

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATION HELD AT 5:00 PM ON THURSDAY 13 JULY 2023 IN THE BOARDROOM AT NEWCASTLE COLLEGE

Present: Alan Aston, Tracy Bullock, Jeff Dutton, Martin Earnshaw, Craig Hodgson, Gareth Jones, Mary Jones, Steve Jones, Simon Leech (Chair), Bernard Lovatt, Jeremy Pert, Lesley Rollason, Jim Rowley, Francis Tunney

In attendance: Shelley Brown (Director of Curriculum and Performance), Ian Hookway (Director of HR and Communications), Carl Riding (Director of Estates and Facilities), Debbie Torjussen (Director of Finance and Corporate Services), Lisa Saville (Group Accountant), Joy Smith (Deputy Clerk)

PART ONE

23.2.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Andy Bailey, Lesley Morrey and Jason Lancaster.

23.2.2 Declarations of Interest

Simon Leech, Gareth Jones, Craig Hodgson and Debbie Torjussen all declared an interest as non-remunerated directors of Axia Solutions Ltd and Gradbach Ltd. Gareth Jones and Jeremy Pert declared an interest as members of Stafford Borough Council.

23.2.3 Election of Chair

Gareth advised that Simon Leech's term of office was due to expire and he confirmed that Simon has indicated that he is happy to continue.

Simon was proposed, seconded and in the absence of any further nominations was re-elected Chair of the Corporation for a two year period.

23.2.4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2023 - Part 1

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

23.2.5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising, all issues being included in the agenda.

23.2.6 Minutes of the Committee Meetings

- Education & Standards Committee: 29 June 2023

Lesley referred to the tabled minutes and advised that in advance of the meeting there had been a tour of the new build for all members. Members noted that it has been agreed to hold one meeting per year at Stafford. Shelley had provided a curriculum update where members had noted the very positive predicted achievement rates along with generally very good attendance and retention. Shelley had advised that 100% attendance is the expectation and she had provided examples of the various ways in

which non-attendance is followed up. Members had been pleased to note that applications for September are looking very strong.

Shelley had gone on to talk about the Ofsted planning activities with faculty staff and Lesley confirmed that governor training is currently being planned. Members had already received the dates for the QoERs and Learning Walks for next year and Lesley very highly recommended that everyone take part in one of these if they can find the time in order to gain first hand insight into College life and help prepare themselves for Ofsted.

Members had noted that challenges remain in recruitment in adult education and higher education but plans are in place to boost this. We have a very challenging target of 347 for T Level recruitment but applications are strong. The issues that rose in the QoER in Maths and English had been discussed and members had noted that these subjects have been reinstated within the curriculum areas at Stafford providing better integration and management.

23.2.7 Principal's Report - Part 1

1.1 - Awards Events

Craig referred to the two main student awards events that had gone extremely well and he thanked those Governors who had joined us and supported the students.

Regarding the apprenticeships awards event which was hosted by Staffordshire County Council, Craig advised that 37 of the 70 apprentices were from NSCG which provides a sense of the proportion of our activity in this market.

The HE awards event had also gone well and Craig added that we are developing our HE activity and will look to grow it more and more as we move towards the IoT.

1.2 – Other Student Successes

Craig was delighted to report on the various student success stories and events that have taken place at the end of a really busy academic year. Alan added his appreciation to the Performing Arts staff and students for all their hard work and the amazing shows and performances staged throughout the year.

2.1 – Outstanding Contribution Awards

Craig advised that two events were held to recognise the Outstanding Contribution winners at each site and he thanked Simon for giving up his time to help us in what is a lovely event to end the academic year.

3.1 – NSCG Experience Days

Members noted planning for next year is well underway with one of our key activities being Experience Days, held on each site, when we invite prospective students to come in and experience life at NSCG and learn a bit more about what they will be undertaking from September. Craig was very pleased to report that the events in June had gone really well with strong attendance at both campuses.

3.2 – A Busy Year

Craig thanked everyone for their support over the past year and advised that we are now heavily focussing on our preparations for a possible Inspection next year. He reiterated the importance of governor involvement in the process and advised that we will make every effort to ensure that members are fully prepared in readiness.

23.2.8 Student Financial Support Policy 2023-24

Debbie advised that this is an update on the previous policy incorporating an increase in the threshold household income to £26k.

After consideration the Student Financial Support Policy 2023-24 was approved.

23.2.9 Proposed Calendar of Corporation and Committee Meetings, 2023-24

Members considered and approved the calendar of meetings for the forthcoming academic year.