

FE Corporation Minutes

Meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 5.30pm, H202, Redcar & Cleveland College

Governors: Fabienne Bailey (Chair of Search and Governance Committee), Rachel Beeken, Stuart Blackett (Corporation Chair, Chair of Capital Group and Special Committee), Subhash Chaudhary (Chair of Audit Committee), Louise Davies (Chair of Finance and Employment Committee and Tees Valley Catering Board), Elliot Gale (Student Governor), Grant Glendinning (Chief Executive and Group Principal), Vanessa Housley, Amanda Olvanhill, Lorraine Preston (Staff Governor; Student Support & Wellbeing Manager), Hamish Rutherford, Dot Smith (Chair of Standards Improvement Committee), Anne Vickers, Mark Wilson and Gary Wright (Chair of Remuneration Committee, Safeguarding Link Governor)

Apologies: Liz Dixon (Staff Governor) and Hope Ubertalli (Student Governor)

Officials: Jason Faulkner (Executive Principal, Redcar & Cleveland College and NETA), Lesley Graham (Executive Principal, Stockton Riverside College and Higher Education), Phil Hastie (Chief Operating Officer), Sean Johnston (Managing Director NETA), Patrick Jordan (College Principal Bede), Erika Marshall (Group Director of Marketing), Fiona Sharp (Chief Financial Officer), Kay Taylor (Group Director of HR and People Development), Peter Wood (Group Director of Quality), Sarah Thompson (Clerk to the Corporation) and Sam Young (Governance Support Officer)

In attendance: Daniel Harland (Student Union President, Bede Sixth Form College), for agenda item 3 only

Fabienne Bailey, Subhash Chaudhary, Vanessa Housley, Lorraine Preston and Erika Marshall joined the meeting via Teams.

Minutes of the previous meeting, an actions progress log and reports had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

23/23 Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, apologies for absence, declarations of interest, notification of other items of business

The Corporation Chair welcomed governors and officials to the meeting, with a particular welcome to Daniel Harland, Bede Sixth Form College Students' Union President. Governors noted apologies for absence from Liz Dixon and Hope Ubertalli. There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda and no notifications of other items of business.

23/24 Agenda Item 2 – Governing Body Membership

The Clerk provided an update on governing body vacancies, applications received, the process for considering applicants and appointment recommendations from the Search and Governance Committee. Two applications had also been received for the Higher Education (HE) student co-opted role on the Standards Improvement Committee, with both applicants having attended the committee's last meeting; as one of the candidates was currently in their second year of study, Bernice Wood, a first-year student at Stockton Riverside College (SRC), had been recommended for appointment by the Search and Governance Committee. The Corporation

Chair emphasised the strength of the appointments and the contribution the new appointees would make to the Board.

Governors:

- i) **agreed** to appoint Amanda Olvanhill and Hamish Rutherford as governors for a term of office of four years, subject to satisfactory pre-appointment checks, and their appointment to the Finance and Employment Committee;
- ii) **agreed** to appoint Gary Bowdler as a co-opted member of the Audit Committee for a term of office of four years, subject to satisfactory pre-appointment checks;
- iii) **agreed** to appoint Bernice Wood as a co-opted member of the Standards Improvement Committee for a term of office of four years, subject to satisfactory pre-appointment checks;
- iv) **noted** the update on governor recruitment activity.

23/25 Agenda Item 3 – Student Mental Health - Presentation

Daniel Harland and Elliot Gale gave a presentation on student mental health which was made available to governors after the meeting.

Hamish Rutherford and Amanda Olvanhill joined the meeting.

A governor acknowledged that student mental health presented substantial concerns and referenced her own desire to empower young people to understand early intervention and support routes; she offered the support of Stockton Borough Council's Health Education and Relationships Manager, Eve Conner-McGill, to the Students' Union leads. The Student Union President welcomed the offer of support and the Group Director of Quality agreed that he and the Student Support & Wellbeing Manager would facilitate the link between the Stockton Borough Council manager and the Students' Union. The Corporation Chair commented on the direct impact that the presentation had already made and governors' role in ensuring support for students' wellbeing across the group.

Governors thanked Daniel and Elliot for their impactful presentation.

Daniel Harland left the meeting.

Decision Items

23/26 Agenda Item 4 – Minutes / notes of previous meetings

Governors:

- i) **approved** the minutes and the confidential appendix to the minutes of a Corporation meeting held on 8 March 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting;
- ii) **received** notes of a Governor Workshop held on 4 May 2023;
- iii) **noted** progress against previously agreed actions as detailed in the action log.

23/27 Agenda Item 5 – Application for DfE loan funding for NETA

The Chief Operating Officer outlined the rationale for seeking governors' agreement for submission of an initial expression of interest to the Department for Education (DfE) College Capital Loans Scheme in order to support relocation of NETA provision; the anticipated loan request would be between £[REDACTED] and £[REDACTED] and Robert Griffiths, the

Turnaround Director for the Redcar & Cleveland College (RCC) merger, would be assisting with the process. The Corporation Chair confirmed that the details of any formal DfE loan agreement would be subject to further scrutiny and approval by the Corporation. The group was continuing to explore alternative solutions [REDACTED].

In response to a governor's question regarding the relationship with Cleveland Cable, the Chief Operating Officer confirmed that a further meeting would take place during half term week. He clarified that discussions with Cleveland Cable related to the proposed scaffold centre at Portrack Lane and not the development of the new NETA facility at SRC.

Governors **agreed** the submission of an initial expression of interest to the DfE College Capital Loans scheme, with any formal loan agreement arising subject to further scrutiny and approval by the FE Corporation. It was **noted** that the anticipated loan amount would be between £[REDACTED] and £[REDACTED].

23/28 Agenda Item 6 – Etc. Annual Accountability Statement

The Chief Executive explained that the newly introduced Annual Accountability Statement was part of the wider skills reforms and needed to be submitted to the DfE by 31 May 2023. The final draft text had been circulated with the meeting papers and hard copies of the outward-facing publication, developed by the Etc. Marketing Team, were made available at the meeting; the Chief Executive welcomed any input from governors either during or following the meeting. The Annual Accountability Statement was intended to align with the Tees Valley Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and Etc.'s Strategic Plan for 2023-26 and it was noted that, with the draft LSIP having only been made available on 16 May, references to the LSIP in the Accountability Statement would be reviewed. It was also confirmed that the Statement included the required elements outlined in DfE guidance.

The relationship between the Accountability Statement, the group's strategic plan, strategic objectives and the annual operational plans was discussed; it was noted that the Accountability Statement aimed to convey how the group met local skills needs in key sectors and would provide an evidence base of the group's responsiveness to need for external stakeholders and funding bodies, such as Ofsted and the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA). It would also be important for demonstrating the group's use of its funding and it was noted that the DfE had not yet published the template for the Accountability Framework, though had indicated it would be shorter and more simplified than the existing Grant Funding Agreement.

[REDACTED]

Governors **agreed** that amendments, for example in light of the newly released draft LSIP, could be incorporated into the final version and **noted** that any comments could be submitted to the Chief Executive. Governors **agreed** Etc.'s Annual Accountability Statement 2023-24 for submission by the 31 May 2023.

Discussion Items

23/29 Agenda Item 7 – Etc. Strategic Plan 2023-26

The Chief Executive thanked governors and members of the Senior Management Team (SMT) for their contributions to the development of the Strategic Plan and gave an update on progress

to date. Part A of the update provided a summary of the rationale for Etc.'s strategic approach for the coming years and Part B used this evidence to shape suggested draft objectives and actions. He added that the group was working with New Skills Consulting, who had also been appointed to work on the Tees Valley LSIP, and that SMT colleagues had already expressed that their preferred approach would be a focus on 'One Etc' i.e the group as a whole., rather than citing objectives for individual colleges; governors also supported this approach. [REDACTED] and the group's work around social justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and disadvantaged learners within the draft objectives had also been suggested by SMT. Work with New Skills Consulting on the final version of the Strategic Plan would continue, with the aim of bringing the first finalised draft to Corporation in July for approval for production and dissemination in the Autumn term.

With reference to Strategic Objective 3, a governor asked whether strategic partnerships were seen as only local or whether these would be at the broader regional, national or even global level. The Chief Executive agreed that it was feasible that strategic partnerships could be global in order to achieve the group's strategic intent; however, the strategic objective focused primarily on employers and education partners and specifics would form part of operational plans.

A governor commented on the quality of the draft though raised whether, given the student mental health presentation earlier in this meeting and group discussions at the previous meeting, the holistic, wraparound care for students that the group provided should be amplified as a specific strategic focus. The Chief Executive agreed to work with New Skills on giving this a greater focus, alongside the social justice, EDI and disadvantaged learner suggestions made by SMT members.

Governors **noted** progress on the Strategic Plan.

23/30

Agenda Item 8 – Apprenticeships and Business Engagement Update

The Chief Operating Officer highlighted that, though improvements were being seen and evidenced, the full impact of improvement measures may not be seen in outcome rates until subsequent years, due to the long nature of apprenticeships; the Chair of the Audit Committee and Helen Williamson from the DfE had both attended the last Apprenticeship Council meeting and governors were welcome to observe any future meetings.

The Chair of the Audit Committee confirmed that his attendance at the meeting had provided assurance on the actions taken as a result of audit recommendations; he added that there was evidence of high levels of engagement from and communication between colleagues at the meeting. There was also a clear understanding of Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) compliance and actions needed, plus a strong focus on the quality of delivery and sharing of best practice, which were resulting in positive progress.

The Chief Operating Officer clarified reasons for the previous year's poorer apprenticeship performance and the resulting development of the Apprenticeship Group Improvement Plan (GIP) and rationalisation of Standards delivery.

Information on business engagement activity had also been provided and a governor asked if the substantive Director of Business Engagement post had been filled. It was confirmed that an

experienced interim had been in post during this time and that a permanent appointment was under consideration as part of the potential acquisition of Innersummit; the Business Development Unit was now fully staffed.

A governor's request to reference underachievement or withdrawals rather than 'learners at risk of failing' in future reports was noted.

Governors **noted** the report.

Agenda Item 9 – Governance Issues

23/31 Agenda Item 9.1 – Governance Calendar 2023-24

The Clerk specifically highlighted the changed timing of the Strategic Conference to allow for the embedding of the new Strategic Plan; governors **agreed** the calendar of Corporation and committee meetings for 2023-24.

23/32 Agenda Item 9.2 – Governance Update

The Clerk advised governors that Rachel Robson, from Stone King, would be undertaking the external review of governance during the summer term and would be attending several committees remotely and the July Corporation meeting in person. She would also be undertaking a desktop review of governance documentation and, during the course of the review, might request meetings with other nominated governors. The Clerk explained that governors could send any comments in relation to governance via the Clerk or directly to Rachel Robson in confidence. The Corporation Chair stressed that governors should not be concerned about the review and should behave as they normally would in meetings.

The Clerk confirmed that she had received an expression of interest in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) link governor role from Anne Vickers and clarified that more than one governor could be appointed to each link role.

She thanked governors for their strong attendance and involvement in events and learning walkthroughs and reminded governors of the upcoming Association of Colleges' (AoC) Governors' Summit and summer term events at Etc.

Dot Smith gave feedback on the Education and Training Foundation (ETF) webinar on Meeting Local Needs that she had recently attended and particularly highlighted the presentation by Ellen Thinnesen, Chief Executive Officer of Education Partnership North East (EPNE), in which she had outlined the move from transformational to transactional and development of a Construction Skills Academy, similar to RCC's CEEH. The Chief Executive updated governors on current discussions with EPNE on developing joint publicity on retrofit and construction, an area of synergy between the two college groups.

Governors discussed the impact of Ofsted inspections on leaders' mental health following the recent suicide of a primary school headteacher; it was acknowledged that this was perhaps less of an issue in the Further Education (FE) sector and that Ofsted had committed to undertake a review though had confirmed they would not be changing the single word overall judgement. Uncertainty around the timing of college inspections was seen as a possible pressure on staff and the importance of keeping the Single Central Record and safeguarding measures up to date

was also acknowledged. A governor reported that Ofsted was currently undertaking a range of pilots, taking learning from the tragic experience and, for example, were exploring swifter re-inspections where safeguarding had been graded Inadequate. Ofsted was also reviewing the complaints procedure to make it swifter and allow better communication between the school and Ofsted where there were concerns about inspection grades.

Governors:

- i) **noted** the external Governance Review process taking place during the 2023 summer term;
- ii) **agreed** the proposed role description for SEND / High Needs Link Governor and the expression of interest in the role from Anne Vickers;
- iii) **noted** governors' involvement in a range of training and development opportunities and college group events and the request to notify the Clerk of any specific training needs;
- iv) **noted** that the group's Annual Strategic Conversation with the ESFA was deferred and would take place on 24 May 2023;
- v) **noted** the update on national governance matters.

Committee feedback and recommendations

Agenda Item 10 – Committees and subsidiary companies

23/33 Key themes from the following meetings had been included in the circulated report:

10.1.1 – Tees Valley Catering – meeting held on 28 March 2023

10.1.2 – Special Committee – meeting held on 22 March 2023

10.1.3 – Standards Improvement Committee – held on 23 March 2023

The Chair of Standards Improvement Committee reported on the strategic approach to quality.

10.1.4 – Finance and Employment Committee – held on 28 March 2023

The Chair of Finance and Employment Committee extended congratulations to the Group Director of Marketing on the recent Investors in the Environment Silver accreditation.

10.1.5 – Audit Committee – meetings held on 30 March and 9 May 2023

The Chair of Audit Committee reported on a positive meeting; two minor fraud incidents had been reported with no financial or other detriment to the group. The internal and external auditor selection process had been positive with a formal recommendation to the Corporation to appoint TIAA and Beever and Struthers, respectively; it was noted that many audit providers were exiting the FE sector.

10.1.6 – Search and Governance Committee – special meeting held on 3 May 2023

The Chair of Search and Governance highlighted that governor appointment recommendations and an update on the Peridot governor recruitment search had been covered under Agenda Item 2.

10.1.7 – Capital Group – meeting held on 3 May 2023

The Chair of the Capital Group reported the zero-rated VAT decision for the Bede annexe and shared, confidentially, that the Bede annexe would be named after Mark White, the previous Corporation Chair; Mark would be told during an upcoming visit to Bede and a naming event involving governors would be held in due course.

10.1.8 – Remuneration Committee – meeting held on 11 May 2023

The Chair of Remuneration Committee reported that the mid-year performance reviews for the Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Clerk had all been positive and that the Senior Post Holder disciplinary and grievance policies had been updated in line with best practice.

10.2.1 CONFIDENTIAL - To agree, in principle, the transfer of activity from TVC to Etc. from 1 August 2023

The Chief Financial Officer confirmed that the recommendation had been considered and agreed by both the Tees Valley Catering (TVC) Board and the Finance and Employment Committee; with a relatively small number of staff employed by TVC on less favourable terms and conditions to other staff within the group, it was considered more equitable to harmonise these. Financial accounting and audit requirements would also be reduced. The potential costs of a transfer to Etc. pay scales and the option for TVC staff to access the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) had been estimated to be about £30k. The Group Director of HR & People Development added that the transfer would potentially lead to better attraction and retention of staff and therefore more stability in the TVC workforce.

Governors **agreed**, in principle, to:

- i) the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) of 25 members of staff from TVC to the Education Training Collective on 1 August 2023,
- ii) the transfer of the TVC business and assets to Etc. on 1 August 2023;
- iii) the cessation of TVC as a trading entity (the registered company would become non-trading and potentially dormant); and
- iv) terminate the directorships of registered active members of TVC with Companies House on 1 August 2023 (with the exception of Louise Davies, TVC Chair, and the Etc. Chief Executive and Group Principal, whose directorships would be retained for dormant entity purposes).

10.2.2 To approve revised subcontracting levels

The Executive Principal RCC & NETA outlined the recommendation from the Finance and Employment Committee to a contract increase of £75k with NC Group; he highlighted that NC Group was a strong provider and that the subcontracted provision met Tees Valley priorities. Governors **approved** the revised subcontracting level.

10.2.3 To approve auditor appointments

As recommended by the Audit Committee, governors **agreed** to appoint:

- i) RSM as external auditor for audit of the annual accounts 2022-23;
- ii) Beever and Struthers as external auditor for audit of the annual accounts from January 2023 for a period of three years plus optional two year extension;
- iii) TIAA as internal auditor from 1 August 2023 for a period of three years with optional two year extension.

Information Items**Agenda Item 11 – Chief Executive's Update**

The Chief Executive highlighted the following:

- The strengthening of the group's profile following visits from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister for Levelling Up and local MPs, and other college events; Jason Faulkner's work had also been recognised with his Education Leader of the Year award at the Educate North Awards.
- Work on the review of curriculum structures had now concluded and would result in a re-clustering of curriculum areas into more logical departments.

- Etc. were part of the consortium, led by Darlington College on behalf of FE Plus, putting together a bid to the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF), the successor to the Strategic Development Fund (SDF).
- Positive T Level recruitment levels, with applications approaching the target set.
- Update on the dispute with the University and College Union (UCU) with a productive meeting held involving the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS). UCU would now develop some proposals and a further meeting would be held during half term week. Members of the Special Committee were being kept informed and recommendations would be brought to governors.
- Nationally, data from the DfE on apprenticeships to January 2023 was stark; apprenticeship numbers and achievement had fallen and there had been a shift to higher level apprenticeships aimed at older people already in employment. One of the government's priorities was the expansion of degree apprenticeships which was a possible strategic opportunity for Etc. in partnership with Teesside University.

The differences between apprenticeships and T Levels was discussed, with acknowledgement that T Levels, though providing lots of workplace experience, were markedly different to apprenticeships, being courses with a significant placement rather than employment. The defunding of Level 3 qualifications, the current DfE position and timetable, and the impact of the pausing of some T Levels due to be delivered from September 2023 were also discussed; it was noted that the College Principal Bede had been undertaking a scoping exercise on Level 3 qualifications and would report on this at the next Standards Improvement Committee meeting.

Governors **noted** the report.

23/36

Agenda Item 12 – Finance Update

The Chief Financial Officer advised that Performance Review Period 9 (PR9) had recently commenced and departmental forecasts for year-end would be reviewed during this; no further decline in the forecast surplus was predicted and it was hoped that there would be some improvement. The third round of Business Planning (BP) would start in earnest the following week, with a focus on staffing costs and efficiencies.

The new version of the annual College Financial Forecasting Return (CFFR) would be submitted by the end of July and the information from this would be used for the DfE capital loan application. The Monthly Management Accounts (MMA) for period 7 were also now available on the Etc. Governors' SharePoint and would be signposted in the next Digest; the Income and Expenditure structure had been changed to align more closely with the CFFR and reflected best practice guidance. The College Managing Public Money (MPM) return had been submitted in line with the deadline and had confirmed compliance; the Financial Regulations were also being reviewed to reference MPM.

A governor asked about the potential to access funding from the Sir William Turner Foundation (SWTF) for capital projects; it was noted that, although the SWTF had provided funding towards the costs of the current RCC building, it primarily supported value added activities at RCC and five secondary schools in Redcar. Monies were allocated through a robust application process and paid on evidence of project completion, with use of SWTF funding reported to the Finance and Employment Committee annually.

Governors **noted** the update.

23/37

Agenda Item 13 – Safeguarding, Prevent and Welfare Update

The Corporation Chair reminded governors of their statutory, non-delegable duty for safeguarding. The Group Director of Quality highlighted that the update outlined support for students additional to academic support; he had been particularly pleased when students at a recent Year 13 Principal's Forum at Bede had talked about the support they had received and how safe they felt when asked for the 'one special thing' about Bede. He stressed that this did not mean staff could be complacent but indicated that this was a good position to build on. He confirmed that future reports would include information on the Single Central Record and mandatory staff training.

In response to a governor's request, the Group Director of Quality agreed to include percentages for learners receiving Safeguarding support in future reports. A governor also commented on the usefulness of the additional information on online monitoring actionable events but requested further clarity on the actions taken and their effectiveness, for example, the level of repeat offenders; the Group Director of Quality agreed to try to capture the request in future reporting.

In response to a governor's question about what was included in online monitoring, the Chief Operating Officer confirmed that currently only college hardware was included but that the capability to monitor students' own devices was under review. As firewalls were in place and current monitoring was compliant with group requirements, the implications of extending Smoothwall monitoring was being assessed. A governor, who had attended a recent RCC principal's forum, commented that many students chose to use their own data rather than signing on to the group's WiFi. The Chief Operating Officer confirmed that this was often because the college WiFi did not allow device access to social media as there was no educational rationale for its use. A student governor highlighted that, at Bede, WiFi was not available in some classrooms so students had to use their own data; the College Principal Bede confirmed that work was ongoing to resolve this issue.

The Safeguarding Link Governor provided assurance that the Group Director of Quality and the team were relentless in their approach to safeguarding, adding that, during the meetings he attended, their passion for student welfare had impressed him, with the team often dealing with very complex cases.

Governors **noted** the update.

23/38

Agenda Item 14 – Quality Update

The Group Director of Quality confirmed that 2021-22 national achievement rate data had recently been published, the first available since the pandemic, and allowed for credible benchmarking. The data suggested that colleagues at the group had been more successful at supporting students through their education and training during the pandemic than at many other providers. With in-year retention lower than the previous year, a back to basics approach was being taken, including parental involvement; the use of agency staff at NETA had also given some challenges. Comparisons against Outstanding colleges had been provided and indicated that a continued focus on apprenticeships achievement was needed.

A governor referenced research on the effects of long-term disadvantage, those pupils who had spent at least 80% of time in school eligible for free school meals (FSM), on outcomes. The rate of long-term disadvantage in the North East was second only to London and it was likely that Etc. would have more long-term disadvantaged students than those Outstanding colleges with which Etc.'s achievement rates compared favourably. The governor agreed to share this research with the Group Director of Quality.

Governors **noted** the update, including progress on the Group Improvement Plans.

23/39

Agenda Item 15 – Careers and Progression Update

The Group Director of Marketing reported that Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) was strong and exceeded the statutory requirements set by the Gatsby Benchmarks; its positive impact on students had been tested through learner surveys. Progression fairs at colleges had been well attended and online careers talks, Careers in a Nutshell, had proved popular; governors would be asked if they could support this initiative with some short videos.

She also highlighted that progression to year 2 in 2022-23 had been in line with the previous year; reasons for the dip at RCC had been outlined in the report [REDACTED]. As reported last year, details of learners returning to courses on either the same level or lower had been included; these showed an increase on the previous year, with the majority due to academic ability, rather than behavioural or emotional issues, and were possibly a covid hangover. In response, the group was strengthening the interview process and providing more detail on both the entry requirements for and the expectations of courses.

A governor commented positively on the fact that 100% of 2020-21 sustained destinations were known and the Group Director of Marketing confirmed that curriculum areas were responsible for collecting this information.

A governor also commented on the excellent progression data and asked how the data captured apprenticeship withdrawals; the Group Director of Marketing explained that, for example, going into employment or transferring to a different course would be considered a positive destination. As apprenticeship withdrawals tended to take up job opportunities or change direction, these would therefore be recorded as positive destinations.

A governor asked whether those learners not ready to progress to a higher level course due to academic ability could be offered short, intensive courses; the Group Director of Marketing explained that each curriculum area would offer a bespoke package for these learners. The Executive Principal RCC & NETA gave examples of Level 2 certificate learners progressing to Level 2 diplomas to aid progression and T Level Health learners who, after the first term, transferred to an alternative Level 3 qualification at a more suitable academic level which would still offer the potential to progress to higher education.

Governors **noted** the update.

23/40 Agenda Item 16 – Digital Strategy

The Chief Operating Officer reminded governors that Lynn Dolan, the Group Learning Resources Manager, had presented the Digital Strategy to the Corporation in May 2022, with a staff-led approach to its development; a full progress update had been provided by the Group Learning Resources Manager and the Group Head of IT, with key headlines in the report.

Governors **noted** progress against the Digital Strategy.

Concluding Items

23/41 Agenda Item 17 – Any Other Business

There were no items of additional business.

23/42 Agenda Item 18 – Dates, times and venues of upcoming meetings

FE Corporation – Thursday 6 July 2023, 5.30pm, venue to be confirmed.

23/43 Agenda Item 19 – 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 5, 8, 10.2.1, 12, 14 and 15. Minutes would be made available following approval and consideration at the next meeting.

23/44 Agenda Item 20 – Meeting Effectiveness and Key Themes

Meeting participants discussed the effectiveness and impact of the meeting and highlighted the following:

- Powerful presentation by students; would like more and felt that it deserved governors' time
- Quite a lengthy meeting but some items felt rushed so perhaps more guidance on what to focus on in the meeting given that governors do read papers in advance and have the opportunity to ask questions
- Every governor contributed during the meeting
- Well organised papers, clear, well structured; noted that aiming for shorter papers, 5 pages maximum, and that reviewing whether we have the right committees and whether the right papers go to the right committees
- Comment from a newly appointed governor: felt it be a genuinely open environment. Had been shocked at the length of the meeting pack but, with so much complexity, good to see that everyone gets time and everyone cares
- The One Etc. approach shone through

Key themes to highlight to absent governors:

- Appointment of Amanda Olvanhill and Hamish Rutherford to the Corporation and co-optees, Gary Bowdler to Audit Committee and Bernice Wood to Standards Improvement Committee
- Excellent presentation on student mental health, with thanks extended to Daniel Harland and Elliot Gale
- Approval of the Annual Accountability Statement and update on Etc. Strategic Plan 2023-26
- Approval items – Tees Valley Catering – transfer of staff, assets and liabilities, internal and external auditor appointments, changes to subcontracting levels

- Group visibility and reputation, with recent positive press coverage and visits by government ministers
- Naming of the Mark White annexe at Bede Sixth Form College, with future event to be planned

(The meeting ended at 8.10 pm)