applies to all young people (from Friday 28 June 2013) until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17; and from Friday 26 June 2015 to their 18th birthday. The guidance confirms two statutory duties which Colleges need to be aware of (agreed by Parliament in 2008): promoting good attendance of 16 and 17 year olds and informing local authorities if a young person aged 16 or 17 has dropped out of learning. The Principal indicated that he was not clear how this would happen; pre-16 year olds were the responsibility of their parents but not clear what was going to happen in respect of 16 and 17 year olds.

Children and Families Bill

The Children and Families Bill legislation which, among other things, abolishes Learning Difficulty Assessments and Statements of Special Education Needs and replaces them with new Education, Health and Care Plans. It also places new duties on local authorities, schools, Colleges and others.

Agenda No: 2

Labour Party Skills and Vocational Education Consultation

The Labour Party is now actively thinking about new policies for the 2015 General Election. As part of this, a Skills and Vocational Education taskforce has been established, chaired by the Institute for Education's Professor Chris Husbands.

Ofsted

More private sector boards.

A member commented that environment seemed to be a big deal these days and Gateshead College had a beautiful south-facing roof which it was not utilising. She felt that a huge environmental piece of the jigsaw was missing.

Another member commented that he thought there was perhaps a lack of consultation with stakeholders about the role of the College.

The Chair of the Corporation thanked everyone for contributing to the discussion at the meeting. The Principal acknowledged that the Strategic Themes needed to be more ambitious. He indicated that the whole purpose of the meeting was to see where Gateshead College was going. He hoped to have the draft Strategic Plan 2013-2016 signed off in June 2013 rather than July 2013 subject to colleagues availability.

The Principal suggested that the Clerk should include away days in the Board Calendar for 2013-2014.

1745 Any Other Business

Update on Ofsted

The Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality gave a verbal report on Ofsted preparations. She advised that Vivien Shipley had been very helpful in supporting the Academic Standard Committee with what needed to be done. She explained that it was nearly one year since the College had been inspected and advised where Gateshead College was in terms of success. She indicated that the College could be inspected again anytime from September 2013.

The main issue had been success rates for learners in 2009/2010 as this had shown a significant dip. *At the next Board meeting she would bring a full report on where the College had travelled over the past five years showing when and why it had happened.* College success rates for 2011/2012 had been confirmed and these were significantly better than those in 2010/2011.

In addition to success rates, they had also looked at how Gateshead College presented data to Committee members. This would result in other reports going to the full Board.

One of the tasks after the Ofsted inspection was to put an Ofsted Action Plan in place with key elements of it assigned to managers. Reports on the actions presented at full Management Team meetings. Key actions for inspection next year progressed and managers are working hard to ensure it happens. A member enquired whether the College benchmarked against national data. The Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality replied that national rates were used on a weekly basis with exception reporting and graphical information and these were showing trends of improvement.

Agenda No: 2

A member commented that the national rates were still one or two years out of date and the Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality indicated that national rates from January/February 2013 would be used from now until next year. However, there were many qualifications that did not show in that figure.

A member suggested that it would be helpful to see what 'good' looked like in terms of national data. The Chair of Audit Committee advised that at the Audit Committee meeting on 9 April 2013, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), the internal auditors, had produced a report on Quality. He felt it was one of the better external reports which provided a good snapshot in time and explained that they had held back the audit until after the Ofsted inspection. *He thought it would be worthwhile circulating the report to the wider Board.*

The Deputy Principal Curriculum and Quality referred to a Learner Experience report by PWC which covered Learner Retention and Learner Engagement. That report along with the Quality Audit report was useful but good for Ofsted as it provided an external view of what had been done since their inspection and report.

The Chair of Audit Committee enquired whether Academic Standards Committee had reviewed what it had done in response to these suggestions and the Chair of Academic Standards Committee indicated that they would need to join up with the results of the Audit. He advised that the College was not out of the woods yet but it was worthwhile noting that the Committee now meets twice a term rather than once as in the past. There was a lot to do still but there was greater clarity on data and regular information provided on what is happening. The Chair of the Corporation thanked David Mitchell (Chair of Academic Standards Committee) for his focus and he also thanked Vivien Shipley for her work too.

The Principal commented that Gateshead College was doing the right thing but not to overestimate how tough it was getting. He mentioned how City of Bristol College (turnover £68m) had dropped from Grade 2 to Grade 4 and Liverpool College (turnover £70m) had fallen from Grade 1 to Grade 4 following recent Ofsted inspections. The Chair of the Corporation suggested that trying to get Gateshead College back to 'outstanding' might be a goal but it was more important to aim for solid, sustained progress. A member commented that both Health and Education resources had been protected in the Chancellor's recent budget, however, the price to pay for having Government departments protected was the raising of the bar.

Gazelle Group Ltd

The Chair of the Corporation advised that Fintan Donohue, Chief Executive of Gazelle Global and some other people were coming up to do a presentation on the restructure plans for Gazelle Global Ltd to the Finance and General Purposes Committee (excluding him) on 16 April 2013. A decision on whether to continue investing in the company would be taken in due course.

Charge Your Car Project

The Director of Finance advised that Elektromotive were looking at purchasing Gateshead College's share of the software produced. This would go back to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and to the Board.

Agenda No: 2

Gateshead College Foundation

The Clerk advised that there was now a lack of Governor representation on the Gateshead College Foundation Board following resignations by Governors in summer 2012. She requested that if any Governor was interested in putting themselves forward to be part of this Board they should respond to her via email. The Deputy Principal and Curriculum referred to a video by a student which had been shown at the Foundation Board meeting earlier in the day, in which he had explained the difference the Foundation had made to him. *She indicated that it said a lot about why the College should have the Foundation and suggested that the short video should be shown to the wider Board.*

1746 Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting was originally scheduled for Thursday 16 May 2013 but this would need to be changed to Wednesday 8 May 2013 commencing at 12.30pm.

1747 Chair's Review of Business

- There was a lot of change coming - How the College reacted to the change was important not only as a Board but as an Executive Team
- Opportunities for consolidation and merger but not things the College could take on. How to move the College forward?
- Investors in People – a tremendous job had been done by Su Breadner, the Director of Human Resources. He advised that Su would be leaving Gateshead College as she had a new job in Edinburgh and he wished her well.
- The Quality audit report produced by PWC had been good.
- There had been sustained improvement in academic achievements.
- Support to the Executive Team.
- Governors should let the Clerk know if they could make the date of the next Board meeting as it had now been rearranged to Wednesday 8 May 2013 at 12.30pm.

The meeting then closed