

THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY STRATEGIC MEETING (Teams) - 18.09.2020

PRESENT: R Davies (CG and Chair), R Anderson (CG), C Cooney (CG), M Gaze (CG), J Golightly (CG), L Holdsworth (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), S Mirsalehi (CG), P Sharp (CG), D Still (Staff Governor), P Studd (CG), D Wade (Staff Governor), I Wright (CG); M McClintock (EM); S Shepherd (EM).

OFFICERS: J Chance (VP), G Cumiskey (DP), Z Foster (Clerk), C Kipling (VP), J Steel (VP)
A Wond (ED).

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

1. Apologies for Absence

H Ashton (CG), A Coleman-Cooke (CG), S Lane (CG), T Parkinson (CG); A Hanif (EM); A Stephenson (EM), S Wilson (EM).

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests declared

Members confirmed that they were in agreement of the session being recorded.

3. Background to the day – Z Lewis

Z Lewis introduced the session which would include a Covid update, followed by detailed presentations and questions around the Strategic Plan. After the meeting governors would have an opportunity to feedback on whether the current plan was to be amended or required a full re-write.

4. Covid Update – J Chance

J Chance gave a comprehensive review of the College's Covid 4 Stage Response plan, and highlighted that the College was currently at status 2. He updated members on the local outbreak strategic coordination group which the College was a member of; of the local position currently and of the main measures the College had in place including a communications plan for varying eventualities.

J Change then gave a confidential update on Covid cases in College and of the processes of reporting to SLT and to the DfE.

Governors' questions and discussion included: possible lag on numbers due to access in testing; arrangements for students within the 7 LAs north of the Tees Valley; and the average length of time for testing locally.

5. Strategic Plan 2018-2023 Presentation

Z Lewis gave the background to the current strategic plan including: vision and values; the position of the College at the time of developing the plan and progress over time culminating in the current position for both the College and TTE. She detailed where progress was still required.

5.1 Organisational Resilience – C Kipling

C Kipling gave a full overview which included demographics for 16 year old over time; enrolment 2020-21 for each provision type with detailed analysis of Study Programmes and Apprenticeship recruitment; TTE performance and enrolment; revenue budget and potential budget position; Financial Health update; and Capital Investment.

Governor questions and immediate feedback included: including 'growth' in the plan at this point; sufficient social spaces for students; the need to maintain Good Financial Health within the current environment; resources to manage the capital projects; IT issues/reasons and investment; wider sector funding and financial support; and further analysis and discussion on the detailed student enrolment figures.

5.2 One Team – K Parkinson

K Parkinson detailed the approach that was being taken which supported the current strategic plan and gave a full update on the People Strategy KPIs which now included TTE.

Governor questions and comments included: IT skills and training for staff in the new environment and BAME focus and actions.

5.3 One Community – J Steel

J Steel gave a full update including: detail in relation to Safeguarding and other support interventions; the new attendance process; the personal development and employability programme and an additional module in response to post Covid socialization. She detailed the priorities for the forthcoming year including online resources and digital induction which would be reviewed throughout the year.

Governor questions and comments included: student feedback regarding the online induction and monitoring of success.

5.4 One Ambition/One Commitment – G Cumiskey and J Chance

J Chance updated members on: the College's performance measures against the aim of getting into the top quartile for all provisions; of the potential national issues in relation to GCSE grade over-inflation of grades this year; and an update on the QUIP 2019-2020 .

G Cumiskey gave further detail into emerging priorities for 2020-2021's QUIP and the reasoning behind the areas of focus and a watch list for some other key areas. He further outlined emerging development priorities for all of the provision areas; attendance figures; and the work taking place to capacity build for industrial placements for T Levels; enhanced digital requirements; Adults courses update; NHS Workforce of the Future hubs; and the Teeswork Skills Academy tender.

Governor questions and comments included: A Level standards for entry and the College's approach to entry criteria; update on 2QS for HE students; numbers within the 14-16 group; and an understanding that English, Maths and A Level grades would unlikely be as high next year due to the national over-inflation of grades.

5.5 One Voice- Z Lewis

Z Lewis gave a recap on One Voice including: a reminder of the EMSI Industry Mapping exercise and the effect this had on the College strategy particularly in relation to T Levels and the new digital centre; detail of the key external environmental factors on the College both locally and nationally and drawing attention particularly to the Government White paper due out; key stakeholder communications and relations; and the overall situation in relation to the Strategic Plan with College and TTE combined.

5.6 Capital Updates – Z Lewis

Z Lewis updated the Committee on the main campus developments including; T Level Bid planning and approvals; 2QS future plans; IoT build which would be operational by September

2021; detail of the Towns Fund Bid campus plans of which the outcome was due in October; and the TTE campus development options and ongoing discussions locally.

Governor comments and questions included: possible University status and various aspects of the possible campus design.

5.7 Next Steps

Z Lewis informed Governors that an online feedback form would come out next week to gather views on the strategic plan and next steps. She detailed the two options (minor amendments or major re-write) and associated deadlines for each.

After discussion, it was agreed that there would be two further opportunities for members to discuss their views more widely; one through Teams and the other face-to-face in College.

Action by Z Foster - to arrange both sets of meetings.

Governors thanked the SLT Team for their presentation.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

6.1 Monday 19th October 2020 at 5pm

7. Matters for Publication

No restricted matters were identified.

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

8. Any other Urgent Business

None taken

9. Reserved Matters

No reserved matters

The meeting ended at 3.05pm