



MINUTES

It was _____ that the appointment of Mrs Sharon Martin as a Member of the Board be ratified.

Mrs Sharon Martin was welcomed to her first Board meeting as an Independent Governor.

Apologies for absence had been received from Professor George Holmes, Chris Ball and Fardean Farooq.

The Chair reminded everyone present to declare any interests that they may have on matters to be discussed. Standing declarations were noted particularly in relation to the University of Bolton reciprocal governance arrangements and also paid positions.

Members were reminded that starred items on the Agenda would be taken as read rather than being presented. However, Members could ask questions of the report author, or ask for any item to be unstarred for full discussion.

There were no requests for items to be unstarred for discussion.

The minutes of the meeting held 9 November 2021 had been previously circulated to members for consideration.

It was _____ that the minutes be approved as a correct record and authorised for publication (Part A).

Members had received a summary of actions arising/outstanding from previous meetings, noting that all actions had been completed.

It was _____ that the matters arising be noted.

Members had received the minutes of the meeting held 18 January 2022

It was _____ that the minutes be received as detailed.

Members had received the minutes of the meeting held 19 January 2022

It was _____ that the minutes be received as detailed.

The Chair of the Board noted the discussions around English and maths that had taken place at both the Resources and Standards and Performance Committees and invited Board members to raise any questions.

The Chair of the Standards and Performance Committee noted the disappointing English and maths results, that had been discussed at length during the recent Committee meeting, and acknowledged that a large number of learners arrived at the College without English and maths GCSE's which reflected a wider issue of concern.

The Director of Curriculum, Employer & Student Services provided the following update on English and maths:

- x The position required contextualising with Bolton being under lockdown/local restrictions more than others within Greater Manchester.

- x Following the MIDES -0.0TJBDC 0.0d9 17.A6 0 Td(t)1BT/Lw 1.5 04 Tm(T)aR3.0 (f)-M(T)e(t)1BTand i

supporting ()i02 (f)-M4Tj/TT0 1 Tf (f)en()

- x W (2aR3ul)6 (d)-10 (O)2 (f)-8 (R3-6 (t)-8 (ed)-10 (s)-5.9 (ee)-10 (C)6 (O)-8 (V)-9 (l)-8

Section 28 Designation Review:

The ESFA and FE Commissioner's Office had made a review visit one year into the merger. The College had received notification of the 3 year review that would take place on 22 and 23 March. It was envisaged that the Chair of the Board and Committee Chairs would be invited to take part in the review.

Staffing, Recruitment & Pay:

The College faced the challenge of recruiting to key areas due to higher wages being offered within industry. Although the College had experienced challenges it had still made good quality recruitments. The long term concern was T-Level staffing for next year.

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- x Why has the Advanced Learner Loans Bursary been reduced to £67k?

The bursary is an allocation given to the College and the reduction was put in place by the funding body. The College has put in a growth bid for an additional £20k.

- x Is the reduced period to self-isolate helping?

There has been no marked difference noted yet, with the majority of cases still testing positive past day 5-6. There has been no significant delivery loss or impact due to isolation since the return in September.

It was

- x The proposal included a similar pay deal in April 2023. The proposal from April 2023 would be to increase the lowest paid staff to £10 an hour and include another tapered pay award.

The pay award for this year had been budgeted for in the forecast whilst the College retained a strong cash position. A revised forecast would be shared with the Resources Committee and Board following LEO2.

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- x What is the view from Union representatives on the proposed pay award?
The headline thoughts on the pay award have been shared with Union representatives who were receptive and understood the context that the College was operating in.
 - x Has there been any news on the impact the increase in utility bills will have on colleges?
The AoC were lobbying the government with benchmark information provided by colleges, which may be part of the reason behind the increase in funding rates. 17(e b)4t-o1-0.00

The Assistant Vice Chancellor (Planning & Student Experience) (UoB) presented the College KPI Dashboard, which detailed the key sustainability indicators and those indicators on areas monitored by the ESFA. The main areas of risk related to English and maths had previously been discussed at length.

It was _____ that the College KPI Dashboard be noted.

Members had received and reviewed the Annual Modern Slavery Statement for publication on the College's website.

The College was not required under Section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to publish an annual statement setting out the steps the organisation would take to prevent modern slavery in its business and in its supply chain as its annual turnover was below £36m. However, it had produced a statement in order to demonstrate its commitment to eradicating modern slavery.

It was _____ that the Annual Modern Slavery Statement (to be signed by the Chair) be endorsed.

Members had received and reviewed the draft College calendar of meetings for 2022/23.

It was _____ that the Calendar of Meetings 2022/23 be approved.

The Chair thanked Sharon Martin and Rameen Ambar for attending the Board meeting.

The dates and times of future meetings were noted as follows:

Tuesday 5 April 2022 at 5.00pm

Resources Committee – Tuesday 22 March 2022 at 5.00pm

Standards & Performance Committee – Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 2.00pm

Audit Committee – Thursday 24 March 2022 at 5.00pm

Search & Governance – Tuesday 21 June 2022 at 5.00pm

Remuneration Committee – Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 4.00pm

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 6.58pm

5 April 2022