

FE Corporation Minutes

Meeting held on Thursday 7th July 2022 at 5.30pm, The Eye, Stockton Riverside College

Governors: Fabienne Bailey, Rachel Beeken, Sam Beel (Staff Governor), Stuart Blackett (Corporation Vice Chair and Chair of Remuneration Committee and Capital Group), Subhash Chaudhary (Chair of Audit Committee), Phil Cook (Chief Executive and Group Principal), Rob Mitchell (Chair of Search and Governance Committee and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Link Governor), Dot Smith (Chair of Standards Improvement Committee), Anne Vickers, Mark White (Corporation Chair), Mark Wilson and Gary Wright (Safeguarding Link Governor)

Apologies: Paige Costello, Louise Davies and Katy Ludgate

Officials: Phil Blewitt (Managing Director NETA), Jason Faulkner (College Principal, Redcar and Cleveland College), Lesley Graham (College Principal, Stockton Riverside College), Phil Hastie (Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure), Patrick Jordan (Interim College Principal Bede), Erika Marshall (Group Director of Marketing), Fiona Sharp (Group Executive Director Finance), Kay Taylor (Group Director of HR), Sarah Thompson (Clerk to the Corporation), Peter Wood (Interim Group Director of Quality) and Sam Young (Governance Support Officer).

Fabienne Bailey, Rachel Beeken, Sam Beel, Stuart Blackett, Anne Vickers and Mark Wilson joined the meeting via Teams.

Mark White declared the following interests: member of Unison (agenda item 2.2 and 7) and Chair of the Thornaby Town Deal Board (agenda item 8)

The Corporation Chair welcomed Patrick Jordan, Interim College Principal Bede, to the meeting.

22/66 Agenda Item 1 – Strategic Update

The Chief Executive and Group Principal presented a verbal strategic update focused on the themes of quality, finance and reputation. He highlighted that the recent strong Ofsted inspection report, circulated to governors, reflected the high quality of provision. In terms of finance, he confirmed that the Group Executive Director Finance would report on this in detail during the meeting but added that current pressures were staffing and the rising costs of consumables. He concluded by confirming that the group's reputation locally, regionally and nationally remained strong.

The Chair asked the Chief Executive to pass on the Board's appreciation and thanks to staff for the Ofsted inspection outcomes. Governors **noted** the strategic update.

Agenda Item 2 – Finance

22/67 2.1 – Finance Update

The Group Executive Director Finance presented the circulated finance update; the next College Financial Forecasts Return (CFFR) was due for submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by 31 July 2022 and would be completed using the financial information presented

under agenda item 2.2. A supporting commentary would also be prepared and governors would be asked to approve the CFFR for sign off by the Accounting Officer.

In light of imminent changes to Corporation and group leadership, the Group Executive Director Finance outlined proposals for subsidiary company director appointments. As the Etc. Chief Executive and Corporation Chair were currently directors of both Stockton and Billingham College Developments Ltd (SBCD) and Tees Valley Training Ltd, it was proposed to replace Phil Cook and Mark White with Grant Glendinning and Stuart Blackett, the incoming Chief Executive and Chair. She added that Steve Cossins, the current Chair of Tees Valley Catering (TVC) Ltd, was stepping down and that Phil Cook, also a TVC director, would resign his directorship on leaving Etc.; the Group Executive Director Finance and the Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure would remain as TVC directors and consideration was being given to the appointment of additional TVC directors, including possibly one governor.

The Group Executive Director Finance confirmed that NETA Training Trust activity would cease on 31 July 2022, with potentially all directors and charity trustees stepping down with the exception of the Etc. Chief Executive; Phil Cook would be replaced as a NETA director by Grant Glendinning as part of the Chief Executive handover. [REDACTED]

The Group Executive Director Finance then outlined proposed changes to signatories for bank mandates with Grant Glendinning to replace Phil Cook as signatory for both Etc. and NETA Training Trust as part of the handover process and Phil Hastie and Fiona Sharp to remain as signatories for TVC.

Governors **approved**:

- i) submission of the CFFR on the basis of the financial forecasts provided at agenda item 2.2;
- ii) the proposed changes to subsidiary director appointments and bank mandates.

Rachel Beeken joined the meeting.

22/68 2.2 – Financial forecasts and 2022-23 budget

The Group Executive Director Finance presented the circulated 2022-23 budget and 2023-24 financial forecasts and highlighted that these had been considered in detail at the Finance and Employment Committee meeting held on 22 June. Since this meeting, there had been a number of small variances between the budget lines. There was only one significant change to highlight; an additional [REDACTED] ESFA Tuition Fund above the level included in the draft budget had recently been confirmed. This had been offset by an assumed increase in the pay award [REDACTED] The budget assumptions included in the budget for 2022-23 had been detailed in the covering report and a draft forecast for 2023-24 had been formulated at a high level by the Senior Management Team (SMT) for inclusion in the forecasts to be submitted to the ESFA. A range of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) had also been included in the report and Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rated; the Group Executive Director Finance highlighted that [REDACTED] cost efficiencies would continue to be sought through the Business Planning / Performance Review (BP/PR) process.

In response to a governor's question about the likelihood of any industrial action, the Group Director of HR confirmed that this was deemed unlikely. Arrangements for the pay award for 2021-22 had recently received agreement from both the University and College Union (UCU) and Unison

representatives and would be subject to a ballot in next few weeks; she added that employee relations at Etc. were positive, with a close dialogue and working relationship maintained with the two recognised unions and no current issues to flag.

Governors discussed the unknowns caused by rising inflation and funding pressures and [REDACTED] a possibility of staff being attracted out of the sector. The Group Executive Director Finance commented that the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) employer contribution rates could potentially increase [REDACTED] from April 2023 following the triennial evaluation, which would add to pay costs; as the level of the increase was currently unknown, this was not included in the 2022-23 budget and any impact would be addressed through the BP/PR process.

The Group Executive Director Finance highlighted that forecast year end cash balances were still in a good position [REDACTED], with expenditure associated with the major capital programme built in and projections made to the end of each project. [REDACTED]

A governor asked about opportunities to increase Adult Education Budget (AEB) income. [REDACTED]

In response to a governor's question about negotiations with Cleveland Cable for the NETA Pennine Avenue lease, the Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure explained that these were ongoing, with Cleveland Cable currently awaiting information from UK Land. [REDACTED]

Governors **approved** the revenue budget and capital budget for 2022-23 and financial forecasts for 2023-24.

22/69 Agenda Item 3 – Quality Update

The Interim Group Director of Quality presented the circulated report covering progress against 2021-22 quality KPIs for attendance, retention and expected achievement, quality of teaching, learning and assessment, learner voice and data on formal complaints for 2021-22. The four Group Improvement Plans (GIPs), updated following PR9, had also been circulated for information.

The Interim Group Director of Quality outlined Ofqual's proposal on grade boundaries, intended to reflect a mid-point between 2021 teacher assessed grades and pre-pandemic 2019 grades. It was anticipated that this would result in fewer A and A* grades at A Level in 2022 and therefore comparisons would need to be made carefully. Internally, students had been well prepared for exams and it was expected that results would compare favourably with national rates (NR). [REDACTED]; the Interim Group Director of Quality added that the Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills had recently announced a vision for apprenticeship standards achievement to reach 67% by 2025. The Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure highlighted that the group was being kept updated on the Department for Education's (DfE's) modelling for apprenticeship accountability measures.

A governor commented favourably on apprenticeship retention [REDACTED]; they also commented on how the responses from Learner Survey 2 reflected the Ofsted grade outcomes [REDACTED] The Interim Group Director of Quality agreed that the internal feedback from learners matched what they had told Ofsted inspectors.

Governors **noted** the update and that discussions and plans were underway to acknowledge and celebrate the strengths recognised by Ofsted whilst moving forward on areas for improvement.

22/70 Agenda Item 4 – Higher Education Strategy Update

The College Principal SRC, strategic lead for Higher Education (HE) and Skills, presented the circulated report updating governors on recruitment for 2022-23 and predicted outcomes and learner voice for 2021-22. [REDACTED] The College Principal SRC highlighted that HE provision continued to be impacted by COVID in both HE and FE institutions.

The results from the internal student survey, based on the same nine categories as the National Student Survey (NSS), had been very positive, with 97% overall satisfaction. The College Principal SRC [REDACTED] was pleased to give a verbal update on the outcomes of this year's NSS, completed only by final year students, which had been published the previous day. These had been much more positive, with overall satisfaction at 90% [REDACTED] and outcomes exceeding the previous year's in all nine categories. She added that a detailed analysis would be presented to the Standards Improvement Committee at their autumn term meeting. The College Principal SRC commented on the department's strong focus on the student experience and highlighted that these NSS results had rewarded the hard work of the Group Head of HE and Skills and the whole team. The Chair advised governors that he would contact the Group Head of HE and Skills to pass on the Board's thanks.

The Chair of the Standards Improvement Committee explained that, given the importance of the survey in the HE sector, she was delighted with the NSS results. She added that strong results often attracted students and would expect these outcomes to compare well regionally. In response to a governor's question about local comparisons, the College Principal SRC confirmed that Etc.'s results were broadly in line with local HE providers but that Etc. had scored particularly strongly for assessment and feedback. In response to a governor's question about recent HE recruitment activities, the College Principal SRC confirmed that both the SRC and RCC events had been well attended, with good levels of interest, but as UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) applications dropped by this time of year, activity was now focussed on converting applications to enrolments.

Governors **noted** the update on the quality of HE provision and the verbal update on the recently published NSS results.

Agenda Item 5 – Safeguarding, Prevent and Welfare Update

The Corporation Chair reminded governors of their statutory duty for safeguarding.

22/71 5.1 – Safeguarding Update

The Interim Group Director of Quality presented the circulated report providing an update on evidence from Learner Survey 2 on the impact of the work of the Student Support and Wellbeing department, data on vulnerable learners and a national update on the local child safeguarding practice review in the case of Child Q. The report also confirmed that there had been no referrals to Channel since the last Safeguarding report and contained the most recent data on alert referrals by the e-safe online monitoring team. Compliance data for mandatory staff training and information on management of the Single Central Record (SCR) had also been included in the report and demonstrated that safeguarding was well embedded across the group. [REDACTED]

The Safeguarding Link Governor commented on the positive update and the importance of governors' roles in safeguarding. He added that it had been pleasing that the Ofsted inspection report had provided assurance on the impact of the student services team and thanked the team for their work. [REDACTED] The Safeguarding Link Governor commented on recent data showing a rise in suicides particularly in young males in the Teesside area and the Interim Group Director of Quality agreed to share this with the student services team.

Governors **noted** the update and that the group continued to deploy effective and impactful safeguarding and welfare services to students through a dynamic and proactive strategy of student support and wellbeing.

22/72 5.2 – Behaviour Management Policy Review

The Interim Group Director of Quality presented the circulated Behaviour Management Policy and explained that the minor amendments proposed had been detailed in the covering report. He highlighted additions to the Partnership Stage of the Behaviour Management Process to raise awareness of the potential impact of adverse childhood experiences on behaviour in line with the group's aim to become a 'trauma informed' organisation and added that the August staff development days would include training on this.

A governor commented on the comprehensive policy and suggested that the section on alcohol and weapons could be strengthened to read 'must' rather than 'should' and that a flowchart for the five stages of the behaviour management would also be useful. Governors **approved** the Behaviour Management Policy for publication on the internal SharePoint site and the relevant group websites, subject to inclusion of these suggestions.

22/73 Agenda Item 6 – Students' Union Constitution

The Interim Group Director of Quality presented the circulated Students' Union Constitution and Bylaws; the Clerk highlighted Bylaw 3, which set out a requirement for the Students' Union Board of Trustees to include a nominee of the FE Corporation and, at the request of the Chair, agreed to circulate information to governors after the meeting.

A governor asked if the group and local level students' unions would be governed by the same constitution and bylaws and, having confirmed this would be the case, the Interim Group Director of Quality agreed that the wording of the constitution would make this explicit, rather than an assumption. In response to a governor's question, the Interim Group Director of Quality confirmed that student self-organisation would be encouraged with the aim of developing an autonomous Students' Union in the longer term.

Governors **supported** the development of the Students' Union and **approved** the Students' Union Constitution and bylaws, subject to the clarification agreed.

22/74 Agenda Item 7 – Annual Great Place to Work Update

The Group Director of HR presented the circulated annual Great Place to Work update and explained that an update was presented at each Finance and Employment Committee meeting, with this report providing the Corporation with a summary of the year's activity. The update had been presented under the seven underlying themes of the strategy and demonstrated that they

provided a robust framework in which to report progress as the group embraced the emerging modern ways of working.

The Group Director of HR explained that she had received a question from a governor in advance of the meeting enquiring whether the volume of Etc. and college job adverts on social media was as a result of recruitment issues. She confirmed that labour turnover was broadly in line with the previous year but that there were recruitment issues across the further education sector with particular pockets of difficulty. The group had over 30,000 followers across social media channels and advertised widely through these, including using the hashtag WorkWednesdays; staff were also encouraged to share vacancies through their networks to increase exposure and reach as wide an audience as possible. She added that staff recruitment would remain a focus particularly given current pay pressures

A governor commented on the impressive headline results from this year's staff survey, with staff satisfaction mirroring student satisfaction, demonstrating that being a Great Place to Work also benefited learners. The Group Director of HR highlighted that high response rates to staff surveys was a focus of the Voice and Representation strand of the strategy; the survey carried out in December 2021 had a 90% response rate with a three-year improving trend of responses in Quartile A.

Governors **noted** the Annual Great Place to Work Strategy update.

22/75 Agenda Item 8 – Capital Projects Update

The Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure presented the circulated report giving an overview of and update on major capital projects in line with the group's Estates Strategy. [REDACTED]

The development of the Clean Energy Education Hub (CEEH) and related T Level developments at RCC were also progressing as planned, with work commencing on 6th June and a ground-breaking event on 17th June. Through the process agreed with governors, Britcon had been selected as the main contractors; [REDACTED]

Following the DfE's approval of the original Post-16 Capacity Fund application for the Bede project, Surgo had been selected as the main contractors through the process agreed with governors. [REDACTED]

In response to a governor's question, the Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure confirmed that the Bede project was expected to meet date targets, with work ongoing with planners to ensure funds would be expended by 31 March 2023. He added that governors would be invited to attend the ground-breaking event on 22 August.

A governor asked whether noise and disruption for students from the demolition work at Bede could still be mitigated by ensuring the work happened over the summer, given the delays in receiving planning permission. The Group Executive Director Planning and Infrastructure explained that the intention was still to avoid demolition work running into September, with the intention to start demolition of the rotunda as soon as possible in the summer holiday period; any risks involved in delays to planning permission would be assessed and communicated to the Capital Group.

Governors **noted** the update [REDACTED]

Agenda Item 9 – Corporation minutes and actions

22/76 9.1 – Minutes for approval

Minutes of Corporation meetings held on 28 April and 12 May 2022 were formally **approved** as accurate records of the meetings.

22/77 9.2 – Confidential appendices

Confidential appendices to the minutes of Corporation meetings held on 28 April and 12 May 2022 were formally **approved** as accurate records.

22/78 9.3 – Matters arising

The Clerk confirmed that progress had been noted against each action and added that, given that Sue Everton, the Student Support & Wellbeing Manager: Safeguarding & Welfare, had presented at the recent Governors' Workshop, the Corporation Chair had agreed that there was no requirement for her to attend a formal Board meeting. Progress against actions was **noted**, with all actions due completed.

22/79 Agenda Item 10 – Committee / subsidiary board minutes and recommendations

10.1 – Tees Valley Catering Board, 17 June 2022

The Group Executive Director Finance highlighted that the meeting had been Steve Cossins' last as Chair of Tees Valley Catering (TVC), after 25 years involvement with the group and its subsidiaries. She added that directors had noted TVC's positive financial position and that the meeting had been attended by the recently appointed Group Head of Estates, Edward Ohr. The Board formally recorded thanks to Steve Cossins for his work as Chair of the NETA and TVC boards and noted that a lunch would be held for him over the summer.

10.2 – NETA Board, 17 June 2022

The Managing Director NETA presented the key themes as circulated with the meeting papers.

10.3 – Audit Committee, 19 May 2022

The Chair of the Audit Committee reported on a positive meeting and confirmed the committee's recommendations to the FE Corporation to be considered under agenda item 10.9. The Corporation Chair added that he would be meeting Claire Leece, Audit Partner RSM, before the end of his term of office and the Group Executive Director Finance agreed to brief him for this.

10.4 – Standards Improvement Committee, 11 June 2022

The Chair of the Standards Improvement Committee explained that the committee had considered the draft Ofsted inspection report in depth, which had confirmed the distance travelled by the group. She added that leads for each of the four GIPs had been confident that the majority of actions would be completed by year end and had highlighted those that would be carried forward to 2022-23; an update on college areas for improvement, not included in the GIPs, had provided assurance that actions had been progressed.

10.5 – Remuneration Committee, 16 June 2022

The Chair of the Remuneration Committee reported on a positive meeting which had considered Chief Executive contractual and handover arrangements, including the contract for the incoming Chief Executive; recommendations from the committee had been considered and agreed by the Finance and Employment Committee.

10.6 – Search and Governance Committee, 21 June 2022

The Chair of the Search and Governance Committee explained that this had been his final meeting on the committee, highlighting the key themes from a positive meeting.

10.7 – Finance and Employment Committee, 22 June 2022

The Group Executive Director Finance reported that it had been a comprehensive meeting; Monthly Management Accounts (MMA9) to 30 April 2022 and budget monitoring reports had been considered, along with the draft budgets for 2022-23 and financial forecasts, which had been recommended to the FE Corporation for approval. She added that the committee had extended the Corporation's thanks to Gary Potts, the Group Vice Principal Business, Innovation and Partnerships, as it had been his last governors' meeting.

10.8 – Capital Group, 15 June 2022

The Chair of the Capital Group thanked Louise Davies for chairing the meeting in his absence; members had considered updates on the Estates Strategy, including land purchases and NETA design development, and Jonathan Herbert from Bond Bryan had delivered an interesting presentation on inclusive design principles.

22/80 10.9 – Recommendations

Governors:

- i) **agreed** an amendment to the internal audit programme to postpone the Business Continuity review to early 2022-23;
- ii) **approved** the updated Risk Management Strategy for use in 2022-23 (Appendix A);
- iii) **agreed** the External Audit Strategy for audit of the 2021-22 annual accounts (Appendix B) and **noted** the requirement for governors to report any actual, alleged or suspected fraud to the auditors;
- iv) **agreed** to continue AuditOne's contract for internal audit services for 2022-23;
- v) **agreed** that the governance self-assessment process for 2021-22 should comprise a short questionnaire for completion by all governors (Appendix C) and individual governor review with the Corporation Chair as part of governor one-to-ones (in addition to individual committee performance reviews and regular reviews of governor attendance and involvement in training and other development activities);
- vi) **approved** revised subcontracting levels for 2021-22 as detailed in the report;
- vii) **approved** proposed subcontracting activity for 2022-23 (Appendix D);
- viii) **noted** the revised Subcontracting Fees and Charges Policy (Appendix E).

Agenda Item 11 – Governance Issues

22/81 11.2 – Governance documents

The Clerk presented the updated calendar of Corporation and committee meetings for 2022-23 and asked governors to inform the governance team of any potential date clashes. She highlighted that all Finance and Employment Committee meetings would be held on Tuesdays in 2022-23 due to committee members' availability. Proposed amendments to the Standing Orders had been

outlined in the circulated report, with the addition of protocol in relation to hybrid meetings to Appendix C; she also encouraged governors to provide the governance team with any feedback on the effectiveness of hybrid meetings.

Governors:

- i) **agreed** the updated calendar of Corporation and committee meetings 2022-23;
- ii) **agreed** the proposed changes to the Standing Orders.

22/82 11.3 – Governance update

The Clerk presented the circulated report which outlined the rationale for moving from BoardPacks to Microsoft Teams and SharePoint for sharing Board and committee papers, as discussed and supported by the Search and Governance Committee. The report also included governor attendance data for 2021-22, an update on governor development activities and governor involvement and a reminder of the opportunity for governors to take part in learning walks. She particularly noted that Dot Smith, Chair of Standards Improvement Committee, had joined the Association of Colleges (AoC) Curriculum and Quality Chairs' Network and that Louise Davies, Chair of Finance and Employment Committee, and Subhash Chaudhary, Chair of Audit Committee, had joined the AoC's Finance and Audit Chairs' Network. Governors were also provided with details of the recent publication of the update FE Governance Guide and a copy of RSM's Further Education Emerging Issues document.

Governors:

- i) **supported** the proposal to move to Teams as the Board portal for 2022-23;
- ii) **noted** governor attendance at meetings of the Corporation and its committees in 2021-22 to date;
- iii) **noted** governors' involvement in a range of training and development opportunities, and college group events, and to notify the Clerk of any specific training needs;
- iv) **noted** the update in respect of national governance matters.

22/83 11.1 – Corporation and committee membership and link governor appointments

The Clerk presented the circulated report which outlined changes to Corporation and committee membership, proposed changes to student governorship and link governor roles. The terms of office of three independent governors would end on 31 July 2022, with both Mark White and Rob Mitchell not wishing to seek reappointment; Dot Smith had confirmed that she wished to seek reappointment and the Clerk confirmed that Dot would be asked to leave the meeting whilst this was considered. Both staff governors would also step down on 31 July, with Sam Beel's term of office due to end on that date and Katy Ludgate leaving the college for another position. She confirmed that the governance self-assessment questionnaires for 2021-22 would also be circulated to those governors leaving at the end of July.

The report also outlined proposals on student governorship; from September 2022, the Search and Governance Committee had proposed that all available student governor places should be open to all students across the group and that students should be consulted on an amendment to the Instrument and Articles of Government to reduce the required number of student governors from two to one. The Chair of the Search and Governance Committee confirmed that in-depth discussion had taken place at the committee's last meeting. He added that the proposals were not intended to diminish the importance of the student governor role but to improve their

engagement and involvement; the option would remain to appoint more than one student governor should there be suitable candidates.

The Clerk added that, in light of the change of Chief Executive with effect from 22 August 2022, governors were asked to approve the appointment of Grant Glendinning to the Finance and Employment, Standards Improvement and Search and Governance committees, and to the Capital Group. Governors were also asked to agree the appointment of Stuart Blackett to the Finance and Employment Committee with effect from 1 August 2022 and to note that he would be stepping down from his position as Audit Committee member. Governors were also requested to consider applying for the role of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Link Governor to replace Rob Mitchell; he commented that he had found the role rewarding and a positive experience, working with a strong team of staff from across the group.

Governors:

- i) **agreed** that all available student governor positions should be open to students across the group; that student governors should be nominated by the Students' Union (with appointments ratified by the FE Corporation); and to commence consultation in relation to the Instrument and Articles of Government, in order to reduce the minimum number of student governors to one;
- ii) **agreed** the nomination of Grant Glendinning to the Finance and Employment, Standards Improvement and Search and Governance committees and to the Capital Group; and **agreed** the appointment of Stuart Blackett to the Finance and Employment Committee;
- iii) **noted** the vacancy for an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Link Governor from 1st August 2022 and that interested governors should contact the Clerk.

Dot Smith left the meeting

The Clerk explained that the Search and Governance Committee had recognised Dot's significant contributions to the college and Corporation, including as Chair of Standards Improvement Committee, and had unanimously recommended her reappointment to the Corporation. Governors **agreed** to reappoint Dot Smith for a term of office of four years.

Gary Wright left the meeting

22/85 Agenda Item 12 – Chair and Vice Chair Appointment

The Chair of the Search and Governance Committee explained that interviews had been held with the three candidates, [REDACTED]. the recommendation was to appoint Dot Smith as Vice Chair of the Corporation; he added that Dot would bring extensive knowledge of the FE sector and policies.

Governors **agreed** to appoint Dot Smith as Corporation Vice Chair for the period 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2026.

Dot Smith and Gary Wright re-joined the meeting. Stuart Blackett left the meeting.

The Chair informed Dot Smith of governors' decision and she confirmed that she was honoured to accept the role.

Governors **agreed** to re-confirm Stuart Blackett's appointment as Corporation Chair from 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2026.

Stuart Blackett re-joined the meeting.

The Chair informed Stuart Blackett that governors had agreed to re-confirm his appointment as Corporation Chair.

22/86 Agenda Item 13 – Any Other Business

The Group Director of Marketing informed governors that the Group Communications and PR Officer, Marie Turbill, would be visiting sites across the group the following day to take photos for press and social media coverage to coincide with publication of the Ofsted inspection report; governors were also welcome to attend and the timings would be circulated after the meeting.

The Corporation Chair thanked Sam Beel for her fabulous staff governor representation and contributions to the AoC's Staff Governors' Conferences; Sam thanked the board for the opportunity to be a governor and urged them not to take the foot off the pedal. He then thanked Rob Mitchell for enhancing the board through his work as EDI Link Governor and Chair of Search and Governance Committee. Rob commented that he had been pleased to be part of the transformation of RCC, acknowledged in the recent Ofsted inspection outcomes, and thanked the College Principal RCC for the college's turnaround. He also thanked the Clerk and the Governance Support Officer for their work for the board. The Chair also extended appreciation to Martin Gray who had regrettably decided that he was unable to give the required time commitment due to work pressures. He then thanked Ben Robinson, the College Principal Bede, for his contribution, noting that he had a great career ahead of him.

The Vice Chair then reflected on Mark White's time at Etc.; he had joined the board after serving as the last Chair of Bede College and been awarded an OBE for services to education in 2016. He described Mark as passionate, supportive, dedicated, unassuming, and respected, adding that he was honoured that he would succeed Mark as Chair of the Etc. FE Corporation though they would be big shoes to fill. The Chair commented that he had every confidence in the board going forward and invited everyone to attend the social event on Thursday 13th October.

22/87 Agenda Item 14 – Dates, times and venue / format of future meetings

Governor Workshop: 15 September 2022, 5.30 pm to be held on Teams
FE Corporation meeting: 20 October 2022, 5.30 pm

22/88 Agenda Item 15 – Approval of Documents for Public Inspection

It was **agreed** that the agenda and supporting documents of the current meeting be made available for public inspection with the exception of the reports for Agenda Items 2, 3, 4, 5.1, 7 and 8 and appendices to Agenda Item 10.9. Minutes would be made available following approval and consideration at the next meeting.

22/89 Agenda Item 16 - Key Themes

- Approved the revenue budget and capital budget for 2022-23 and financial forecasts for 2023-24 and submission of the College Financial Forecast Return based on these
- Approved the Behaviour Management Policy and Procedure and the Students' Union constitution and bylaws
- Capital projects update and formally agreed submission of an application to the Further Education Capital Transformation Fund in relation to NETA relocation
- Agreed recommendations from committees, including Risk Management Strategy 2022-23, external audit strategy for the 2021-22 accounts and proposed subcontracting activity for 2022-23
- Agreed the Search and Governance Committee's recommendation to re-appoint Dot Smith as a governor
- Re-confirmed Stuart Blackett's appointment as Corporation Chair and appointed Dot Smith as Corporation Vice Chair from 1st August 2022 to 31 July 2026

(The meeting ended at 7.05 pm)

Approved at a meeting held on 20 October 2022