

BARNSELEY COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2017

PART I

PRESENT:

N Bowen	Governor (Vice Chair)
S Brian	Governor
P Clarkson	Governor (Staff)
K Dickinson	Governor
E Hodgson	Governor (Student)
R Hooley	Governor (Staff)
H Jaggard	Governor
C Moss	Governor
C Partridge	Governor
S Perryman	Governor
D Shepherd	Governor
S Taylor	Governor
C Webb	Governor (Principal)
R Wood	Governor (Student)

IN ATTENDANCE:

A J Oaks	Clerk to the Board
Y Kouris	Deputy Principal
L Lawton	Vice Principal Finance
L Leek	Vice Principal Curriculum
P Briscoe	VP Quality and Student Experience
V Dalton	VP Funding Data and Compliance
T Johnson	VP Corporate Services

The Chair welcomed S Taylor, E Hodgson and R Wood to the meeting in advance of their appointment to the Board. Introductions were made.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

17.256 Apologies for absence were received from S Turton and G Beever.

C Partridge participated via conference call from Minute 17.261 to Minute 17.287 when she joined the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT GOVERNORS

17.257 Following elections by the Student Union, E Hodgson and R Wood were elected to serve as Student governors. The appointments were accepted.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

17.258 The Chair reminded members of the requirement to declare any financial or personal interests in the agenda items. Declarations of interest were made by C Partridge and C Moss (standing items); C Webb and K Dickinson in respect of their Directorship of the subsidiaries, and Y Kouris in respect of Wellspring Academy Trust.

MINUTES

17.259 The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2017 (Part I) were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

- 17.260 The Board received a list of actions arising from previous meetings. It was noted that the Board had completed Safeguarding training on 4 December. The reporting structure in respect of the HE Review through Q&S to the Board had been agreed and was therefore removed from the list. Discussion around an Organisational Development strategy would form part of discussions at the strategic seminar. Director vacancies on the subsidiaries would be considered by the Governance & Search Committee at its meeting in February, with a view to making recommendations for appointment of new Directors at the March Board.
- 17.261 The Chair stated that he was extremely delighted with the news the College had been ranked second in the country in the NICDEX league table published by FE Week in November, adding that this was a great achievement to the College and to Barnsley. Congratulations were conveyed to the College.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 17.262 The Board received the Principal's report which highlighted various current topics. The Self Assessment Report for 2016/17 had been completed and an overall effectiveness grade of Outstanding had been given, including outstanding subgrades for teaching, learning and assessment, personal development behaviour and welfare, outcomes for learning and leadership and management. The report also highlighted the excellent financial outturn at the end of 2016/17, which was reflected in the financial statements presented for approval.
- 17.263 In terms of link governor arrangements, given the move away from strategic action plans to the balanced score card, the Principal believed there were a number of areas where it was essential for governors to retain strategic oversight through a link governor scheme. Separate to the statutory areas of H&S, SEN, Safeguarding and Prevent and E&D, suggestions had been made in specific areas where the link governors could make a strategic and valued contribution. Discussion took place with regard to the methodology given that there were significantly more strategic goals than in previous years. The Chair encouraged members to consider areas where they had expertise and interest, stating that link visits should be an interesting and productive part of a governors' role.
- 17.264 Members commented on the mechanism and how it might work in practice, to ensure there was no cross over between governor oversight and considered ways in which they might share findings across different areas, to provide a more holistic view. The notion of some sort of social network was suggested, as a means of allowing governors to communicate freely in terms of strategic oversight. In terms of the list provided by the Principal, it was agreed to add Study Programmes) and IT/GDPR to it, the latter to become a 'statutory' link until such time as the Board were content they had sufficient assurance around implementation of the new GDPR regulations. Members also discussed whether there was merit in link governors attending the relevant Committees, where the balanced score card was presented. The Clerk referred to the new method of monitoring progress against strategic goals through the balanced score card at Committee level, and it was noted that link governors may not necessarily be members of the relevant Committee which could be a challenge. Governors recognised the importance of retaining strategically focused and considered the concept of link governors attending a Committee meeting if appropriate.
- 17.265 In terms of matching Governors to the proposed areas, the Chair asked members to let the Clerk know of their preference(s) as soon as possible so that arrangements could be taken forward. The Chair also reminded members of the importance of establishing a link Governor for Equality and Diversity following Roya Pourali's resignation in October.
- 17.266 The Principal referred to the proposals and opportunities with regard to BMBC's Courthouse development on County Way, which included potential development of the College's Eastgate House. (D Shepherd's interest was noted). The College would continue to engage

in discussions with the Local Authority and keep governors informed through the F&R Committee.

RESOLVED 17.266 **that Governors shall be linked to the areas agreed for monitoring performance against strategic objectives in 2017/18.**

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 17.267 The Board received a report from the Deputy Principal summarising performance in relation to all strategic goals. With regard to the Quality and Sustainability pillars, HE quality and income remained rag rated red as acknowledged by the Board who were aware of the current HE review being undertaken. The Terms of Reference of the HE review group had been appended for information. The Deputy Principal referred to the minutes of the Quality and Standards Committee meeting 23 November, at which the subject of the review had been discussed. The Deputy Principal was keen to ascertain whether the Terms of Reference for the review group fully captured Governors' concerns, and reminded members that the HE review was looking at the future position and addressing quality. The Principal made reference to the discussions that had taken place at the Q&S Committee in respect of enhancing the quality of HE, and the need to closely monitor this in view of the forthcoming QAA visit in June 2018.
- 17.268 The strategic goal 'Deliver sector leading English and maths outcomes' in the quality pillar had been rag rated amber and a comprehensive explanation for this had been provided in the report for members' information including action being taken by management. The strategic goal 'increase income from Apprenticeships' had also been rag rated amber and this area was also being closely monitored by SLT. The Deputy Principal remarked that the reduction of income related to both HE and Apprenticeships and would be addressed as part of the performance review meetings at Period 3 which were taking place this month.
- 17.269 The Principal referred to the Reputation pillar in which the strategic goal 'Recognised as an education provider of choice' was rag rated amber. The Board had not been provided with a separate paper in respect of this. The Deputy Principal explained that this was a consequence of the HE aspects, but would be happy to provide a report if members thought it necessary. Discussion took place regarding the mechanism for monitoring and it was agreed that it would be useful for the Board to see the more detailed strategic KPIs associated with the Reputation pillar at every Board meeting, and a more detailed report on the amber area at the March Board meeting.

RESOLVED 17.270 **that the Deputy Principal present the balanced scorecard highlighting the KPIs for the Reputation pillar to every Board meeting and to provide a report in relation to the amber area to the March meeting.**

- 17.271 Further discussion took place with regard to the link governor role in terms of monitoring strategy and whether this would be through Committee work or by receiving the balanced scorecard. The current HE review was used as an example of how Governors had contributed their expertise to the scope of the review which had been helpful, without becoming too operationally involved. Governors acknowledged that going forwards monitoring would be different and that the areas individual Governors were matched with may not necessarily relate to the Committee they were members of when reviewing the associated pillars. Thus there was a need for Governors to communicate effectively.

AUDIT COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 17.272 The Chair of Audit and D Shepherd summarised the business conducted by the Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2017. The Minutes of the meeting were tabled for reference in respect of the Committee's recommendations. The Committee had received several internal audit reports all of which had received substantial assurance. With regard to the advisory report undertaken to assess the College's readiness for GDPR, this would be discussed later in the meeting under a separate agenda item as the Committee had

requested the associated action plan be presented to the Board. D Shepherd informed the Board that the Committee had contributed to the procurement process for appointing new auditors which would take place in the spring term, following evaluation of tenders by management. The Chair of Audit's statement that KPMG had received and declined to tender for audit services at the College was noted.

- 17.273 The Committee had received the Auditors report and management findings for year ended 31/7/2017 which indicated there would be an unqualified audit opinion issued on the financial statements for the College and its subsidiaries. The Accounts had been prepared on a going concern basis and the assessment confirmed that the College had a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for this reason would continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its Financial Statements. Due to a net liability, Think Barnsley Limited required a Letter of Support from the College to confirm it as a going concern. On the basis of the auditors' regularity audit opinion and the additional sources of evidence providing assurance to the Committee of the college's assurance framework, the Committee was able to provide an opinion to the Board that the College's audit arrangements, framework of governance, risk management and control, and processes for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness, were adequate. This opinion supported the Corporate Governance Statement contained within the Financial Statements on pages 18 to 20.

RESOLVED 17.274 To approve the Annual Report of the Committee to the Board and Accounting Officer for submission to the ESFA together with the Financial Statements 2016/17.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

- 17.275 The Board received a report from the VP Funding, Data and Compliance, as requested by the Audit Committee. In terms of the background, members were informed that the current data protection legislation would be replaced by the EU directive GDPR which would come into effect on 25 May 2018. Board members had previously been informed of the forthcoming changes in briefings from the Clerk in recent months. The VP F,D&C explained that the GDPR includes and strengthens specific rights for individuals and the significance of the changes were such that in preparation the College had commissioned a review by its internal auditors to assess the College's readiness for GDPR. The report had contained 13 recommendations. The College had since commenced a review of its privacy notice and key policies such as Data Retention and Data Protection and expanded the role of the College's Information Strategy Group to oversee the GDPR Strategy.
- 17.276 The VP FD&C stated that under the new regulations the DPO must have direct access to the Board. Advice from the Information Commissioner was that the role should be an independent one, the person undertaking it being at a senior level within the organisation and with no conflicts of interest. The VP advised the Board that the College's existing DPO was the Director of Quality who was a member of the senior management team. As he did not deal with any data, he had no conflict of interest. It was proposed that a link governor role be created for GDPR to sit alongside other link governor arrangements in relation to statutory requirements to provide the necessary oversight of this key area, with the VP F,D&C as the SLT lead, to ensure compliance going forwards over the next three to five years. The Chair asked for further clarification on the likely level of impact of the new regulations, to which the VP F,D&C believed the project could be managed well, as ISO27001 had been and that guidance was currently awaited from funding bodies. He accepted there were potential issues around students' personal information held by the College in terms of the new right 'to be forgotten'.
- 17.277 H Jaggar commented that from her own perspective as a CEO she recognised this was a major piece of work. Referring to the VP's report itself, the Chair of Audit commented that she had been hoping to see a more detailed action plan to give comfort to the Board due to the need to demonstrate compliance in this area. The VP F,D&C proposed bringing a more comprehensive report to the next Board meeting. The Board acknowledged the risks around non-compliance in respect of financial penalties and in response to a question from

S Taylor regarding cyber insurance to guard against potential fines, the VP F,D&C said there was no specific insurance in place at the current time, but the college did benefit from JISC services, who provided the college with a cyber-defence platform which was regularly tested. However he thanked S Taylor for his advice which was noted for follow up. In terms of the proposal to seek a link governor, the Chair hoped that this could be determined alongside other link governor arrangements before the new year.

RESOLVED 17.278.1 to establish a link governor for GDPR as soon as possible;

RESOLVED 17.278.2 That a more comprehensive report and action plan be presented to the Board in March 2018.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES BUSINESS

17.279 The Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee summarised the business that had been conducted at the meeting on 7 December 2017. The Clerk tabled the draft Minutes of the meeting for Governors' information and reference. The Chair of F&RC explained that the Committee had focused on the Financial Statements for year ending 31 July 2017 and the ESFA Financial dashboard. In summary, financial performance continued to be strong. All key financial targets and banking covenants had been met. The ESFA financial health grade was 'Good' as indicated in October and was expected to move back to 'satisfactory' once the OML remedial works were underway. EBITDA of £6,104k (16%) being 42% better than budget. The Audited accounts included an adjustment in relation to Learner Support Funds which was recorded as £1m of income but there was no impact on the deficit or EBITDA.

17.280 BCDC had recorded a profit of £60.00 at the end of the year as expected. It was noted that BCDC would carry out the OML remedial works. Think Barnsley Limited had recorded a loss of £1,333k at the end of the year and owed the College £70k at July 2017. The VP Finance explained the position and the reason why the company required a letter of support from the College. The Financial statements of the two subsidiaries had been approved by the respective Board of Directors at their meeting on 30 November 2017.

17.281 The Chair of F&RC reported that the outturn was as expected. She informed members that the Committee had discussed the matter of the debt in Think Barnsley Limited at length, and considered various options. Further to discussion it had been agreed that as the company was making a small surplus each year it should continue to receive the letter of support from the college but that the Committee would monitor the deficit closely. She added that the Committee had also spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the ESFA data dashboard, which was very helpful in terms of highlighting the College's position in the sector and would be useful for all Board members to have sight of. In addition, the Committee had reviewed some key questions Governors should be asking regarding financial oversight, and concluded that the Committee's scrutiny was extremely robust and thorough.

17.282 The Chairman congratulated the College on another outstanding financial outturn and healthy position.

RESOLVED 17.282.1 To approve the Financial statements for the College and its subsidiaries for year ended 31 July 2017

RESOLVED 17.282.2 That the Chair and Principal be authorised to sign the Financial Statements and Letter of Representation for submission to the ESFA by 31 December 2017

RESOLVED 17.282.3 That the Chair be authorised to sign a Letter of Support for Think Barnsley Limited.

QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 17.283 The Board received the Minutes of the Quality and Standards Committee meeting held on 23 November 2017. The Chair of the Committee, N Bowen, summarised the business that had been conducted, emphasising the lengthy discussions that had taken place around performance against strategic goals. It had been suggested that going forwards the Committee should have greater exposure to members of the senior management team from time to time in meetings, where it was appropriate. As Board members were aware, considerable debate had taken place with regard to the HE Annual provider review which had culminated in management being asked to provide additional information to the Committee to provide the necessary assurance to allow the return to be made to HEFCE by the due deadline. N Bowen provided further details, stating that this was a very good example of Governors' expertise being used effectively to challenge management appropriately, which was evidenced in the Minutes.
- 17.284 The Committee had also reviewed the early judgements in relation to the SAR, and three governors had participated on the SAR validation panel on 27 November 2017. Noting that the two students had been in attendance at the Q&S meeting on 23 November, the Chair of the Board invited them to comment on the experience. E Hodgson commented that it had been enjoyable and a great deal to take in, whilst R Wood stated that he had found the experience invigorating.

The Minutes were noted and received.

SELF ASSESSMENT REPORT

- 17.285 The Board received the whole College Self Assessment Report, which was presented by the Vice Principal Quality and Student Experience. The College had graded itself outstanding in the four key judgement areas within the Common Inspection Framework. The College's grade for Overall Effectiveness was Outstanding. A summary of all curriculum and support department grades was included within the report, followed by strengths and areas for improvement in each of the four key areas. It was noted that Engineering had been judged as Requires Improvement. In response to questions, the VP Q&SE explained the process from moderation and challenge through to the production of the final report, all of which was completely evidence based.
- 17.286 Members commented positively on the report, particularly the outstanding judgement across the college which was reassuring. D Shepherd, who had participated on the SAR validation panel together with N Bowen and P Clarkson, commented that it had been very clear to the panel that the leads knew their own department's strengths and areas for improvement exceptionally well and that there had been significantly more evidence shared with the panel than that contained in the SAR. He added that he had no hesitation in recommending approval of the overall grade. D Shepherd's comments were reiterated by N Bowen who added that there had been a significant opportunity for challenge and that he could not argue with the outcomes. P Clarkson reported that he had been most impressed with the professional approach to the process.
- 17.287 The Chair raised further questions with regard to Engineering, and the VP Q&SE reported that some early signs of stability were emerging and that an external consultant would be commissioned to bring about further improvement. In response to further questions about the document's use internally, the VP explained that the strengths and areas for improvement generated the production of a Quality Improvement Plan and how this was monitored through SMT and PR meetings. The Chair stated that the SAR was an excellent, well written document. Thanks were to be conveyed to the Director of Quality for writing the SAR and to all staff who had contributed to the process.

RESOLVED 17.288 To approve the College Self Assessment Report and grade of Outstanding for Overall Effectiveness.

The conference call with C Partridge was concluded at this point, when she joined the meeting in person.

HE ANNUAL PROVIDER REVIEW

17.289 The Board received a report explaining the purpose of the HE APR in order to provide the necessary assurance that was required to submit the return. The Board had been kept fully informed of the process and had given authority for the Principal as Accounting Officer to sign the return by the due date subject to the Quality and Standards Committee's decision. The Principal referred members to the Quality and Standards Committee minutes taken earlier in the meeting and spoke in more detail with regard to the Committee's request for additional information. The Principal thanked C Moss in particular for his valuable input to the process in ensuring the Committee, and subsequently the Board, could be content that an action plan was in place relating to the continuous improvement of the student academic experience and student outcomes. The Principal was pleased to report that HEFCE had since made a follow up visit and had been very complimentary about the action plan. The letter confirming this, once received, would be circulated to Board members. The Principal added that he accepted improvements were required, and assured members that he would be closely monitoring a more comprehensive document and quality improvement plan in light of the QAA visit in June 2018. It was confirmed the document had been signed and submitted to HEFCE by 1 December 2017.

17.290 C Moss commented that it was important for the Board to acknowledge and understand the position with regard to the quality of HE provision at any point during the year, and that receipt of the 'live' action plan to monitor and review quality assurance, student experience and destinations would be very helpful to the Committee in assessing the quality of reports and progress needed to bring about the necessary changes. C Partridge's comment on further potential changes as a result of the new Office for Students regulations was noted.

RESOLVED 17.291 To endorse approval of the Higher Education Annual Provider Review.

GOVERNANCE AND SEARCH COMMITTEE BUSINESS

17.292 The Board received the Minutes of the Governance and Search Committee meeting held on 21 November 2017. The Chair informed members that members of the Committee had interviewed S Taylor on 21 November and following a very successful interview the Committee was unanimous in recommending his appointment to the Board. The Chair believed that Mr Taylor's background, skills and experience in both public and private sectors would add significant value to the Board.

RESOLVED 17.292 to appoint Simon Taylor as a member of the Board for a term of office of four years and as a member of the Finance and Resources Committee.

R Hooley left the meeting.

COLLEGE PAY AWARD

P Clarkson declared an interest.

17.293 The VP Corporate Services presented the report which contained a recommendation for the Board to consider and approve the AoC pay recommendation for 2017/18 of 1% on all salary points below senior leadership level or £250, whichever was greater. The Board was informed that the cost to the College of implementing the pay award was £220,000. The Vice Principal reported that UCU and UNISON had undertaken consultative ballots on strike action in response to the recommendation but as yet the outcome was unknown. AoC would be meeting with all recognised unions in January to discuss wider issues relating to pay in the sector. The VP commented that paying the award would maintain the link to the nationally agreed recommended pay scale and reduce the risk of the College falling behind a nationally recognised rate of pay impacting on staff recruitment and retention. Questions were raised by members with regard to non financial rewards and benefits which the Vice

Principal stated would be rolled out to staff in 2018/19. Governors and Unions would be kept informed.

RESOLVED 17.293 to implement the nationally recommended pay award of 1% on all salary points below senior leadership level, or £250 whichever is the greater, from 1 January 2018 for all Barnsley College contract holders.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

17.294 The Board received a report from the Vice Principal Quality and Student Experience seeking approval for amendments to the Safeguarding Policy. The VP Q&SE explained that the reason for the change was to incorporate an additional paragraph relating to subcontracting arrangements to ensure that all students in subcontracted provision were adequately safeguarded. In addition, amendments had been made to the Recruitment section of the policy to ensure that a reference was secured prior to offering employment. H Jaggar, in her capacity as link governor for safeguarding, commented that in respect of the recent issue around one of the College's subcontractors she was pleased to see the College had responded promptly to ensure the policy was fit for purpose.

RESOLVED 17.295 to approve the Safeguarding Policy.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT

17.296 The Board received the 2016/17 Annual Report for Equality and Diversity in line with the Board's statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Vice Principal Curriculum presented the report, giving an assurance to the Board that performance gaps continued to narrow and be closely monitored. The Equality and Diversity Strategy group had responsibility for monitoring progress against the Single Equality Scheme and associated action plan and visits by the designated link governor had complemented this monitoring to provide assurance to the Board.

17.297 The VP Curriculum commented that with regard to students who disclosed a disability, some did not access support therefore the table within the report indicated performance of those in receipt of support. Outcomes and outputs were managed via departments through the Equality and Diversity quality improvement plan and through performance review in order to address gaps. An area of focus in 2016/17 had been performance of 19+ males. In-year, the performance of both male and female 19+ cohorts had improved to 91.3% and 94.1% respectively which was a significant improvement.

17.298 The report was comprehensive and provided examples of equality and diversity in action, its visibility, partnership work, staffing and staff training, the VP emphasising the importance of using the student voice to keep E&D valued. Attention was drawn to the table which indicated the staff profile compared to the sector average and the local Barnsley area. The College's BaME staff cohort had increased by 1% since 2015/16 to 3.5% compared to 3.9% in Barnsley. In terms of the Governing body, BaME was at 6%. The VP Curriculum commented that the recent resignation of R Pourali would impact on the figures for 2017/18 unless addressed in year. The College was committed to increasing the diversity of its staff and Governors further; and to ensuring that employment policies and practices supported the SES duties by removing barriers in recruitment, selection and training processes. Members commented that it was important to be mindful of being the employer of choice from a diversity aspect and sought clarification of any work being undertaken around a gender pay gap analysis. The VP Corporate Services advised that the College was producing an action plan with a view to presenting a report to the Board in 2018 via the F&R Committee. C Partridge's comment regarding capturing white European individuals who were also minority ethnic was noted.

17.299 The Chair commented that the Governance and Search Committee had given a commitment to reviewing its recruitment and selection strategy at its next meeting in February and that as Chair he would welcome suggestions from Governors around

refreshing membership in the context of diversity, to inform discussion at the Governance event in January.

The Report was noted and received.

BOARD EFFECTIVENESS

17.300 The Board received a report produced by the Clerk which summarised the outcome of the Board's self-evaluation process in 2016/17. The Board had reviewed its effectiveness and performance both individually and collectively by participation in 1:1 meetings with Chair, committee effectiveness surveys, survey to assess the performance of the Chair, and through a bespoke event facilitated by Dr S Pember measuring performance against the Code of Good Governance. Key strengths and areas for improvement were highlighted, areas for improvement included increasing the diversity amongst board members, improving attendance at meetings, succession planning and re-energising governance. Training and development needs identified as a result of the process would be actioned in-year.

17.301 The Board's Governance Improvement Action Plan (GIAP) had been appended to the report and the Chair summarised progress against the actions, stating that the event with Dr Ron Hill in January should be interesting and thought provoking in terms of how effective governing and governance was.

RESOLVED 17.302 to endorse the strengths and areas for improvement and approve the associated Action Plan.

STRATEGIC SEMINAR PROGRAMME

17.303 The Deputy Principal tabled an updated version of the programme for discussion. Members were mindful of the need to use the time effectively in order to obtain the most value from each of the sessions. Sir Steve Houghton had confirmed attendance to open the first session on 'Devolution going forward'. It was hoped to secure another external speaker to present the FE national context. Following this two further strategic workshops were planned, including a follow up governance session. Considerable debate took place with regard to the structure and content for Saturday morning's session around strategy; looking forward and horizon scanning.

D Shepherd left the meeting at this point in the proceedings.

17.304 Several suggestions were shared with regard to potential topics and it was agreed that the Industrial strategy, Skills Plan and labour market intelligence would provide a useful framework for helping the College to achieve its vision for Barnsley in terms of economic growth and influencing the shape over the next three to five years. Further to discussion, the Chair suggested that the Deputy Principal produce a briefing for the Board in advance of the seminar highlighting key themes for discussion and to provide a context for broader discussions. It was expected a SWOT analysis would be included. The Principal reminded the Board that students remained at the heart of the College's core purpose and that it was important to ensure the strategy met the needs of students and the community, raising aspirations in the borough.

The Report was noted.

GOVERNANCE EVENT PROGRAMME

17.305 The Board received the outline programme for the Governing and Governance event on 18 January 2018 being facilitated by Dr R Hill. It was agreed to bring forward the start time to 1.00 pm to co-incide with a working lunch.

WELLSPRING ACADEMY TRUST

17.306 The Board received the termly report from Wellspring Academy Trust. As a Director and Trustee of the Trust Board, The Deputy Principal reported that the Trust was currently focusing on growth, marketing and capacity building. The Strategic Plan centred around supporting strong Academies with strong outcomes, a region wide network of academies, growing the infrastructure and being financially sustainable. In terms of managing risk, a Wellspring Assurance Framework was being developed to synthesise operational clarity and support managerial action and governance oversight. The Deputy Principal said that the Trust had expanded extremely rapidly, albeit not in the geographical area anticipated but the aspiration and direction of travel had been excellent. The report also highlighted new appointments to the Board.

The Report was noted and received.

PRINCIPAL'S GOOD NEWS REPORT

17.307 The Principal highlighted various key activities, events and celebrations that had been taking place in the College recently, including an article in a recent publication of FE Week. He reminded members that they could follow the College's activities on Twitter and Facebook. The Report was noted and received.

GOVERNOR ENGAGEMENT / LINK VISITS

17.308 Two link visits in respect of statutory areas of responsibility had been undertaken in recent weeks. The written feedback had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. S Brian provided an additional verbal report following his visit to Wigfield farm earlier in the year commenting very positively on the working farm. The Chair had visited the Art and Design department prior to the meeting, commenting that he had met several creative and innovative people which was enlightening. He had also been made aware of mental health issues which were of some concern, and that this highlighted the importance of safeguarding arrangements within the College.

The Report was noted and received.

End of Part I

Signed _____ Chair

Date _____