

HOPWOOD HALL COLLEGE

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporation** held at the Rookery Hall Hotel on 16 May 2009 at 1030 hrs.

Present	Sultan Ali	Robert Clegg (Chair)	Ian Bain
	Phil Chadwick	Linda Feerick	James Gallagher
	Ann Holt	Mohammed Naeem	Derek O'Toole (Principal)
	Derek O'Toole (Principal)	Terry Piggott	Clive Reid
	Clint Street		
In Attendance	Ralph Devereux (Clerk)	OJ Rahim (Exec Dir Skills)	Margaret Kingsford (Exec Dir T&L)
	Janet Meenaghan (VP (Q&S) desig)	John Spindler (Interim Exec Dir FP&HR)	
Apologies	Coral Jaworska	Caroline Taylor	Maryam Rana

The Chairman welcomed Ian Bain the newly elected staff member and Janet Meenaghan to the meeting.

49/08 ELIGIBILITY, QUORUM AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The apologies were accepted. No notice had been received of any member becoming ineligible to hold office, the meeting was quorate and no interests were declared.

50/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

- a. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 5 March 2009 were confirmed and signed.
- b. It was agreed to receive and update on the accommodation strategy as urgent business.

51/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

52/08 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS (UNCONFIRMED)

- a. Standards Committee. (26 March 2009).
- b. ED Committee. (26 March 2009) (Notes).
- c. Audit Committee. (23 April 2009).
- d. E&F Committee. (23 April 2009).
- e. ED Committee. (29 April 2009).

The Minutes were noted.

53/08 PRINCIPALS REPORT

There was no report from the Principal since all items had been discussed during the previous day's activities.

54/08 FINANCE REPORT

The financial report to end March had been closely scrutinised by the E&F Committee at their last meeting. The predicted deficit of -£273 was -£69k below the budgeted deficit of £-£220k. Student enrolments were approaching targets for both 16-18 and 19+; adult learner volumes and funding generation however were both over target. The overall year end position had been budgeted as £7k and was expected to be largely in that area. LSC indicative funding for 2009/10 had now been advised; the 16/18 funding had been reduced although the effect had been mitigated by an allocation of "Exceptional Funding" for a 16/18 building project, generally the funding had increased by 3.8% over 2008/09. The situation with the Learn Local transfer was now clear and a contribution of c£3m could be expected, which was welcomed as realistic and it was intended to establish a transitional team to administer the transfer; these arrangements were considered satisfactory. The transfer of Learn Local had been recommended to the Corporation and that was accepted and the acquisition was approved. The graphs and statements at Annex A were studied and the cash flow position was noted.

- a. **The information was received.**
- b. **Acquisition of "Learn Local was approved.**

55/08 SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME

The introduction of the single equality scheme expected for 2010, had prompted revision of those policies required by statute, in anticipation of their inclusion in a master all embracing policy, alongside of which would be the requirement to monitor the impact; advice was being taken on the latter requirement. Accordingly it would be necessary to show that not only that data was being collected (on the various contributing factors) but that action was being implemented to resolve any inequality. It was necessary to consult on some aspects of the new policy. The time associated with that would preclude completion by the end of term but it would be actively progressed for consideration by the corporation in the Autumn Term. A senior manager had now been identified and an equality and diversity steering group had been established, corporation members would be welcome at any of that group's meetings. It was stressed that collection of data would continue to be voluntary and in every question bank there would be an alternative to a positive response "Prefer not to say".

The information was received.

56/08 EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

Considerable achievements had been made in driving the employer engagement strategy forward in the relatively short time since inception; Orchard Training Solutions (OTS) was now well established with TTG value standing at £2.57m, WBL volumes were increasing in line with all other OTS responsibilities and all the work was administered by 20 staff. Details of the contracts were considered and discussed and it was unanimously agreed that sound progress had been made and had provided a valuable contribution to total income. The priorities for the next 3 years were considered, discussed in detail and were noted.

The information was noted.

57/08 DEPUTY CHILD PROTECTION MEMBER

It was necessary to appoint a deputy to the nominated Child Protection member (Caroline Taylor) and in view of the importance of this issue the Chairman volunteered and this was unanimously supported.

The Chairman was appointed deputy child protection member.

58/08 URGENT BUSINESS

- a. A comprehensive paper detailing the history of the project from inception and the various recent influencing events was circulated. The original scheme had identified a site in Stakehill for use as a temporary decant facility to allow Rochdale C Block demolition. However, the LSC had expressed some concern regarding the temporary nature of the (Stakehill) decant and this had led to the identification of an alternative site in Dane Street very close to the Rochdale campus. The site was also 300sqm larger, was available on more favourable terms and was considered preferable by the C Block staff who also felt that the site should be permanently available to facilitate growth, which would not be otherwise available, and to allow widening of the curriculum offer. It was felt that the site would be well suited to delivery of the construction curriculum and that space allocated at the main block would be reallocated to other use. Implications for the wider curriculum delivery had been discussed by the EDC and it had been agreed that there were exciting possibilities and they

had recommended that the opportunity should be enthusiastically taken. The LSC now supported this scheme and agreed heads of terms had been drawn up to enable the lease acquisition. The local authority had given comfort that the planning permission for the change of use for the site should be straightforward. However, establishment of the additional facilities at Dane Street required resolution of several complications which could not be achieved in time to for the next national council meeting and the overall delay caused by the whole process some 3-4 months. This delay could disadvantage the approval to proceed in the initial tranche since "Trowel ready" status had been widely publicised as the overriding criterion for a September start. However, a further criteria that savings over the original bids should be made could be met since considerable potential savings on the overall accommodation strategy had been identified, which it was hoped would enhance the possibility of full approval for the project. The LLSC had now agreed to support the revised scheme conditionally, the required conditions were all discussed and risks associated with the project were fully considered individually including all financial implications. However they were reluctant to propose that the submission would go to the national council meeting of 3 June and this view was strongly rebutted and it was unanimously agreed that the proposal should go to that meeting. It was strongly felt that any further delay could disadvantage full approval and failure to progress with the permanent Dane Street option could well prejudice the master programme at Rochdale through delays in availability to the construction companies. It was unanimously agreed to endorse the EDC decision to proceed with the scheme for permanent establishment of the Dane Street site as a matter of urgency. Accordingly it was strongly felt and agreed that the scheme should be presented to the LSC national council on 3 June where, subject to planning, it should be approved for inclusion in the 09/10 spending round, with AiD in January 2010.

- b. There was considerable feeling that LSC assurances over contributions made to enable the Sixth Form College project had not been honoured and those contributions' crucial importance in that project had been diluted. It was felt that the overall project, although now decoupled, had been based on the parallel progression of the 2 colleges on a single campus and work in progress at Rochdale was a de-facto start of the whole project, The completion of the scheme in totality was of vital importance to Rochdale education and if it did not proceed then the viability of HHC itself could be endangered since there were likely to be newly refurbished colleges in the proximity. It was unanimously agreed to reply, in firm terms, to the LSC letter signed by Geoff Russell's and address each point in turn and to initiate a publicity campaign, involving as many stakeholders as possible, to explain to the community the implications for the longer term educational future of Rochdale and to bring to those concerns to the attention of the LSC.
- a. **The EDC decision to proceed with purchase of the Dane Street facility was endorsed and approved.**
- b. **The Dane Street facility would be permanently established and funding sought at the earliest opportunity.**
- c. **A publicity/support campaign for the wider scheme would be initiated.**

59/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on 16 July 2009.