

1. PRESENT

Peter Croyley (Chair), Andy Atkins, Daran Bland, David Earnshaw, Charlie Ellerington, David Fannin, Kate Folling, Claire Foster, Kelly Harris, Heather Lee, David Parnell (item 2 onwards), Chris Pett, Helen Rumbold, Gerry Tawton, Paul Tomlinson and Nick Worth.

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Jen Durrant (Interim Executive Director: People), Debbie Holland (Vice Principal: Finance & Corporate Services), Adrian Humphreys (Executive Director: Business, Innovation & Partnerships), Vicki Locke (Deputy Principal), Dawn Telford (Assistant Principal: Learner Experience) and Tim White (Assistant Principal: Curriculum).

Apologies for absence were received from Ruth Catlett and Ann Savage.

Meeting attendance: 84%

2. MEMBERSHIP

Members received recommendations from the Search and Governance Committee for the appointment of new members.

The Corporation agreed to appoint David Parnell for a 4-year term commencing immediately, and to appoint Sandra Williamson for a 4-year term commencing from the October 2021 meeting.

David Parnell joined the meeting.

The Clerk to the Corporation advised that Mellyssa Doades had been given notice that her non-attendance was likely to lead to termination of her membership. Having noted her extended period of absence the Corporation agreed that Mellyssa's appointment as a student member should be terminated forthwith.

3. PRESENTATION - HIGH NEEDS LEARNERS

Carol Hanford (Curriculum Leader: Foundation & Pathways to Progress) gave a presentation to members on high needs learners within the college and explained the processes around this provision.

David Earnshaw asked about progression of learners. Carol Hanford confirmed that all measurements show that the college is on the right track with these learners and success rates are really high. Dawn Telford explained how success is measured by a positive destination for these learners with individual pathways being defined for them. David Fannin asked whether the pathways looked at opportunities to develop outside of college. He suggested that his organisation could support this through the voluntary sector with initiatives such as Internships. Carol explained that voluntary opportunities are looked at to find placements for learners and it was agreed that this would be followed up.

4. PRESENTATION - THE FIRST (NEARLY) 100 DAYS IN - PARTNERSHIPS

Adrian Humphreys gave a presentation on the work of his directorate and how it was developing.

Adrian outlined trends within the local economy and the implications for the work of his area. The presentation looked at options for future development and how the directorate could find solutions to support the local economy. A discussion took place about the use of vacant office space at the Spalding centre.

Claire Foster explained the tie between the main college curriculum and business development. Gerry Tawton asked about whether success was measured in commercial income and if so, how this was being tracked. Claire explained that the college was looking at a CRM system. A key issue is local employment and Adrian gave information about potential models of working with the DWP. Nick Worth commented on how pleasing it was to see the joined-up approach of this work and asked what the main opportunities moving forward were. Adrian identified logistics and the food industry as well as engineering and noted that work has to be approached in a structured way in these areas.

5. **ACTION LOG**

Members reviewed the contents of the Corporation's action log and progress made against the items identified.

In response to a query about the Italian debt, Debbie Holland confirmed that a summons had been issued and a hearing date set. A proposal had been received to pay a reduced amount.

Nick Worth advised that he had suggested a non-executive director for Eastern Enterprises Ltd and suggested that this was monitored through the action log. He also asked about the impact of settled status. Staffing was noted to be fine and arrangements for tracking the status of learners was noted.

6. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

a) Corporation – 12 May 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2021 were reviewed and approved as a correct record.

b) Corporation - 21 June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2021 were reviewed and approved as a correct record.

c) Remuneration Committee – 26 April 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2021, which were subject to circulation restrictions, were reviewed.

d) Finance and Resources – 14 June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021 were reviewed.

e) Search and Governance - 14 June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021 were reviewed.

f) Audit Committee - 17 June 2021

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2021 were reviewed.

Members were asked to approve the appointment of internal auditors as recommended by the Audit committee and it was confirmed that ICCA should be appointed

7. REPORTS

a) Principal's

Members received a report from the Principal on a number of sector and college issues.

It was noted that the Covid situation was changing continually, and that new guidance had been issued which would include some testing from September.

Peter Cropley asked about a suggestion that Universities were proposing to start traditional further education work particularly technical vocational education. Claire Foster advised that this was not a particular concern at the present time and that the college also has competition from on-line providers. The college was happy with its relationship with the University of Derby.

In response to a query from Peter Cropley about the Boston United collaboration it was explained that they were working with a national provider who also worked with other football teams. Tim White suggested that the change that the college had made was moving in the right direction and information was provided on the development of the Sports Academy and the resources being made available to support this. Boston College's own football club developments will also support this.

Richard Chambers left the meeting.

Adrian Humphreys commented that the association of colleges of sport gives a wider brief than just football and Claire advised that the college was maximising opportunities.

Chris Pett asked about whether there was an emphasis on staff being double vaccinated. Jen Durrant commented that staff are really engaging with the vaccination programme. The college role to date has been to inform staff and Claire advised that any changes to this position would be subject to further discussion.

Claire advised the Corporation that it had been useful to have the Covid committee to share information and noted that this committee will be continuing. Peter Cropley thanked the committee on behalf of the Corporation, for their work on this.

With regards to vaccinations Heather Lee noted that some people are not able to have the vaccine and this needs to be accommodated.

b) Finance

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Finance & Corporate Services on the proposed budget for 2021/22, CFFR, management accounts for 2021 and the bank loan.

In reviewing the proposed budget, it was suggested that the potential risks and opportunities within the budget which were identified within the report should be monitored and added to the action log. ●

Peter Cropley commented on the financial significance of construction and Tim White advised that this area had been supported by a move into non furloughed activity. He advised that staffing in this area was challenging at the current time and the college had to support staff moving into teaching from industry.

In reviewing the budgets Gerry Tawton noted that the budget maintained good financial health. Claire Foster advised that median AEB performance in the current year in other colleges is similar to Boston. It was confirmed that the budget forecast had been based on known demographic shifts and the 2021/22 college budget and supporting statements were approved.

After due consideration of all the circumstances and on being satisfied that it is for the benefit of the Corporation and in the interests of the Corporation for the purpose of carrying on its business to enter into a loan agreement (the Agreement) in respect of a Loan of £850,000 from National Westminster Bank Plc (the Bank) in the form now produced it was resolved that the Principal and Chief Executive officer and the Vice Principal Finance and Corporate Services be authorised to sign on behalf of the Corporation the Agreement and any other documents required by the Bank in connection with the Agreement.

c) Safeguarding and Prevent Update

Members received a report from the Assistant Principal: Learner Experience.

Dawn Telford pointed out that this was an annual report summarising the year and identified developments that had taken place. Gerry Tawton asked about the heightened profile of sexual harassment and violence and Dawn explain that college policies had been updated and resources were being prepared for tutorials. There was a change in the way that these problems were recorded. Heather Lee asked if 'peer on peer' abuse included racial abuse. Dawn explained that the information was masked and more clarity on this was required. In response to a query from Peter Copley whether presentation of information should be more similar to that for employment, Dawn advised that the policies in this area had to reflect government guidance.

Nick Worth asked about incidents within some areas and the approach to these and trends were explained. Members approved the proposed safeguarding developments for 2021/22.

d) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Members received a report from the External Funding Manager which was presented by the Deputy Principal.

In looking at the data presented, Peter Copley asked about disadvantage of poor white male learners. Vicki Locke commented that this group had suffered particularly from the pandemic and that personal tutors were looking at individual issues. The college is aware of these challenges. Dawn Telford explained the college's work in motivating learners and addressing mental health issues. The tutorial approach is being rebranded to use the time most effectively for learners. Jen Durrant commented that a similar approach to wellbeing initiatives was adopted for staff.

e) Governance

Members received a report from the Clerk to the Corporation proposing a schedule of dates for meetings of the Corporation and committees for 2021/22. The dates were approved by the Corporation.

f) Subcontracting Policy 2021/22

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Finance & Corporate Services proposing the subcontracting policy for 2021/22.

In response to a query from Gerry Tawton it was confirmed that there were no significant changes to the policy and members agreed to approve it.

g) OfS Reportable events/Risks

Vicki Locke advised that there was nothing to report on this. The only change in OfS requirements relates to sexual harassment and is being dealt by through safeguarding.

h) Learner Views

Members received a report from the Assistant Principal: Performance and Quality.

Kelly Harris presented information on the full time and apprenticeship surveys. In response to a query about the difference between two apprenticeship surveys, Kelly explained how the outcomes and surveys depend on the delivery programmes. This is an area of focus for the college. A discussion took place about the monitoring of apprenticeship hours and how this was carried out. It was noted that furloughed arrangements had affected hours. Gerry Tawton highlighted that learner recommendations in this area were going down. Kelly advised that the college was working through these issues with curriculum areas and apprentices.

David Parnell asked whether learners had an option of providing further information in response to the surveys. Kelly explained that they did and advised that further information on learner views can be shared. This reporting is brought to the full board to give members a depth of knowledge. Claire Foster explained that using learner and staff feedback the college was able to provide 'You Said, We Did' information to show the effects of it. It was confirmed that 75% of full-time learners had completed the survey.

Paul Tomlinson left the meeting during the course of these discussions.

8. **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Jen Durrant advised members that updates on background checks will be going out imminently.

9. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Having been duly nominated, Peter Cropley was appointed as Chair of the Corporation for 2021/22.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Having been duly nominated, Nick Worth was appointed as Vice Chair of the Corporation for 2021/22.

11. **DIARY DATES**

The dates of the next meetings of the Corporation were noted within the schedule approved during the meeting.