

BARNSELY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE & SEARCH COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 MARCH 2015

PRESENT: J Thirkell (Chair) Governor
N Bowen Governor
R Pourali Governor
C Booth Governor

IN ATTENDANCE: A J Oaks (Clerk to the Governors)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

15.01 There were no apologies.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

15.02 Members were reminded of the requirement to declare any interests. No interests were declared.

MINUTES

15.03 The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2014 were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

15.04 The Chair referred to the actions arising and provided an update to the Committee on the peer review process which had been deferred to the New Year. A meeting was scheduled to take place with the Chairs and Clerks from Hull College Group and York College on 19 March to share best practice and discuss work undertaken by each college since the last meeting.

VACANCIES ON THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES

15.05 The Clerk reported that under the current constitution of 18, there was capacity to appoint a further three external members at the current time. P Helm had indicated he would be standing down from the Board in June, allowing capacity for a further appointment. In order to inform Governors' decision making, an updated analysis of skills had been completed and circulated, together with an analysis of age, gender and ethnicity. Three applications for membership of the Board had been received and all individuals had been interviewed by a panel of governors on 3 March 2015.

15.06 It was agreed to recommend two of the three individuals for appointment to the Board and to maintain 17 as the maximum in the short term. Ms Sara Turton, Director of SAINT Consultancy Services, and Mr Robert Dewar, Assistant Director, Management Accounting at SHU. Ms Turton had considerable experience of government funding and skills policy and was commercially very astute. It was felt that her skills would bring a fresh perspective to the existing skillset of the Board.

15.07 Mr Dewar's financial acumen and background in both public and private sector organisations was considered highly desirable and would address the skills lost by the departure of the Vice Chair in February 2015.

RESOLVED 15.08.1 to recommend Ms Sara Turton be appointed to the Board for a term of office of four years, and be appointed to the Audit Committee

RESOLVED 15.08.2 to recommend Mr Robert Dewar be appointed to the Board for a term of office of four years, and to be appointed to the Finance & Resources Committee with a view to being appointed Chair of the Committee.

15.09 Further discussion took place with regard to the membership of the Board's Committees. In order to balance the skills make-up of the members on each committee and the contribution made by individual governors to the work of the Committees, further changes were proposed.

RESOLVED 15.09.1 to recommend Mr David Shepherd be appointed to the G&S Committee.

RESOLVED 15.09.2 That Mr Nick Bowen stand down from membership of the F&R Committee with immediate effect.

RESOLVED 15.09.3 That G Beever be appointed Chair of the F&R Committee to in the interim period prior to R Dewar taking on the position.

15.10 Following discussion regarding the Board's subsidiary companies, it was agreed to approach Governors with a view to appointing one to each of the College's subsidiaries.

15.11 The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the third applicant and informed him of the outcome of the recruitment process.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

15.12 The Committee noted that the term of office of J Thirkell as both Governor and Chair would end in July 2015. It was agreed prudent to review the role description for the chair and establish whether it remained fit for purpose. The Chair and Clerk proposed reviewing this outside of the meeting for comment by members.

CODE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE – CONSULTATION

15.13 The Code of Good Governance consultation document had been circulated to Board members in December 2014. Discussion took place with regard to the Code with a view to making a response by the deadline of 5 March 2015. Comments and observations had been made which were shared with members. The Clerk confirmed that no further comments had been received therefore she would respond to the AoC to meet the deadline.

GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN

15.14 The Committee received the governance improvement action plan which was rag rated to show progress. Following the self-evaluation and external review processes that had taken place in the autumn term, and the mock inspection in January 2015, the Committee believed that items 2 and 3 should be green rather than amber, as demonstrated by the work undertaken in the last six months to streamline agendas, reduce repetition of reports from Committee to Board, and the establishment of the Q&S Committee. The development of the data dashboard would remain rag rated as amber. It was agreed that the evaluating the impact of governor/learner activities be undertaken as part of the self-assessment process in early autumn, and so should remain amber.

COMMITTEE SELF EVALUATION

15.15 The Clerk was developing a new survey for the review of the performance of the Committees which was a bi annual process and was due in the autumn.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

15.16 The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 29 September 2015. It was agreed that if necessary an additional meeting would be called before the end of the summer.

Signed _____ Chair

Date _____