



Shaping your future

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Corporation
held on Monday 21 September 2009
at 5.30 pm in the Redwood Centre**

Action

Present:

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Shirlene Adam | Member | Apologies | Sue Popplewell | Staff Member | Present |
| Guy Adams | Chair | Present | John Rudge | Member | Present |
| Peter Avery | <i>Ex Officio</i> Member | Present | Jane Scott | Clerk to Corporation | Present |
| Cait Blumgart | Student Member | Apologies | Rob Setchell | Staff Member | Apologies |
| Garry Charles | | Present | Gill Turner | Member | Present |
| | | | Mary Tighe | Member | Apologies |
| Ann Helsby | Member | Present | Rosemary Viant | Member | Present |
| Jill Jefferey | Parent Member | Present | David Wood | Deputy Chair | Present |
| Beth John | Student Member | Apologies | Mayor of Taunton Deane | Honorary Member | Apologies |
| Hollie King | Member | Present | James Staniforth | Vice Principal: 16- 19 Studies | Apologies |
| John Lockwood | Member | Present | Jonathan Langdon | Member | Present |
| | | | Dominic Lynch | Member | Apologies |

The meeting opened at 5.31 pm and was quorate throughout.

PART 1: MEETING FORMALITIES

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence are recorded above.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of personal or financial interest in the business of the meeting.

PART II: ISSUES FOR THE MEETING

1. Members' Discussion of Performance and Target Setting

The Principal presented a summary of College performance during the 2008-09 academic year. Full information is appended in the papers to the meeting. Discussion was not only retrospective, but noted recent performance in the context of moving the College forward during 2009-10.

The following points were noted during discussion:

- The Faculty for Business and Professional Development (FBPD) achieved very encouraging results, equating to those achieved by the College in respect of 16-18 performance. This is some considerable achievement given that working with adult/part-time learners is more complex in many respects than working with the 16-18 cohort. Significant progress has been made in securing training contracts. Work towards introduction of a second foundation degree will considerably enhance provision. FBPD makes a very significant contribution to the overall success of the College and, through the profit which it makes, gives the College the financial flexibility to strengthen its overall provision.
- In respect of discrete areas of FBPD funding, the College has broken away from its arrangement with Strode College in respect of TraintoGain funding and will therefore retain its portion of the earmarked £20k. There is £50k in respect of new training packages for the unemployed, and funding for Work Based Learning and Apprenticeships is at some £330k.

There was a failure to reach the target associated with apprenticeships, but a much sharper focus in the current year will ensure growth in this area. Due to a relaxation in the rules governing TraintoGain funding, the College should see improved results during the current year and will give appropriate impetus to this area of activity.

- Members were reminded that although 16-18 achievement targets for AS had not been fully met in 2008, the results had not been poor and they had demonstrated significant achievement in terms of the residual value-added. A2 results for 2009 demonstrated considerable achievement in reaching 79% minimum target grade match (MTG) against a target of 79.5%, after re-profiling the starting point for calculation.
- Analysis of AS results indicates that the most significant factor precluding achievement of target is attributable to the loss of 15 grade matches over two identified courses. Further analysis has highlighted how the College might further refine its target setting process.
- Students entering the College have had a mean GCSE score of around 6.1, a grade B, for a number of years - meaning that targets are set with a similar starting point year-on-year.
- It is critical that the Corporation should have a sound understanding and ownership of the target setting process, reinforced right through the College from course level upwards.
- Meetings with course managers undertaken as part of the review and target setting process have thus far given every indication that course managers will not be seeking targets for less than 80% achievement of MTG.
- Members noted that changes to the recruitment pattern of students, brought about by other local sixth form presumptions, could potentially have a positive effect on overall value-added performance.
- The introduction of level two provision at the College underlines the fact that the College is not an elitist centre, and that there is considerable demand for a much wider and flexible programme of learning.

In respect of the current student cohort and targets for 2009-10, the following points were noted:

- The College anticipates between 1820-1845 students at the time of the October 2009 data collection point, in-line with funding predictions/requirements. c30 students are currently enrolled for the new level two programme. Recruitment had been undertaken in a conservative manner, and the College acknowledges that considerably more positive marketing of the provision would significantly boost numbers for subsequent years.
- The College is awaiting the outcome of a submission in respect of a Queen's Anniversary Prize and, if successful, this will be a very positive marketing tool.
- The College Strategy for Sport is moving forward very coherently, and there is considerable evidence of all strands of activity in Active Huish, competitive sport and performance sport (Academies).
- The new Career Academy initiative is building on vocational activity within the College.
- Recruitment to the AAT accountancy course falls short of expectations. However, recruitment to CIMA and ACCA courses has exceeded target. Members noted that recruitment levels may reflect current economic circumstances being experienced by business generally.

2. Sixth Form College Status

There is currently little substantive information to hand, and governors have received the latest summary. Information will be circulated to governors as and when it becomes available. The timescale for discussion/decision about the College designation is restricted as there is a requirement to respond this autumn - the decision will be scheduled as part of the business of the December meeting of the Corporation.

The Corporation noted that the creation of a new sixth form college sector will give a strong voice and corpus of opinion nationally. However, it is not clear how other local colleges will respond and how local sixth form colleges might develop their relationships with the Local Authority as Machinery of Government changes impact in the coming period. Historically, the College has not participated in a close working relationship with the Local Authority, but there are a number of benefits at stake in developing a much closer relationship: not least of these is the requirement for coherent discussion about local provision and funding.

Governors discussed a number of aspects relating to implementation of the changes in respect of sixth form designation. It was noted that the work of the College fits into the national framework through preparing students for higher education places.; the College also undertakes significant post-19 work; both factors add to the complexity of negotiations in respect of funding.

Action: Principal/Clerk to pass information to governors as it becomes available. Clerk to ensure December meeting of Corporation to include agenda item for final decision.

3. Arrangements for Governor Strategy Meeting February 2010

Arrangements are only in their embryonic stages, but members agreed that Friday 26 February 2010 be earmarked as a reserve day for the event in case contingency arrangements are required.

Action: All governors to note that Friday 26 February 2010 should be noted in diaries.

4. Any Other Business

There was no other business

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Friday 16 October 2009 at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm. The business of the meeting is to discuss the College capital planning proposal.

The meeting closed at 7.16 pm.