

Minutes of the Corporation Special Meeting

Held Thursday 18 January 2024

Commencing 18:00 in Block 1 Board Room supported through Teams

Present Joanne Chilton (*Chair*), Jacquie Carman (*Principal*), Lee Smart, Ian Hughes, Tiffany Harvey-Pallent, Raj Joshi, Gail Rothnie, Joanne Rouse, and Sarah Dawson

In attendance Joanne Williams (*Deputy Principal*)
Andrew Woodford (*Vice Principal and Chief Operating Officer*)
Jennifer Sunter (*Clerk to the Corporation*)

1	Apologies
	Apologies were received on behalf of Aisha Benachour, Shabir Chagan, Andrew Hanson, Alison Jarrett, Helene Jones, Chloe Naughton and Mark Sterling,
2	Declarations of Interest
	There were none.
3	Spotlight on Skills and Adult Provision
	<p>Members received a detailed presentation to support discussion on the College's position and strategic planning in relation to curriculum for skills and training. This incorporated the complexity of qualification changes and funding, impact on students and the College's ability to be both proactive and responsive.</p> <p>Key points presented included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Strategic Plan was focused on students and stakeholders with a key change in greater tracking of destination data. • Required compliance with local skills reforms. • Performance of and exceeding contracts and funding. • Being positive towards new developments, working with the West Midlands Combined Authority and local skills and enterprise boards, while pushing for greater cohesiveness and fairness in priorities and being able to make real impact. • Consideration of gaps in aspects of skills economy not being addressed. • Diversifying income. • Continuous review of curriculum strategy to keep pace with sector including defunding of courses. <p>Members discussed:</p> <p>Being place based appropriate, noting Dudley Council's audit of skills through Oxford Innovation and if this would address small businesses, with awareness that a variety of models are needed to address a wide range of employers and needs.</p> <p>That the demand from employers and individuals needed equal focus to supply of course offer, which would need to be addressed through Marketing. The use of campaigns to raise awareness of opportunities with appropriate communication and reach.</p> <p>Awareness of other localities facing similar make-up and concerns.</p>

	<p>The impact of government policy and potential political changes on the pace of educational reform, with sector lobbying to raise areas of real concern, including defunding of courses.</p> <p>The danger of more students becoming NEET and potential age discrimination.</p> <p>Maintaining appropriate staff skills to meet needs.</p> <p>Gaps in curriculum and addressing new courses with planned estates development, particularly around Dentistry and Culinary Arts. Levels of courses and location were discussed, mindful of offering the best courses with appropriate progression routes. The Pool Road development was also under consideration for community facing provision such as catering and hairdressing, while mindful of the need to be sensitive to the local economy and small businesses in the town centre.</p> <p>Members were very supportive of developing courses around Dentistry, particularly in light of such a large skills gap in the locality.</p> <p>In summary members noted the complexity of challenges facing the College and that there were also many opportunities.</p> <p>The College wished to maintain its agility and energy to move forward positively.</p>
4	<p>Date of Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Corporation was noted as 26 January 2024.</p>

The meeting closed at 7.02pm