

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CORPORATION

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2020 13:00

Present:

Chris Brown	External Governor	Chair
Dawn Whitmore	Principal	
Josie Fraser	External Governors	
Mark Walker	Staff Governor	
Lorraine Smalley	Staff Governor	
Jenny Shackleton	External Governor	
Simon Ashworth	External Governor	
Miles Brown	External Governor	
Matt Humphrey	External 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

187 Apologies for absence were received from; Maddy Kennedy, Andrew Wolfe, Peter Jordan, Bob Kelly, Jane Wilson and Geoff Guy

Declarations of Interest

188 Simon Ashworth declared an interest as the college's current subcontractor is a significant client of his employer. He was able to consider the paper to sub-contract generically but not if the specific subcontractor was to be debated.

Subcontracting

189 The Paper was presented and the background details expanded upon.

190 The Board was reminded of the value of subcontracting being requested for approval.

191 Questions were invited

193 A governor **questioned** if there was a robust process in place to ensure that quality was maintained and the necessary checks and balances were in place, delivering the strategic priority for quality and ensuring consistently high standards across all college activity

194 The Board was **assured** that the due diligence checks were detailed to provide assurance on establishing the quality of the sub-contractors the college engages with.

195 Governors were **further assured** that from a quality perspective all subcontracted provision was subjected to the same process that all wholly delivered provision was subjected to. This was

allowed for in the contract. A quality assurance file was kept on each subcontractor. Nothing had arisen in existing work to flag any existing quality concerns with the contract extension proposed.

- 196 A further **question** asked how realistic it was to identify a provider to deliver this value this year and if they are not met what are the implications for the Group.
- 197 The Board was assured there was no intention to deviate from the strategic journey. Skills Network support this. Skills Network were adamant that they would not take on any additional work if they weren't able to roll over as quality delivery could not be secured in the time allowed. This position gave the executive team confidence in the subcontractor's practices and integrity.
- 198 Skills Network had a waiting list and had advised they could deliver this contract increase. By giving them a contract and trying to deliver the budget the College had taken no risk and taken action to mitigate an existing one.
- 199 A governor **asked** if the contract and proposed delivery would fit with the curriculum strategy. The majority are health and social care distance learning, which complemented college distance learning and delivered in an area with a national skill shortage.
- 200 The Board was **assured** that national delivery of distance learning was not a new approach for the college group, fit with the curriculum strategy and quality of provision was assured.
- 201 The Board was **assured** that historic practice showed the college had one framework assessing quality and that all students were seen in an equal manner with an equally robust quality assurance process, including national delivery. Indeed further engagement and strategic gains should be sought from national delivery of courses and apprenticeship.
- 202 Final questions were invited.
- 203 **Resolved** that the additional subcontracting for 2019/20 and subcontracting for 2020/21 be approved.

Date of Next Meeting

- 204 The next meeting, will take place at 10.00am on Wednesday 8 July 2020,