

SOLIHULL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CENTRE

MINUTES OF THE CORPORATION MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24th JULY 2017 AT THE BLOSSOMFIELD CAMPUS

PRESENT: John Bolt (Chair)
Stan Baldwin
Scott Beasley (Student Governor)
John Callaghan (Principal)
Jane Coleman
Mark Hayes
Barbara Hughes
Joe Kelly
Paul Large
Lucy Lee
Keith Marriott

IN ATTENDANCE: Heather Evans (Vice Principal Finance)
Pete Haynes (Vice Principal HR and Student Services)
Theresa Lynch (Clerk to the Corporation)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Summiya Khan, Sukhdeep Nijjar, Geraldine Swanton, Sally Tomlinson, Liz Watson, Lindsey Stewart (Deputy Principal) and Beth Selwood (Vice Principal Teaching, Learning and Assessment).

2. Declarations of Interest regarding this Agenda

There were no new declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th July 2017 and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

4. Stratford Upon Avon College (SUAC) Merger Update

Elements of this item were deemed confidential.

The Principal provided an update and explained that the consultation document was being tabled. It was agreed that the final version would be circulated to all governors and any issues raised via email and Chair's Action would be taken to approve it.

Feedback from the first phase of financial due diligence was provided. KPMG had provided verbal feedback and the draft report for a meeting that had taken place on 21st July 2017.

Major potential issues that could have an impact on the decision to merge were discussed.

Detailed discussion took place regarding the relative financial positions of the two colleges and the implications. Discussion took place regarding investment requirements and curriculum provision.

It was noted that the site referred to as Masons Road had been used for construction programmes, but was currently unused. The lease for the site would end soon, so a decision as to whether to renew would shortly be required.

The Chair explained that SUAC governors would be invited to visit Solihull College and University Centre in September and arrangements were being made.

Discussion took place regarding staff at each college and it was noted that a cultural audit would help to unlock any issues and address them. Generally, it was felt that staff were positive about the merger.

Statutory Corporation conducting the College

It was noted that the business name of the college: Solihull College and University Centre had been approved by the Secretary of State in November 2015. The business name was now being used broadly for all College work and it was suggested an application be submitted to the Secretary of State to change the name of the statutory corporation conducting the College to reflect the business name.

RESOLVED to agree that the name of the Corporation be changed from Solihull College to Solihull College and University Centre and formal approval be obtained from the Secretary of State.

5. Property Update

The Vice Principal Finance explained that the sale of TGH was planned to take place by the end of July 2017. She provided an update on the financial position regarding the sale.

It was also noted that demolition of the Student Residences was imminent and the work on the Sports Centre roof would take place during the summer break. Tenders for the replacement car park had been requested.

6. Whistleblowing Policy

The Clerk to the Corporation presented the revised Policy and explained that the College Legal Adviser had reviewed the Policy and suggested the changes identified.

RESOLVED to approve the Whistleblowing Policy.

7. Sub-contracting

The Vice Principal Finance explained that the Supply Chain Fees and Charges Policy needed to be published on the College website by 1st August, however, guidance from ESFA regarding changes had not yet been received.

It was **agreed** that the Supply Chain Fees and Charges Policy be approved by Chair's Action, due to the late publication of ESFA guidance.

8. Membership and Register of Interests for Governors and EMT

The membership list and register of interest for Governors and EMT was noted for information.

The Chair noted that the self-assessment questionnaire being circulated by Halesowen College was due to be submitted by 26th July. Governors were asked to respond.

9. Dates of future meetings

The dates of meetings for the Autumn Term 2017 were noted.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm.

Signed:  Date: 9 Oct 2017.

