

MOULTON COLLEGE

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting Held on Thursday 28th April 2011

Part 1

Present: Mr R Thompson (in the Chair), Mrs C Boardman, Mr S Davies,
Mr J Gaggini and Mr P Heygate

In Attendance: Mr G Davies, Mr J Mair, Mr M Wilkinson

11/69 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr C Barney.

11/70 Declarations of interest (agenda item 2)

Mrs Boardman declared an interest in any items concerning Northamptonshire County Council. Mr Heygate declared an interest as a supplier to the College.

11/71 Minutes of the last meeting (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

11/72 Matters arising (agenda item 4)

There were no matters arising.

11/73 New developments – progress report (agenda item 5)

a) Student Social Centre (paper B)

The financial report was discussed. Deejak Builders Ltd had gone into voluntary administration on 15th April. The options were to re-tender the contract for likely completion by Easter 2012, or seek to novate the remaining work to another contractor which should allow the centre to open in January 2012. It was proposed to novate the contract and a contractor known to the college, who had originally tendered for the work, had been approached regarding this. A performance bond was in place to cover potential losses and consequential costs. Following discussion, *it was agreed to novate the contract and bring a formal agreement to the next meeting for approval, subject to necessary checks being undertaken.*

There would also be delays to other contracts. It was proposed to provide breakfast and evening meals for residential students in the Moulton coffee shop. This would allow the conversion of Stewart House back into classrooms to take place as planned. It may also be possible to provide additional seating for lunchtimes on the other sites. The Registry building would be delayed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) Sports Therapy and Injury Rehabilitation Centre (paper C)

The financial report was discussed. The roof was complete on the main building. A site meeting would be held next week. Following discussion, *the*

report was noted.

c) Countryside Skills Centre (paper D)

The financial report was discussed. The project was on schedule. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

d) Refurbishment of Main Site – new Registry (paper E)

The financial report was discussed. The project was out to tender and a post-tender report would be brought to next month's meeting. Completion of this project would be delayed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

e) Refurbishment of Main Site – Stewart House (paper F)

The financial report was discussed. Work had commenced and the asbestos had been removed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

11/74 Student Residences (agenda item 6)

A report had been received from the University containing the options for development. The town centre site was still the preferred option. GSS had been asked to produce outline proposals for development of residences at the College. Additional accommodation was required by 2013. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

11/75 NCC Post-16 Transport Policy (agenda item 7, paper G)

The consultation document was discussed. The College had already responded but this was an opportunity for governors to contribute to the debate. NCC proposed to increase the student contribution from £400 to £600 per annum, or to £300 for students with learning difficulties or disabilities and those from low income households. The College currently charged £350 per annum for its own transport and invoiced NCC for the full cost of the seat less this amount. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Councils had decided to stop providing support for transport for the next academic year. A more detailed paper would be brought to the committee once the outcome of the NCC consultation was known. Following discussion, *the report was noted and it was agreed that the Chairman would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Board.*

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

11/76 Management Accounts for March 2011 (agenda item 8, paper H)

The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £190,302 over the budget, which was largely down to phasing. The College was in financial category C this month and rated Good under the Framework for Excellence. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved.*

11/77 Funding for 2011-12 (agenda item 9, paper I)

YPLA funding would increase by 6.42% next year but this contained £950,000 of transitional protection. This would need to be mitigated over the next 2-3 years by improving efficiency without affecting quality. Student numbers needed to grow by a minimum of 3% to meet the YPLA contract. The overall SFA single adult budget would be -0.3% next year. SFA funding for 16-18 year old apprentices had reduced by 9.4% as this year's contract had not

been met. However, any over-recruitment in this area would be funded and each faculty had been set targets for increased recruitment. The Adult Learner Responsive (ALR) and Employer Responsive (ER) budget may be difficult to meet due to changes to fee remission and the reinstatement of tuition fees for adults. HEFCE funding would decrease by 6.5% next year in addition to the 2.5% in-year cut experienced this year. The penalty for this year's over-recruitment would also be clawed back next year. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

11/78 ILR update 2010-11 (agenda item 10, paper J)

The report was discussed. The over-achievement of the ALR target would be compensated for by transfer of funds from Train to Gain. Apprenticeship work was under target but fewer resources had been committed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

11/79 Recruitment 2011-12 (agenda item 11, paper K)

Applications were 6.4% less than the same stage last year but acceptances were only down by 2%. The Construction faculty was furthest below last year's position overall. Staff were working hard to maximise conversion rates and the recruitment target should be met. HEFCE first choice decisions would be known in early May. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

11/80 University Technical College (agenda item 12)

A full application needed to be submitted by 1st June and decisions were expected in early July. There would be a minimum of 12 approvals in the current round with more likely in the autumn in a second round of applications up to the government's target of 24. The criteria had been published and had already been covered in the initial bid. Sustainable transport to the UTC was being investigated. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

11/81 Date of next meeting (agenda item 13)

Thursday 26th May 2011 at 9.30am in the Principal's Office.

11/82 Any other business

There was no other business.

Part 1 of the meeting concluded. Jamie Mair left the meeting.