

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2015



GATESHEAD COLLEGE

Report: Minutes of a meeting held on 29 January 2015
Author: Clerk
Action: Approve
Status: Open

Present: Ian Renwick (Chair)
Robin Mackie
John Holt

In attendance: Emma Moody (Clerk)

CS/17 Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of interests

Ian Renwick welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Ivan Jepson, Judith Doyle and John McElroy.

Ian Renwick reminded Committee members of the need to declare any interests they might have in the agenda items. Robin Mackie declared his long standing interest in the Barmston Court site through his occupation of part of that site via Smith Electric. This item did not arise on the Agenda at today's meeting, but was a continuing conflict.

CS/18 Minutes from the meeting dated 30 October 2014

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

CS/19 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not picked up otherwise on the Agenda.

CS/20 Management Accounts to December 2014

The Management Accounts were presented by John Holt together with the KPIs for this quadrant.

The financial position of the College had improved.

The College had under-recruited in 16-18 FE which will impact upon its figures next year. Adult Learner responsiveness was being worked on and did not pose significant concern.

19+ Apprenticeships were still behind which would impact on the second half of the year and lead to a disappointing outturn. The Nissan recruitment had made a significant difference.

Ian Renwick mentioned that the QE hospital was looking to expand its apprenticeship provision and would speak to the College separately in relation to nursing and administration apprenticeships. He declared his interest in any such discussions at this point.

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The Chair of the Corporation questioned the possibility of having a wider facility for nursing training across the North East with the College and the QE working in partnership. This could be explored through the formal links between the two organisations

It was confirmed that John Holt would arrange a discussion between Judith Doyle, Chris Toon and Ian Renwick to discuss further.

Other grant funding received by the College had improved.

In relation to expenditure, there was an increase in pay costs due to some additional temporary staff being recruited in English and Maths and also in Engineering. Pay costs will go up next month as a consequence of the 1% pay award. There was a higher reliance on partner delivery affecting the bottom line which needed still to be addressed.

The Chair of the Corporation confirmed that the Business Committee was shaping up to address these needs of the College. Whilst the Nissan windfall was good for this year, the College could not over-rely on it.

The Chair of the Committee was reassured by the figures. He was also reassured that the Business Committee was focussed on income generation.

In relation to out-turn for the year, John Holt confirmed that turnover would be in the region of £45.5 million and with Nissan funding it would be nearer to a break-even position at the year end, although this clearly presents an on-going challenge.

The report was noted.

CS/21 Capital Update

The paper was presented by John Holt.

He provided an overview of the College's current expenditure on capital account.

However, the College was looking at improving its machines and IT equipment for the benefit of its learners, particularly in light of the pending Ofsted visit. It was noted that the importance of the robust IT system could not be under-estimated.

He was therefore seeking approval of this Committee to increase the capital expenditure budget by £150,000.

The Committee agreed and authorised this additional expenditure.

There was a brief discussion after that around a possible joint commissioning of certain College services between the College and the QE, looking to achieve economies of scale.

CS/22 Gazelle Update – This item is CONFIDENTIAL and not for publication

CS/23 Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1.45 pm.

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CS/24 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26 February 2015 at 12.30 pm
[The start time was later changed to 2.30 pm]

This meeting was subsequently cancelled and so the next meeting will be held on
Thursday 26 March 2015 at 12.30 pm.