

**THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY DEVELOPMENT SESSION 21.02.2024**

PRESENT: R Davies (CG and Chair), R Anderson (CG), I Anwar (CG), M Cameron (Student Governor), J Castor (CG), A Coleman Cooke (CO), T Edgcombe (Student Governor), M King (CG), S Lane (CG), Z Lewis (Principal/Chief Executive), P Lynn (CG); M McClintock (CG), S Mirsalehi (CG), A Pajura-Jaszczak (Staff Gov), P Sharp (CG) I Wallace (CG), L Woods (CG),

OFFICERS: A Adamson (VP), Z Foster (Clerk), S Marshall (ED); K Parkinson (ED), B Robinson (DP), O Rodley (VP), M Russell (VP).

KEY: CG College Governor	CO Co-opted Governor	DP Deputy Principal
VP Vice Principal	Clerk to the Corporation	GD Group Director

1. Apologies for Absence

S Brown (CO), D Budd (CO), C Cannon (CO), M Gaze (CG), M Lamb (CG), D Lusardi (CG), S Shepherd (CO), D Still (Staff Gov), J Tait (CG), I Wright (CG)

2. Declarations of Interest – R Anderson in respect of the LSIP

3. Tees Valley Business Board Update

I Anwar (replacing S McCardle) gave the background to the Tees Valley Business Board which replaced the LEP. He outlined its independent, intelligence led, innovative and integrated role and detailed the strategic framework to ensure delivery of a high growth inclusive economy via the five pillars (all with specialist Board members leading) of inward investment, business growth, education, employment and skills, clean, green growth and Science and Innovation and Technology, underpinned by the creative and digital economies and transport and infrastructure.

Governors' questions and discussion included: the resources at the Business Board's disposal which were via a TVCA budget; clarification that there would be an education specialist within the 'education, employment and skills' pillar (an announcement on this was due) and colleges potential involvement in that area; clarification on the role of TVCA on and with the Business Board; how intelligence was sought from the wider business community and related wide network of Board members to support this; the role of the mayor with the Business Board and of the potential effect of any variance of views between the two; the importance of transparency with the new Business Board as it develops and the governance structure and process cycle determined; how the different organisations within the area would be connected (and the ongoing work with this) and how decision making was determined; and the importance of the role of FE+ with the Board with regards to education and skills development problems and potential solutions.

R Davies, thanked I Anwar on behalf of the Governing Body.

The Annual Report 2022-2023 (*due within Item 5*) was taken next with Governors invited to give their views on the 2022-2023 annual report with some amendments **agreed**. Subject to those amendments the Middlesbrough College Annual Report was **approved** for publication.

Z Lewis confirmed that the 2023-2024 version would come to the December meeting next year.

4. LSIP/LSIF Progress Update

Rachel Anderson gave a brief background to the LSIP for new governors and by way of a reminder for all.

She then detailed the activity to date including the the Chamber of Commerce's engagement role with the LSIF projects and respective College leads of the various projects.

The changes as a result of the work (thus far) were also outlined (including the role of the College particularly in relation to specialist welding skills, developing mock hospital wards and care facilities to allow for more practical learning and retrofit provision).

R Anderson drew attention to the work still to do which included developing a greater provision (for CPD) in professional services; more widespread digital provision (e.g. bootcamps); the issue of work experience; and more industry tutors. She also outlined the deep dives which had been funded for the LSIP specifically the best practice mechanisms for shared participation and delivery of qualifications and apprenticeships for the Tees Valley.

Finally, the next steps were shown which included a review and refresh process; further dialogues with providers and stakeholders to address gaps; how the LSIP fits in the with Business Board and the possibility of a round 2 LSIF all amidst a climate of government election.

B Robinson shared a live map of how the College was addressing the recommendations.

Questions and discussion included: the juxtaposition of employer wishes for soft skills against the qualification reform which was predominantly exam based; the Advanced British Standard application; the potential timescales should LSIF round 2 go ahead; the involvement of the charity and volunteering sectors; the potential use of work experience to increase confidence and communication and other ways students could develop these skills (e.g. through the mock hospital ward use, or via the curriculum) and the role of employers; data on the jobs for young people within the retail sector which had changed significantly (with a diminishing town centre of shops and rise of zero hours contracts) and the rise of hospitality part time roles replacing this.

R Davies, thanked R Anderson on behalf of the Governing Body.

5. **Our Partners Update**

Z Lewis gave a brief reminder of the strategic plan and then focused on stakeholder engagement and relations with the College (sharing information on the status of those relationships).

Via a workshop session and supported by various relevant documentation (including the current accountability statement), governors discussed the numerous stakeholder relationships the College currently held and how these might be further developed.

Curriculum Review

Z Lewis reminded governors of the statutory requirement for tri annual curriculum reviews for local areas highlighting the process for the review (including the involvement of Chairs and Vice Chairs of all the local colleges) which would result in approvals by all constituents in June/July ahead of formally reporting annually through the accountability statements. The Curriculum Review FE+ College Collective booklet which gave full detail of the review was shared.

Governor questions and discussion included: the timing of the review and positive collaboration amongst the FE+ colleges; the high level nature of the exercise; potential consideration of course viability should significant and unnecessary duplication be an issue against a backdrop of wider curtailment with national curriculum reform.

Ofsted Reflection

R Davies, on behalf of the Governing Body thanked the SLT and everyone involved with the inspection of 6th – 9th February 2024 which resulted in the fantastic outcomes.

O Rodley gave some key headline feedback on the inspection, highlighting the real team effort across the College to ensure strong evidence and triangulation. The final report would be published within 30 days of the inspection (with a draft likely within two weeks).

SLT members highlighted various aspects and of the next steps to build on over the forthcoming two-three years.

Z Lewis invited governors to attend the staff photo on 8th March and detailed the forthcoming Wellbeing Day on 22 March to thank all staff for their efforts.

6. **100 Russell Street Acquisition**

M Russell and Z Lewis gave a comprehensive account of the acquisition developments since the December meeting, as detailed in the comprehensive suite of papers shared ahead of the meeting.

Z Lewis highlighted the specialist knowledge and support of S Brown (Co-opted Governor) in the process.

Questions and clarifications included: when the school was due to vacate the building and options should this be delayed (and reasons why it was currently delayed); the process of legally moving the use of the building to education and any potential risks should this not be granted (with general consensus this risk was low); terms of the grant should things change; confirmation there was no breach of Managing Public Money (MPM) regulations; the current suitability of 2QS and of upgrading due to occur; and carparking options and potential early developments.

Recommendations

The Governing Body members present then unanimously **gave approval of** the following recommendations (which were part of the report issued ahead of the meeting):

- the Principal / CEO, Chair and / or Vice Chair of Governors use of the College seal to complete the acquisition of 100 Russell Street and related lease arrangements with Department for Education and/or Outwood Riverside school, subject only to final receipt of £3.7m of Levelling Up Funding from Middlesbrough Council;
- authorisation for the Principal / CEO, Chair and / or Vice Chair of Governors to sign the two Levelling Up Partnership Fund grant offer letters relating to i) £3.7m Russell street acquisition grant and ii) £2.2m contribution of various internal projects as previously reported
- the decision to “opt to tax” the Property; and,
- Authorise and direct appropriate officers of the College, in particular Michael Russell (Vice Principal Finance and Registry) to take any and all actions necessary to action the foregoing resolution, including the completion, signing, and submission of form VAT 1614A to HMRC

And also **fully agreed** to a further approval:

- To give delegated authority to Z Lewis, R Davies and S Brown should there be an opportunity to acquire further land around the site under quick timescales (at market value or below) and within the budget identified for car parking within our existing capital plans.

7. Safeguarding and Proclaim

A Adamson updated the Governing Body on the Ofsted Inspection of College Safeguarding which was considered effective as were all Safer Recruitment measures and activities.

She then gave a comprehensive update on Safeguarding incidents over the academic year so far. She also reminded the Governors of the responsibilities of staff within the College which included Governing Body members.

Prevent responsibilities were then shared again, and notification of the UK threat level of **Substantial**. Detail of the regional and local threats and risks were then drawn out explicitly.

A Adamson then outlined the PROCLAIM (Providing Rich Opportunities for Children who are Looked After in Middlesbrough) two year project which would be launched on 22 March 2024 through the Virtual School involving 26 schools and 3 colleges nationally of which Middlesbrough College was one and which would provide a range of supportive CPD for all staff through a variety of means. Further updates would be shared with the Governing Body.

8. Matters for Publication

The full presentation was made available in the Governance Hub for reference immediately after the meeting.

9. Time and Date of Next Meetings

- Monday 18 March 2024 5pm for Ordinary Governing Body

Post meeting note - **A reminder that a student-governor meet would be taking place at 4.15pm ahead of this meeting with high attendance encouraged.**

- Saturday 11 May 2024 12-4pm for Strategic Planning Session

10. Any other Business – none taken

The meeting ended at 8pm