1. Apologies for Absence

R Anderson (CG), H Ashton (CG), T Parkinson (CG), I Wright (CG), J Hatfield (Student Governor), S Green (EM), A S Shepherd (EM), A Stephenson (EM).

R Davies welcomed M Laidler to his first meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

- none declared

3. Introduction – Z Lewis

Z Lewis introduced the Development Day agenda. She then gave an overview of the Strategic Plan 2018-2023, and the positive progress from where the College was in the past, in relation to the key areas/risks/opportunities outlined in the plan. She drew particular attention to:

Positives:
- the strong and improving positions of both Finance and Quality
- Improvement to College reputation with ‘good’ Ofsted and better transition arrangements and marketing leading to increased trust with schools and parents
- Staff – where the College was coming out of difficult times and staff stability was greater
- IoT which could be a significant opportunity

Areas of Risks:
- Apprenticeships where a greater focus remained
- the new Inspection Framework agenda and increased focus on attendance, behaviour and wellbeing.

Additionally, she alerted governors to the external factors (both local and national) impacting on the College both in terms of risk (non-levy funding for apprenticeships; specialist staff for engineering and possible 16-18 devolution) and opportunity (Augar Review; devolution of AEB).

Discussion and questions included: That the Prissick funds had been received in July thereby improving the financial position and financial health which was moving to the top end of ‘good’ and possibly further in the future; IT infrastructure digital competency and possible savings; whether the current Capital Spend was sufficient; accommodating greater numbers of students and how this would be achieved; recruitment figures to courses.

4. Enrolment and Finance Update – C Kipling

Enrolment key messages included:
- That 16-18 recruitment was up against plan which was promising for future years progression and discussion on demographic effect and lagged funding
- Adults recruited strongly as had ESOL
- Adult English and Maths, whilst slow, was likely to be as plan
- Adult Learner Loans – applications hadn’t mirrored enrolment and HE growth was not as high as anticipated
- Apprenticeships where there was confidence in exceeding the budget
- The increasing numbers of 16 year olds within the region and the fact the College had increased its market share
- That overall enrolment generally was an improved position against a prudent plan
Finances:
- For 2019/2020 the budget position would be maintained and detail of the likely VAT cash rebate was outlined along with potential future court ruling
- for 2020/2021 it was expected that the position would be much improved against plan and that this would continue thereafter
- It was hoped that the pay award could be increased to 3% in 2020/2021
- Projections at this stage suggested that the College would be in ‘outstanding’ financial health by the end of the plan and that potential changes to the financial measures in 2021 may benefit the College further.

Questions and discussion included: whether the College recruited from outside the area – whilst not significant at the present time this is improving; retention and possible issues with forthcoming cohorts due to school exclusion rates.

After discussion, the Governing Body approved the release of Phase 2 Capital Spend of £512,856.

5. Quality KPI Overview – J Chance
   J Chance gave a comprehensive overview which included:
   - a review of the QUIP from the start of 2018-19 against outcomes 
   - that study programmes were more consistent and were in the top quartile nationally; as were A Levels and Maths and English for GFE colleges leading to an overall good position
   - that the College was performing well against local providers (DfE tables 2018) for study programmes
   - that the Adults provision was improving in all areas (overall by 4%) with the exception of English high grades which was lower for adult in-fill study programme learners
   - An Apprenticeships overview including 4% improvement on retention and the hope for stronger attainment results 2020 but remained amber currently
   - In terms of quality Study Programmes, Adults and HE were all green which was pleasing

Discussion and questions included: various aspects in relation to Apprenticeships; the challenging Functional Skills Reform and marking and grading for GCSE November resits

6. Apprenticeship Update – G Cumiskey
   A comprehensive overview was given which gave detail on all key apprenticeship areas in relation to Timely, National Rate, predicted Timely and Retention; the consistent structure going forward and student support changes in relation to attendance and the new EIF. A report would go to Standards Committee in November as a result of consultant work by the inspector from Ofsted last year.

Discussion and questions included: National Rates and retention; the complexities of end point assessment; external risks affecting achievement and outcomes within apprenticeships (e.g. employers, subcontractors); market share in Tees Valley – approximately half with 16-18 FE colleges with Middlesbrough College being the largest; and intent in relation to geographical spread – currently ½ Tees Valley with the remainder in the North East and very little outside the region.

7. Curriculum Intent (Workshop)
   The workshop was introduced by Z Lewis who gave an overview and background to the curriculum intent of the College which included: stakeholder influence and how this has improved over the last two years; demographics, competition; reform; national and local networks and context.

   Z Lewis introduced the pre-reading on: context; policy reform; Middlesbrough College curriculum intent and the Local Provision review.

   Governors gave their views on the surprises within the pre-reading which included: that the Area Review Process would be opened again and what that might result in; that LA’s were also competitors; the drop in employers giving employees time off for study; breadth of the downside re T Levels; no transition for reform; high needs funding was LA provided; that measuring attendance wasn’t easy; that the DfE and that Ofsted use different methods to measure destination.
Governors’ feedback on the questions issued for table discussion included the following points:
- Increased understanding of offer of Level 3 over 1 and 2 including specialist pathways and progression
- Locally based reasons for high numbers in some course areas (e.g. Health and Care)
- The impact policy reforms would have on the College including students, staff, employers and quality measures
- Reasons for lower level entry (though this had been increased) for A Level students and a full discussion on the effects of that on students; the College and non-financial benefits and external factors involved in retaining the provision including increased demographics

Further debate centered around: employers understanding of reform changes and what the College was doing about that; T Levels more generally including the impact on students who had jobs; support for employers; tracking; and achievement rates; decision making about which qualifications remain; the effects of student and parental voice in curriculum decision making (e.g. for A Levels and Mix it Up); maintaining the quality of teaching and learning; providing a truly comprehensive general FE provision and the benefits and rationale for doing so.

8. Local Provision Review Discussion
Z Lewis gave some background to inform the discussion about the forthcoming review of the Tees Valley and Durham provision due to the intervention at Hartlepool by the FE Commissioner. Additional historical information from the last review was given by both Z Lewis and R Davies.

*MGaze gave her view on the Local Provision Review discussion as she left ahead of the final debate.*

Discussion points centred around:
- The perception of the College by other providers and the impact of this on review discussions
- That serious approaches of collaboration should be considered
- That there could be some positive impact on other colleges and areas as a result of the review
- That there was capital investment available but no revenue as had been the case previously
- The potential risks of not engaging were discussed including Adult Devolution decisions and potential 16-18 devolution
- Future local provision was discussed including the new secondary school; 16-18 demographics in the area; HE provisions locally and the College’s HE provision
- The positive impact of focusing on the main aims of the College over the recent year which increased Governors confidence in staying independent

After significant discussion, including the risks and evidence associated with large groups and mergers, the Governing Body agreed that its focus must be on the continued development of the College Strategy. The Board agreed that is preference would be to stand alone as an independent College but to be open to collaboration if approached with serious intent by another party that could add to our strategic intent.

9. Closing Session
R Davies and Z Lewis thanked attendees for their input into the session.
*It was agreed to put workshop 2 on HE and Apprenticeships on to February training event.*

10. Dates of Next Meeting – R Davies
These were confirmed as per the original calendar of meetings with the next on 17th October 2019.

11. Matters for Publication – R Davies
The slides from the presentations would be on the Governing Body Training/Strategic Days Shelf in Board IQ as soon as possible.

12. Any other Urgent Business – none taken

13. Reserved Matters – none taken

The meeting closed at 7.40pm