

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY STRATEGIC MEETING 14.09.2021

PRESENT: R Davies (CG and Chair), R Anderson (CG), A Coleman-Cooke (CG), C Cooney (CG), M Ellis (Staff Governor), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), S Lane (CG), P Lynn (CG); S Mirsalehi (CG), M McClintock (CG); P Sharp (CG), D Still (Staff Governor), P Studd (CG).

PRESENT – TEAMS: H Ashton (CG); C Cannon (EM); M Laidler (CG); S Mudd (Student Governor); S Shepherd (EM).

OFFICERS: J Chance (VP), M Coles (Acting VP); G Cumiskey (DP), Z Foster (Clerk), S Marshall (ED); K Parkinson (ED) M Russell (VP) - Teams, R Shuttleworth (Dir) J Steel (VP); M Telling (Group Dir.).

KEY: CG College Governor EM External Member DP Deputy Principal
VP Vice Principal Clerk to the Corporation ED Executive Director

1. Apologies for Absence

M Gaze (CG), S Green (EM); J Golightly (CG), A Hanif (EM); L Holdsworth (CG), A Stephenson (EM), S Wilson (EM), I Wright (CG).

2. Declarations of Interest

R Anderson declared a potential interest in relation to LSIPs.

3. Overview of Strategic Plan and Priorities for 2021/22– Z Lewis

Z Lewis gave a reminder of the strategic plan and of SLT responsibilities for the various elements of the plan.

She then detailed the QuiP priorities for 2021-22, which would be discussed at Curriculum and Standards in November; key development plans and the management of risks through a number of audits (both internal and external).

4. New Team Members Introductions

SLT members introduced themselves: Miranda Coles (interim VP for Finance and Registry), Mike Russell (VP for Finance and Registry), and Matt Telling (Group Director of Business Engagement & Partnerships).

Richard Shuttleworth (Director of IT), a new member of CMT introduced himself and gave a brief overview on the developing **Digital Strategy** which would come formally to the Corporate Services Committee at its December meeting.

5. Taking Teaching Higher – G Cumiskey/SLTT

G Cumiskey introduced the Taking Teaching Higher strategy and its underpinning evidence based theories; the teaching and learning cycle; term by term CPD to support the strategy and the quality assurance and monitoring mechanisms; Start for Success (new teacher) programme and investment supporting the strategy.

He then outlined the new Senior Leadership Team for Teaching (SLTT) and College Management Team for Teaching (CMTT) which would feed into the Curriculum and Standards

committee and introduced the new Heads of Teaching and Learning supporting the faculties in attendance for this agenda item:

- Hannah Kirton – Construction, Engineering and TTE
- Sarah Sutcliffe – VPAC, SIRS and STPS
- Andrew Heanly-Merryweather – A Levels and Sixth Form
- Lucy Jones – Health and Care, Business and Education
- Steve Donnison – Progression Studies (Head of Teaching and Learning PDBA)

Each Teaching and Learning Head detailed the first term focus and key priorities for their teams.

Governors in College were then split into groups to visit curriculum areas to speak with staff and students.

Governors on Teams read the draft Teaching and Learning Strategy discussing the findings and recommendations ahead of feeding back to the group.

Governor Feedback included: the positive nature of student engagement even at this early stage in the term; the successful use of ipads for interaction in classrooms; learners' confidence; the early engagement in relation to expectations (e.g. uniform for Travel and Tourism); generally highly positive interactions with students; and the focused atmosphere with students happy to be back in College.

Overall, governors had found the experience very positive, engaging and would like to do more of such activities. G Cumiskey suggested the possibility of optional sessions throughout the year ahead of meetings or individual visits should governors be interested in particular areas.

The Governors Teams group feedback re the Strategy: observing that the strategy was well written; aligned appropriately and gave good detail re the quality assurance processes and collaborative intent. Possible developments included: an annual consideration of the quality assurance cycle; capturing the internal delivery and referencing everything to be measured. Z Lewis confirmed that the feedback would be useful to build on at the next Curriculum and Standards meeting.

6. Context, TTE and Strategic Planning Workshops - Z Lewis

TTE

Z Lewis gave an update on TTE reiterating the preference to move to the college campus and of the latest developments including the success of the first round bid and of additional expectations in relation to costs/budget. The second round bid was due on 8th October 2021, with Governing Body approvals required ahead of that date.

She gave an overview of the TTE relocation; of the STEM training centres within the campus; the communications plan for 24 September for TTE staff, engineering staff, TTE employers and related MP and Local Authorities communications. S Lane and P Sharp would be representing the Governing Body at the day's events.

Z Lewis then detailed key dates and risks to be managed.

Governors' questions included: mezzanine additions and related complications; careful management of PR to promote move of TTE; student communication; possible opposition to relocation; current site plans; situation if DfE bid unsuccessful; STEM training centres and promotion locally; and the importance of the TTE brand.

Z Lewis then drew attention to the external environment under the umbrella of the Government White Paper – Skills for Jobs, drawing particular reference to: i) accountability measures including Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) in which R Anderson gave the local situation and complexities; ii) funding and iii) and intervention elements. She also outlined the potential

impact of government measures including the 5% savings expected on all government departments and the increase to NI.

In relation to Organisational Resilience Z Lewis gave a high level overview of income including enrolment figures for each area and resulting budget and current strategic developments.

A workshop and feedback session followed asking 3 big questions of each governor group in which common feedback themes included: the balance between seeking opportunities and/or collaboration within the competitive climate the College operates and wider government expectations for collaboration; a focus on staff investment as a priority (harmonization, retention, wellbeing and development); increasing enrichment opportunities for students to ensure leveling up and improving their experience; developing HE; International developments; capital and maintenance continued investments; increasing student support; effect of Level 3 consultations; the local economic situation generally and for FE Colleges; and overall risk management and monitoring.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

7.1 Monday 18th October 2021 at 5pm

8. Matters for Publication

No restricted matters were identified.

The presentation would be available through Board Intelligence after the meeting.

9. Any other Urgent Business

None taken

10. Reserved Matters

No reserved matters

The meeting ended at 5.05pm