



Minutes of a special meeting held in confidential session on Thursday, 21st May 2020 at 1730h on Microsoft Teams

(To note that the record of this discussion is not redacted)

Present: Michael Priestley (Chair); Norma Boyes; Robert Milburn; Peter Ellwood; Beth Gaskell; Robin Talbot; Nigel Holliday; Stuart Williams; Elaine Clinton; Rebecca Dockray; Tanya Weston; Chris Nattress; Denise Rollo and Alison Hampson (both from Min No: 56/20))

Apologies: Amie Calvin; Leanne Singleton

Also present: Karen Wilson; Daniel Braithwaite; Jane Murray (Clerk)

53/20 Declarations of Interest

None received

54/20 Confidential Session

Resolved – to move into confidential session.

55/20 Strategic Plan

(To note that the record of this discussion is not redacted)

The Principal introduced the draft strategic plan, noting that the circumstances in which a 3-year plan was being introduced were very uncertain and therefore, the plan had been drafted, deliberately, at a headline level setting out direction of travel as succinctly as possible. Underpinning the plan, would be detailed, operational plans.

The themes of 'Beyond Good' for teaching, learning and assessment; of financial sustainability' and the values articulated in the plan were all familiar to the Board, as was the focus on technical and vocational.

It was felt that there should be at least some context to the plan, (for example the journey in recent years, including the good Ofsted grading for example), and while accepting that the Covid-19 virus should not dominate, that there should be at least some mention as part of the context.

In respect of the Vision and Mission, the shorter versions were preferred, but it was felt that there should be some 'people' element in the shorter vision statement.

Elsewhere in the plan, it was felt that there could be a greater emphasis on upskilling and progression to Higher Education and it was questioned whether the measures in respect of 'Beyond Good' should be a 'focus' rather than quite so specific.

The targets were still under consideration as financial planning was being revised.

Resolved – that the strategic plan be approved, subject to the above comments and approval of targets at the next Board meeting on 2nd July 2020.

56/20 Covid-19 Update

The College continued to follow guidance for FE Colleges and had created a Task and Finish Group in respect of re-opening of the college. A full risk assessment would take place and the process would be carefully managed, but the intention was to have a partial re-opening on 8th June 2020. (action since: put back to 15th June 2020 as per the majority of colleges).

It would be a phased re-opening, targeting students who were having difficulty accessing technology (not necessarily a lack of intent on their part), those who had not engaged and those who were facing challenging circumstances.

It was noted that communications would be important and it was emphasised that the new Communications team was excellent and there could be confidence that appropriate communications would be deployed.

As part of the risk assessment process, the need for learners to achieve and progress had also been taken into account, and other learners would only be invited into college if they had to complete practical activities. Those specific activities would be risk assessed by tutors.

It was asked about transport and canteen. Students would be asked to bring packed lunches and advice was being sought about transport.

There had been significant preparation over the current period for a return to opening. There had been a deep clean of the building and, in response to questioning, assurance given that maintenance had continued such as the running of water systems, with planned maintenance for legionella in hand.

Screens would be installed at reception and PPE deployed where necessary. One-way systems were being set up with 2 metres being marked out on the ground.

For staff and students, there would be individual risk assessments, including those who were vulnerable. Those who were shielding would not be allowed on site and alternative arrangements put in place.

Discussions were taking place with the unions, who agreed that plans were comprehensive, although one union in particular was placing particular store on the track and trace system. It was felt that while this would be a useful tool, but prevention was still very important.

The Board concluded that the arrangements were comprehensive and sensible.

It was also noted that work was underway to assess students in line with the guidelines issued by the awarding bodies.

Resolved –

To approve the phased approach to partial re-opening.

The meeting closed at 1845h.