

**HILLS ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
Corporation**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 June 2015

Present:

Corporation Members Peter Southwick (Chair), Edmund Brookes, Jonathan Culpin, Uvini Edirisinghe, Ian Harvey, Anna Moore, Edna Murphy, Johnnie Sam, Linda Sinclair (Principal), Julie Taylor, Frankie Williams.

Clerk to the Corporation Robert Smith.

Observers Jill Aberdour (Assistant Principal: Resources), Dave Jones (Assistant Principal: Planning and Quality), Jo Trump (Deputy Principal), Francesco Dernie (Student Observer).

1 Apologies for Absence and Quoracy

The Clerk to the Corporation reported that apologies for absence had been received from the following members of the Corporation: Hazel Borrett, Peter Brindle, David Secher.

The meeting was quorate.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made in relation to the business to be transacted.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 25 March 2015

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the business transacted, and *prima facie* evidence of the proceedings to which they relate.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 March 2015

None.

5 Draft Minutes of Committees

The following draft minutes were received for information:

Search and Governance 6 May 2015

6 Strategic Plan 2014-16: Interim Review (Paper C 14/37)

An interim review prepared by the Assistant Principal (Planning and Quality) was received and considered.

The original Plan was approved by the Corporation in April 2014. It was noted that since then there have been developments in the funding environment, namely:

- no inflation uplift is being applied to 2015-16 funding allocations, the national funding rate having yet again been frozen (with little prospect of inflation uplifts resuming soon);
- an unexpected funding loss of circa £140K for 2015-16 (only) as a result of a technicality within the transitional funding mechanism;
- the loss of most of the College's funding for Adult Education, a reduction of more than £100,000;
- the new SFCA pay structure from September 2016 will initially increase the annual pay cost by just under £30,000;
- increases in the employer contributions for the Teachers' Pension Agency, will cost £100,000 per annum with effect from September 2015 (in addition to the increase in employers' National Insurance Contributions previously announced which will cost £150,000 per annum with effect from April 2016);
- continuing additional costs towards the past service deficit of the Local Government Pension Scheme of around £30,000 per annum;
- agreement to enter into a loan with Barclays to facilitate the Phase V building programme with annual interest of circa £35,000;
- additional software purchased to provide much needed support to curriculum, guidance and examinations which has cost £100,000 with ongoing costs of around £20,000 per annum;
- an announcement by the Government that they cannot afford to remedy the iniquitous VAT situation, which has removed any vestigial hope of being able to reclaim the £300,000 per annum that this costs; *and*
- a modest large programme funding uplift will apply in certain circumstances from 2016-17 (which is likely to provide the College with circa £80K extra per annum towards the cost of 'fourth A levels').

The net negative impact of these and other budgetary changes on the College's 'bottom line' since April 2014 together with the increasing reliance on variable income streams such as adult education, lettings and the sports centre necessitates some adjustments to the parameters used for the College's Option C strategy.

It was further noted that following the May 2015 election, prospects for the curriculum has been clarified. Much of the development work undertaken during the last three years by DfE and Ofqual has now been crystallised, and the College curriculum will undergo the following changes:

- from **2015** there will be new linear A levels taught in English language, English literature, English language and literature, biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, art and design, business studies, computing, economics, history, sociology;
- from **2016** there will be new linear A levels taught in modern foreign languages (MFL), ancient languages, geography, religious studies, drama and theatre studies; dance; music and physical education; *and*

- from **2017** there will be new linear A levels taught in mathematics, further mathematics and all other eligible subjects.

As part of these changes to linear A levels, the status of the AS is changing. Unlike current AS levels the new qualification will not contribute towards the final A level grade, but will be a stand-alone qualification in its own right typically taken at the end of the first year of sixth form study. In all subjects, it is designed to be co-taught with the first year of the A level. The first assessment of the new AS levels is planned for June 2016. As planned in the College's Option C strategy, all students will be entered for AS examinations in June 2016. Beyond 2016 it is not envisaged that students undertaking new linear A levels will continue to sit AS examinations, although the College will keep this decision under review.

Therefore students undertaking courses with the College during these next three 'hybrid years' will be assessed differently depending on which subjects they have chosen.

Additionally several subjects will be withdrawn from the College's curriculum offer, some with effect from 2015 and some with effect from 2016 or 2017. These include Archaeology, Accountancy, Electronics, Performance Studies, Use of Maths and World Development.

It was proposed that in response to the above, especially the funding changes, some relatively modest amendments to the College's 'Option C' strategy are now necessary to supplement a range of other cost-saving measures, incorporated below:

Parameters for Option C	2013-14	2017-18 April 2014	2017-18 May 2015	Approx gain £K
Enrolments (Y12)	1040	1110	1120	£40K
Students (Y12 & Y13)	2010	2190	2200	
Number of Y12 AS/A subjects (Double Maths counting as 2 of 4/5 subjects)	4 5 with DM	3 for 70% 4 for 30%	3 for 75% 4 for 25%	£30K
Proportion taking Extended Project	100%	70%	100%	-£35K
Average Y12 set size	21.7	21.7	22.0	£30K
Subject periods per week	4	4	4	
Standard weekly teaching periods	19	20	20	
Projected operating surplus	£220K	£100K	To follow in July*	

It was commented that, in the context of an indicated £450m reduction in public funding of the sixth form sector (equating to a 17% cut over five years), further impacts on the College's Strategic Plan are anticipated, but await

crystalisation. An increase in the participation age was observed to sit oddly with this funding strategy.

7 Development Agendum: Wellbeing Strategy

A paper setting out some early thoughts on the creation of a new whole College wellbeing strategy was received and discussed as a development item for the information of members with a view to providing an opportunity to discuss the new draft Mental Health Programme, and a briefing on the College's duty under the Children and Families Act 2014 and Special Educational Needs Code of Conduct.

8 Development Agendum: Prevent Strategy

A paper setting out the context and background of the Prevent Strategy was received and discussed as a development item for the information of members and included a report on the College's current progress in this regard (including the development of a comprehensive Prevent Strategy) and Ofsted's inspection and intervention powers.

9 Property Strategy Phase V (Paper 14/38)

A paper prepared by the Estates Bursar was received.

It was noted that:

- the new bin store and cycle storage were completed with the latter being officially opened at the end of March;
- the main work on the new building commenced on 30 March but was delayed by the discovery of asbestos though this will not affect the final completion date of 8 April 2016;
- monthly comprehensive cost control reports are prepared by Bremner Partnership, cost consultants, the most recent report indicating that just over £12,000 of architect's instructions have been agreed with a further £18,000 pending, with the further call on contingency having been estimated at a maximum of £32,000 (£122,000 thereby remaining in contingency);
- regular monthly meetings take place between the Estates Bursar and the contractor with daily contact as necessary for operational issues; *and*
- a recent internal audit on Phase V planning yielded 'substantial' reassurance.

10 Schedule of Policies Due For Review 2015-16 (Paper C 14/39)

A schedule of policies which are due for review during the 2015-16 academic year was received for information.

11 Membership and Chairing of Committees

Members approved to following resolution:

THAT, Committee membership and chairing arrangements for the 2015-16 academic year and successive years be delegated to the serving Chair of the Corporation.

12 Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee (Paper C 14/40)

The Terms of Reference, prepared by the Clerk to the Corporation and previously considered by the Audit Committee, were approved.

13 Schedule of Meetings 2015-16 (Paper C 14/41)

A schedule of meetings for the 2015-16 academic year, prepared by the Clerk to the Corporation, was received for information.

14 Any Other Competent Business

None

15 Date and time of next meeting

To be confirmed. Otherwise, Monday 13 July 2015 at 6.30pm