

Special FE Corporation Minutes

Meeting held on Thursday 25th November 2021 at 6.20 pm via Teams

Governors: Rachel Beeken, Stuart Blackett (Corporation Vice Chair and Chair of the Capital Group), Subhash Chaudhary, Phil Cook (Chief Executive and Group Principal), Louise Davies, Martin Gray, Dot Smith, Anne Vickers, Mark Wilson and Gary Wright.

Officials: Jason Faulkner (College Principal Redcar and Cleveland College (RCC)), Phil Hastie (Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure), Gary Potts (Group Vice Principal Business, Innovation and Partnerships), Fiona Sharp (Group Executive Director Finance), Kay Taylor (Group Director of HR), Sarah Thompson (Clerk to the Corporation) and Sam Young (Governance Support Officer).

Apologies: Fabienne Bailey, Sam Beel, Aaron Calvert, Paige Costello, Katy Ludgate, Rob Mitchell, Jen Vanderhoven and Mark White (Corporation Chair)

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate and that, in the absence of Mark White, the Corporation Vice Chair, Stuart Blackett, would chair the meeting.

21/95 **Agenda Item 1 – Clean Energy Education Hub Business Case**

The Corporation Vice Chair, also Chair of the Capital Group, confirmed that the business case circulated was the culmination of much hard work by the Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure, College Principal RCC and a team of staff and consultants; the Outline Business Case had been considered in detail at the last Capital Group meeting and had the full support of the group's member.

The Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure outlined the development of the business case for the Clean Energy Education Hub (CEEH) which, if approved by the FE Corporation, would be developed into a Final Business Case and submitted to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council for Redcar Town Deal funding on 1 December. He confirmed that there could be some amendments to the wording and further detail added in relation to the strategic rationale and the detailed building costs and designs but that the overall costs of the project and planned outcomes would not change. Full approval for the project was anticipated in early 2022, followed by detailed design, planning and procurement.

The Corporation Vice Chair highlighted that the Capital Group had been unanimous in their support for this project, which capitalised on the growing opportunities in this sector and the drive to make Teesside a clean energy hub.

A governor asked if the risks of construction labour shortages had been considered and the Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure confirmed that this, as well as the shortage of materials and cost inflation, had been identified as key risks. Advice had been sought from experienced professionals, such as Richard Shaw (Gennorth) and Ian

Davies (AA Projects), along with Hall and Partners as Quantity Surveyors, with all believing that the project would be deliverable to the timescales and cost windows; mitigating actions would also be put in place.

Gary Wright joined the meeting.

A governor reiterated the unanimous support of the Capital Group and commented on the social value and environmental priorities met by the project but asked about the possible impact of construction work on RCC students. The Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure explained that work would, in the main, take place outside the building and at the back of the college which would minimise disruption. In one area, the build would break into an existing classroom but this work could be scheduled over the summer period when students were not in college. He added that there was greater potential for disruption from the T Level funded project but that the majority of this work was planned to take place over the summer. The College Principal RCC thanked the governor for their pertinent question and confirmed that plans to minimise the disruption to students had been considered at a design meeting held that morning. He added that there was scope to manage any delays, as the facility was planned to be operational from January 2023 but recruitment to full study programmes was only planned for the 2023-24 academic year.

Governors fully supported the project and **agreed** the submission of a Final Business Case to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council in relation to the Clean Energy Education Hub project at Redcar and Cleveland College.

The Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure thanked governors and confirmed next steps; the Clean Energy Education Hub and T Level projects would be run in parallel and the Capital Group would next consider the contractor procurement process.

21/96 Agenda Item 2 – Any Other Business

There were no items of additional business.

21/97 Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Documents for Public Inspection

It was **agreed** that the agenda be made available for public inspection; the report for agenda item 1 was considered commercial in confidence. Minutes would be made available following approval and consideration at the next meeting.

21/98 Agenda Item 4 – Date, time and venue of next meeting

Thursday 9 December, 5.30 pm, Redcar and Cleveland College H202 (subsequently changed to online (Teams) meeting).

(The meeting ended at 6:35 pm)

Approved at a meeting held on 9th December 2021