

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2020 10:00am

Present:

Chris Brown	External Governor	Chair
Andrew Wolfe	External Governor	
Dawn Whitemore	Principal	
Jane Wilson	External Governor	
Mark Walker	Staff Governor	
Lorraine Smalley	Staff Governor	
Bob Kelly	External Governor	
Maddie Kennedy	External Governor	
Jenny Shackleton	External Governor	
Geoff Guy	Staff Governor	

In attendance:

Catherine Duro	Vice Principal Corporate Services	Interim Clerk
Lisa Craddock	Vice Principal Business Development	
Simon Kibble	Vice Principal Curriculum & Quality	
Vanessa Scales	Vice Principal Human Resources & Organisational Development	
Sylvia Royle	Vice Principal Resources	

Apologies for Absence

141 Apologies for absence were received from; Josie Fraser, Joanna Harrold, Matt Humphrey, Miles Brown, Simon Ashworth and Peter Jordan

Declarations of Interest

142 No declarations of interest were received beyond the standing register of interest.

To accommodate guest speakers and ensure decisions were covered the order of the agenda was revised.

The Spinney and King Street

Nigel Gell and Russell Rigby were welcomed to the meeting.

143 Russell presented his paper detailing the actions that had been taken to market the Spinney site, since the Corporation gave the instruction for it to be sold. Governors were reminded of the timescale, dictated by the planning permissions. The governors were informed of the market interest, that some suppliers had done significant research into the site and were ready to make a viable offer.

144 The offers received were detailed, confidentially, for the Board.

145 The Board was reassured by Russell's knowledge of the market, local area and potential buyers. Thanks were given to Dawn, Nigel and Russell for their proactive, tenacious approach.

146 A governor **challenged** the Board to **assure** itself that the sale of this piece of land remained appropriate for The SMB Group. A **robust discussion** followed. All **agreed** that it aligned with the Group

strategy and that an investment plan should be developed to ensure the funds were invested strategically for the group. **(Action – DW/SR)**

147 **Resolved** that the recommended offer (confidential) be accepted and Heads of Terms drawn up as soon as possible to progress the sale of the Spinney.

148 The Board received an update on the King Street site. The background was detailed and the options to bring the lease to an end explored.

149 **Resolved** that the lease be surrendered at zero net cost for the college and to support the town and community

Nigel Gell and Russell Rigby left the meeting.

Minutes

150 The minutes of the corporation meeting held on Wednesday, 26 February were approved as an accurate record, for signing by the Chair.

151 The minutes of the corporation meeting held on Wednesday, 20 April were approved as an accurate record, for signing by the Chair.

152 The decision and action tracker was reviewed. All actions were on track.

Principal's Waiver

153 The Principals Waiver report was considered. The need for a greater number of waivers, within the application of the Business Continuity Plan, was explained and governors had the **opportunity to challenge** these. The Board was **assured** that where Principal's waiver was applied the college had historic market knowledge or they were critical contracts, where quotes/tenders weren't possible due to lockdown.

Tigers RFC MoU

154 A draft MoU detailing the longer term relationship with Tigers RFC was received. **Questions** were asked about the geographic restrictions. The background and reasons were **explained and understood**.

155 **Resolved** that the MoU with Tigers RFC be approved.

Elite Sport

156 The partnership agreement with Future Elite Sport was considered. It was agreed that there was no appreciable risk but opportunity for growth in Sport, international students and HE.

157 **Resolved** that the Future Elite Sport partnership agreement be **approved** for signing.

Sponsor Update

158 The Link governor gave a brief update on the schools response to Covid19. The Corporation was **assured** that the financial impact on the school was minimal, and appropriate actions were being taken to enable the delivery of remote learning, vulnerable learners were being supported, safeguarding remained

a priority and was being appropriately managed. The board was **informed** that the school was creating a detailed reopening plan and working with the sponsor within the service level agreement to access the support required.

159 Governors thanked the link governor for the update and asked for further updates to be provided to future meetings.

Management Accounts

160 The management accounts were received and the key points relating to the first 8 months of the year detailed. The forecasted adverse variance caused by Covid 19 was **discussed** and the mitigating actions summarised. The Board was **assured** that the position was understood and that more detail would be shared at future meetings. The Board was **reassured** that the Group had entered the lockdown in a strong position.

Strategic Update – Working party feedback

161 The Chair gave feedback from the output of the working party held earlier in the day.

162 It was noted that; the Governors understood the reasons why the Group financial health score was now forecast to be RI; the risk to bank covenants had been discussed and was understood; the level of savings and mitigating actions the group would need to take had been discussed and challenged at length and were understood, the need to be agile in offers, teaching and learning had been discussed at length and the challenges and opportunities of blended delivery debated; the commercial challenges and opportunities had also been discussed.

163 The Board had been **assured** that the executive team was working on a remobilisation plan, prioritising groups who needed contact to complete their qualifications. Governors were **assured** that every activity would be risk assessed and understood that this took time.

164 The Board was **reassured** that the Chief Executive would not seek to open any area of the college until they could be confident that the safety and welfare of staff and students could be safeguarded.

165 **Resolved** – following review and debate at the working party the three year strategic plan was approved subject to periodic review.

Date of Next Meeting

166 The next meeting, to be a special meeting for a COVID impact and response update, will take place at 9.00am on Wednesday 10 June 2020,