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Walsall College

MINUTES OF CORPORATION MEETING HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2025
PART ONE

Members:	In Attendance:
Paul Averis Charlotte Bosworth (online) Andrew Chiduku Adam Comery Barbara Van Der Eecken (online) Heather Lodge Mary Mahoney Alexandru Marina Edward Ng Stuart Pedley-Smith Mykola Novnyi Tony Sadla Jat Sharma Helen Troalen Graham Ward (Acting Chair) Garry Welborn David Wheeler	Richard Brennan, Assistant Principal Curriculum Rachel Jones, Assistant Principal MIS Kirsti Lord, Deputy Principal Curriculum, Innovation & Student Success Jacky Leek, Interim Director of Finance James Norris, Assistant Principal Adults & Work-Based Learning David Turner, Assistant Principal Quality Lesley Venables, Head of Governance Charlotte Wood (minutes 278 to 306 only) Jo Petty, FE Commissioner's Team (minutes 345 to 350 only)

	CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS	
278	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the 2 new external governors and the new teaching staff governor. The Corporation noted that Nelson Tanyanyiwa was absent due to being on paternity leave.	
279	The Chair expressed his thanks for the gift sent to him from the College during a recent hospital stay. As he was still recovering and the Vice-Chair was attending online from Europe, it was suggested that Graham Ward be asked to chair the meeting.	
280	**Resolved** – That Graham Ward be appointed as temporary chair for this meeting only	
	APOLOGIES	
281	Apologies for absence were received from Nelson Tanyanyiwa.	
	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
282	There were no declarations of interest in any specific agenda items.	
	APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS	
283	The Head of Governance advised that there were a number of appointments that required approval at this meeting. Following a selection process two new external governors had been identified – Andrew Chiduku and Helen Troalen, who would add their skills and experience to the Corporation's profile and had been asked to join Audit and Finance & Resources Committees respectively.	
284	A nomination and election process had been undertaken recently for a new teaching staff governor.	

285	**Resolved** - 1 That Andrew Chiduku and Helen Troalen be appointed as external Governors for a 3 year term of office commencing on 27th March 2025 2 That Adam Comery be appointed as teaching staff governor for a 3 year term of office commencing on 27th March 2025	
	LINK GOVERNOR ACTIVITIES	
286	Barbara Van Der Eecken and Charlotte Bosworth had met with staff from the Apprenticeships Directorate and discussed the latest position. David Wheeler reported that he had recently attended a careers event and a discussion with the Mayor and the Chairs of other West Midlands colleges.	
287	Governors were reminded that they should record any link activity and submit the relevant paperwork to the Head of Governance.	ALL
	MINUTES	
288	**Resolved** – That, subject to a couple of minor amendments, the minutes of the meetings held on 12th December 2024 and 23rd January 2025 (Parts 1 and 2) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair	
	MATTERS ARISING	
289	The Head of Governance presented a progress report on the actions identified at the previous meeting and the Corporation noted that the majority of these had been completed or were in train.	
290	In relation to minute 128 on the partnership arrangement with Worcester University the Assistant Principal Adults reported that this would be included in the Partnership Strategy to be submitted for approval to a future Corporation meeting. Proposals on the future of the College's 14-16 and higher education provision would be discussed at the next strategy event (9th June).	JN/KL
	SAFEGUARDING ISSUES	
	Safeguarding Update	
291	The Head of Safeguarding presented a report on safeguarding issues/activities since the December 2024 meeting. There had been a total of 2051 referrals in Term 2, 41% of which related to mental health issues. The majority were from 14-19 year olds, however some cases were reported amongst older students.	
292	A total of 52 concerns related to harmful sexual behaviour including harassment and sexual violence. As a result, the Safeguarding Team and the Student Union Executive had arranged various sessions on harmful sexual behaviour in March.	
293	The department was working with the IT team to automate the processing of safeguarding date and categorising each referral, which would enable staff and governors to identify trends and emerging concerns.	
294	CAMHS staff would be on site from Easter as part of a pilot project which should improve further the level of support offered to students. External counselling services were also in place and it was anticipated that this would reduce waiting times and enable low-level concerns to be dealt with more efficiently.	
295	Governors were assured that the vacancies within the safeguarding team reported at the December 2024 meeting had now been filled	

296	A governor commented that these developments may not necessarily have any positive impacts in 2024/2025 but would need more time to embed. The Assistant Principal MIS reported that the College was drafting a Mental Health Framework, which would be presented to the next SMT meeting. All students would also have access to the student assistant App.	
297	A governor asked that future reports on the types of concerns by age should include the total size of the student cohort to provide context. The Head of Safeguarding advised that it had been difficult in the past to obtain consistent data for adults, as many students were undertaking short courses.	RJ/CW
298	Further queries were raised on how the safeguarding team monitored open cases and ensured that up-to-date information was accessible. Governors were advised that rigorous recording of discussions and interactions on each concern took place and was available to each member of the team. The Deputy Safeguarding Leads met with their teams every 2 weeks and there was a daily triage of cases.	
299	The next version of the safeguarding report would include data on the length of time for which a concern had been 'open', together with the number of interventions involved in all cases. A governor commented that there could be a reputational risk associated with cases being open for a long period of time, whether this was because of the complexity of the case or staff capacity. The Assistant Principal MIS responded that it was difficult to assess the 'age' of each case as timeliness varied considerably, but the data presented reflected the cases being dealt with currently.	RJ/CW
300	Governors congratulated the Head of Safeguarding for the recent award she had received from the National Association of Student Services Managers.	
	Prevent Strategy	
301	The Assistant Principal MIS presented the draft Prevent Strategy, which was considered to be good practice in the FE sector. There had been a total of 3 referrals to the Prevent programme in 2024/2025, In the West Midlands 17% of cases referred to the Channel Panel were escalated.	
302	The College had recently asked the Department for Education whether any guidance was available for professionals in the sector on making decisions regarding Prevent incidents. Governors were advised that, even if the Counter-Terrorism team decided not to pursue a particular case, the College still had to deal with the individual student and any resulting issues. Any subsequent monitoring by staff could be construed as discriminatory, but there was a duty on the College to monitor behaviour of any vulnerable students.	
303	In response to questions, the Head of Safeguarding advised that all staff, including those covering classes, were aware of the Prevent programme and the College's obligations.	
304	Monitoring of the Prevent Strategy would take place at every Safeguarding Committee meeting and it was noted that staff training had been classified as 'amber', which would be a priority for the remainder of the academic year.	
	Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement	
305	This document had been drafted to supplement the College's policy in this area.	

306	**Resolved – 1 That the Prevent Strategy be approved** **2 That the Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement be Approved** **Charlotte Wood left the meeting**	
	STUDENT ISSUES	
307	**Student Union President's Report** Governors received for information a report on student union activities since the January 2025 meeting and plans for future events in 2024/2025.	
308	A total of 150 students had participated in a mental health survey, which had highlighted the need for further counselling support and a request for quiet and recreational spaces at the Green Lane Campus.	
309	It was anticipated that the Hope & Harmony event would generate a higher level of engagement compared to 2023/2024.	
310	Students had received awareness raising sessions on healthy relationships and consent, phishing and staying safe online. The President of the National Union of Students had recently visited the College to encourage students to participate in the SU elections.	
311	A governor commented that student involvement in political activity could be problematic particularly in relation to issues such as the Gaza conflict. However, the Deputy Principal reported that students were encouraged to discuss these issues in a safe space and that these centred around making them responsible citizens rather than political opinions,	
312	The number of sports activities offered to students continued to grow across all campuses. Further events were planned for International Women's Day, mental health and a Maths, with the aim of there being something happening in the Atrium every day.	
313	**Student Voice Committee** The Corporation received for information the unconfirmed minutes of the Student Voice Committee meeting held on 13th February 2025. A governor asked whether the delays in students obtaining replacement ID badges had now been resolved and was advised that a new signing-in system would be operational from Easter 2025 an that this aligned to further work on the installation of entry gates to the Wisemore Campus.	
	SEARCH & GOVERNANCE STANDARDS COMMITTEE	
314	The Head of Governance presented for information the unconfirmed minutes of the Search & Governance Standards Committee meeting held on 4th February 2025.	
315	Attendance against the agreed target of 75% had been discussed and it was noted that currently the Finance & Resources Committee and the Learning & Quality Committee were below this level (70% and 57% respectively). Work to improve this situation would continue for the rest of the academic year and attendance would be discussed with individuals as part of the annual performance review process.	
316	The Committee had discussed the performance and contributions of 3 governors whose terms of office were due to expire shortly:	

	David Wheeler — March 2025 (currently in second term) Tony Sadla — March 2025 (currently in first term) Stuart Pedley-Smith — October 2025 (third term – extended by 1 year)	
317	It had been agreed that all added valuable skills and experience to the overall profile of the Corporation. The Committee had also felt that the skills and financial expertise of Stuart Pedley-Smith needed to be retained to provide an element of stability and corporate memory.	
318	There would be a focus on succession planning over the next couple of years for forthcoming vacancies, including some who hold key positions within the Corporation. This would be discussed during performance review process for 2024/2025 to assess expectations and to agree any relevant training and development activities.	
319	A governor questioned whether there were any potential risks in relation to the Corporation's membership, particularly relating to the number of terms of office that could be served. The Head of Governance responded that these were mitigated by having robust succession planning and recruitment processes. Good practice in the FE sector indicated that a maximum of two terms of 4 years was appropriate for governors. The College had flexed this slightly and had a usual maximum of 3 terms of 3 years, with any further extension possible only in extenuating circumstances.	
320	The Committee had recommended the introduction of a second vice-chairship of the Corporation. to provide additional capacity and development opportunities. A formal process for the nomination and election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs was being drafted and would be submitted for approval to the May Corporation.	
321	Future aspirations of governors would be discussed with individuals during the performance review process and then with the respective committee chairs. The new system would be operational from 1st August 2025.	
322	**Resolved** - That the following items be approved: 1 Reappointment of David Wheeler and Tony Sadla as external governors for a 3 year term of office with effect from 27th March 2025 2 Reappointment of Stuart Pedley-Smith as a co-opted member of the Finance & Resources Committee for a 1 year term of office from October 2025 3 A revised schedule of committee memberships 4 Creation of a second Vice-Chair of Corporation role with effect from 1st August 2025 5 Creation of vice-chairships of committees with effect from 1st August 2025	
	FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE	
323	Governors received for information the unconfirmed minutes of the Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 11th February 2025.	
324	The Committee had discussed in detail the Management Accounts for December 2024 (included in a later agenda item), together with a projection of the impact of various measures announced recently by the Government, such as the	

	increase in employer National Insurance contributions, the availability of growth funding for 16-18 provision, monies for workforce recruitment and retention, potential capital grants and the 2% reduction in the adult skills budget for 2025/2026.	
325	A number of current and future pressures on expenditure reduced the College's ability to both meet the financial forecast outturn and award staff a pay increase. It was noted that a 2% pay uplift would cost £370K for a full year.	
326	Governors had received the regular report on apprenticeships and work-based learning. Performance by the College's two main Adult Education Budget contractors was on track and no concerns with quality had been identified. Additional maximum contract values had been approved for both sub-contractors following the submission of a business case to the Combined Authority.	
327	Detailed discussions had taken place regarding the Adult Learning Centre project. The project design process and legal work were on track. However, the overall timeline was currently at risk due to delays in the procurement of the main contractor by Walsall Council following the enactment of the Public Procurement Act 2023. This could involve a delay of 3 to 4 months. Discussions continued regarding the future of the Leather Museum.	
328	Information was received on the various capital grants that contributed to the project, which totalled £16.299m. There was a gap in funding of £1.31m, which would be addressed through value engineering of the ALC (£0.631m) and the Supported Learning Centre (£0.5m). At this stage it was likely that the College would need to contribute £150K for both projects.	
329	The Committee had received a report on performance against key human resources indicators and information on current and future staff and well-being activities.	
330	Delegated authority had been given to the committee chair to sign new utilities contracts once the tender process had been completed.	
331	The Committee had recommended approval by the Corporation of revised Financial Regulations for 2024/2025, the introduction of a Reserves Policy (in line with good practice in the sector) and a draft HE Tuition Fees Policy for 2026/2027.	
332	A governor questioned why there was a significant range between the minimum and maximum cash balance targets in the draft Reserves Policy and was advised that the lower number was the equivalent of 6 months' of the overall salary bill for the year and the amount outstanding on the College's only loan, and represented 25 cash days. The Corporation was advised that the wide range was designed to enable the College to address some of the uncertainties in the external environment and that the amounts would be reviewed annually.	
333	In response to questions on benchmarking the Interim Director of Finance reported that informal enquiries from a number of colleges had indicated reserves levels of between £4m and £8m were being used.	
334	There was concern in the FE sector that, following reclassification by the Office for National Statistics, the Department for Education could decide to clawback any unspent reserves, which was why the figure of £14m had been selected, as	

	this represented 3 months' of operating costs and enabled the College to meet its contractual obligations. Governors were reminded that the College was an exempt charity and, as such, had to follow guidelines on ensuring public benefit from its activities and meeting its charitable aims.	
335	A governor commented that it would be useful for the Corporation to receive further information on the operations and performance of Construction College Midlands at a future meeting, The Interim Director of Finance reported that CCM's performance had improved between the December 2024 and January 2025 management accounts, due to the resolution of some staffing issues. The Corporation was assured that detailed scrutiny of all areas of the College's operations, including CCM, was undertaken by the Finance & Resources Committee. It was noted that the current provision at CCM was different from its initial plan and it was agreed that future management accounts would include additional information on CCM.	JL/KL JL
336	The Interim Director of Finance was asked whether the revisions to the Financial Regulations to align them with the new SMT structure and the requirements of the Procurement Act had been reviewed by the College's auditors. Governors were advised that this would be included in the Internal Audit Plan for 2025/2026.	JL
337	**Resolved – That the following items be approved:** 1 **Revised Financial Regulations 2024/2025** 2 **Reserves Policy 2024/2025** 3 **Higher Education Tuition Fees 2026/2027**	
	FINANCE REPORT TO 31ST JANUARY 2025	
338	The Interim Director of Finance presented the management accounts to 31st January 2025. These indicated an overall positive variance of £357k compared to the approved budget with all main income targets in line with projections. All financial objectives were on target to be achieved by the end of the academic year with the reception of class sizes, where further work on the accuracy of the data was being undertaken and improving this KPI was one of the aims of the 2030 Project.	
339	The College's Financial Health Rating was classified as "GOOD", with an adjusted EBITDA of 3.23% (0.62% prior year outturn). Governors were reminded that £500k was approximately equivalent to 1% of EBITDA and the financial health score would be moderated to Requires improvement if the EBITDA level fell below 1%.	
340	Apprenticeship recruitment was on track, however there was under-recruitment in Adult Education Budget, Higher Education, full cost and FE loans, which would continue to exert pressure on overall income levels. Recruitment on 16-18 programmes was 4,182 compared to the College's allocation of 4,129 and the College should receive a proportion of in-year growth funding for 2024/2025. Study programme enrolments compensated for the under-recruitment on T-Levels. Adult courses included an element of flexibility, which meant that staffing could be reduced to reflect lower volumes of students.	
341	Adult income was £298k below the target (which comprised £173k Adult Education Budget, £85k Free Courses for Jobs, £40k and FE loans).	

342	Staffing costs continued to be well-controlled and were currently £828k below the budget. Potential budgetary pressures could arise for any additional maintenance costs and increases in utilities contracts. Capital expenditure to date was £1061k. Cash balances at the end of January were £9.8m and net assets were £58.4m.	
343	The Interim Director of Finance provided an update on a number of items on which decisions by Government were awaited. An allocation was expected to partly fund the increase in employer National Insurance contributions (which was likely to be confirmed in May). Capital grants would be determined shortly, based on the most recent condition surveys and remote assessments of colleges' property assets. The funding rate for 16-18 year olds was set to increase in 2025/2026 but not by the full amount and the statements issued to the College on its allocations for 16-18s and T Level uplift were incomplete. It was not unusual for some notifications to be issued late in the academic year, however, the uncertainty made it difficult to budget for 2025/2026 and beyond.	
344	In response to questions on the percentage shortfall in AEB funding, the Interim Director of Finance reported that £500k under-performance equated to 6% of the total allocation. There was a potential risk to the College's reputation with the Combined Authority over its ability to increase its adult provision in future at the Adult Learning Centre. It was vital, therefore, that any shortfall was addressed in 2024/2025 to provide a strong base for future years.	
	CURRICULUM EFFICIENCY & FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY (CEFS)	
345	Governors received for information a presentation from Jo Petty from the FE Commissioner's Team on the outcomes of the recent CEFS review. The purpose was to examine the link between strategic and curriculum planning cycles and to compare the College's performance against data from 25 other FE providers for 20/2023.	
346	A number of strengths had been identified, including a robust curriculum planning process, alignment of apprenticeships with the Local Skills Improvement Plan priorities. Areas for further action had centred on staff utilisation, remission, class sizes and study programme hours, improving the level of EBITDA to 5%, reducing the staff costs to income ratio (which was about 5% higher than peer colleges) and learning support needs for apprenticeships.	
347	Governors asked whether the FE Commissioner's Team would undertake a similar exercise on the 2023/2024 data, but were advised that this was not part of the current process. However, monitoring of performance against each of the KPIs would take place at future SMT meetings, enabling any corrective actions to occur.	
348	The Assistant Principal Adults & WBL reported that two areas for further support from the FEC was for apprenticeships and the College's HE Strategy. Performance in apprenticeships and the necessary improvements to internal processes had been discussed at length by the Audit Committee over several meetings.	
349	Governors commented that none of the areas for improvement in the report were surprising and had already been identified by the senior management team. The impact of the pandemic was recognised in the data for 2022/2023 and the difficulty of tackling the NEET agenda.	

350	The Principal thanked the FEC's Team for their work, which partly satisfied the suggestions made by the Finance & Resources Committee to receive information on performance against key indicators and provided a high level of assurance that the College was addressing the right issues. Jo Petty left the meeting	
	LEARNING & QUALITY COMMITTEE	
351	The Chair of the Learning & Quality Committee presented a summary of the meeting held on 27th February 2025.	
352	A presentation on progress English & Maths had included changes such as new exam board, Century Tech system and a review of the timetabling model. There had been a steady increase in enrolments for GCSE and Functional Skills, together with the relatively low achievement levels in 2023/2024.	
353	Attendance at English & Maths was 78%, which was 2 to 3% higher than for 2023/2024 and had been impacted by the stability of the current teaching team. Feedback from the Ofsted inspection had highlighted that some students required a slower pace of learner compared to the delivery of some tutors and this had been addressed through the walkthrough process, which was now indicating strong leadership and a proactive approach to teaching.	
354	Staff seemed to be really optimistic about the E&M strategy compared to the previous academic year and there were positive signs of improvement. The focus was now on building confidence on exam techniques.	
355	The Committee received the draft attendance dashboard and it was noted that there was no national benchmark for attendance. The College had set in-year and aspirational targets, with performance levels RAG-rated. Governors probed further the timetabling issues and were advised that a working group had been established to devise appropriate and cost-effective solutions, It was felt that staff having clear accountability for students was the key to improvements in attendance.	
356	Overall attendance was Amber and adult numbers had decreased in comparison to 2023/2024. Retention had improved, but there were still 19+ enrolments to be included on the MIS. Better behaviours had impacted on 16-18 retention and it was felt that the 'Swap Don't Drop' initiative and stricter guidelines for staff to enforce College policies in the classroom had contributed to this.	
357	Achievement data for the 19+ cohort had been delayed pending the addition of job outcomes and ESOL examination results for 2024/2025. The Committee questioned the data and was advised that there were a multitude of reasons for the fall in achievement levels such as job commitments and caring responsibilities. Further information on apprentices who were out of funding was also provided following questions by governors.	
358	Applications for 2025/2026 were similar to 2024/2025, but this may be partly due to the speed of processing.	
359	The Committee had received information of progress against the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted and in the College's Self-Assessment Report/Quality Improvement Plan. Ensuring that students had the correct qualifications on entry was important and had been a cultural issue in the past.	

	Staff needed to be clear of the requirements and would be supported in this through a rolling programme of CPD.	
360	A set of Annualised Key Performance Indictors had been presented, the monitoring of which had been allocated to either this Committee or the Finance & Resources Committee.	
361	Recent changes to Teaching, Learning and Assessment included a more robust walkthrough process that was properly recorded and highlighted strengths and weaknesses in teaching practice. Governors questioned the relatively low numbers of annual observations that had been completed (12-15%) against the target of 60% of staff who were 'in scope'. A proposal had been submitted to SMT to amend this to a 2 year risk-based approach. An unseen observation model had been implemented which prioritised professional growth and reflective practice.	
362	The recent Student Survey showed an overall satisfaction rate of 98% (based on 2,211 responses), which was 2.13% higher than 2023/2024.	
363	The Committee received a report on recent and future changes to the curriculum and their likely impact on the College. The outline curriculum strategy for the ALC was also presented, covering adults and apprenticeships. The rationale was supported by relevant data and competition analysis, building on the work undertaken already at The Link and aligning provision to the needs of the Borough and the Local Skills Improvement Plan.	
364	Governors were advised on current issues in HE provision which would impact on the future shape of the curriculum, including changing Government priorities, financial pressures on universities and the introduction of the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE). The College's traditional HE was being reviewed in terms of its strategic position, financial viability, the likely growth in student numbers, the rationalisation of the curriculum, the level of flexibility in delivery and partnership arrangements with (local) universities.	
365	These factors would be considered as part of the curriculum planning process for 2025/26, with further consultation and the development of a detailed HE Strategy for 2025/26, for consideration at a future Committee meeting for recommendation to the Corporation. Any future provision also needed to align with the Local Skills Improvement Plan.	
366	The Committee had discussed proposals on the future of both the 14-16 provision and A Levels. The former had relatively low numbers and did not provide good value for money, although it provided a useful service to the local community. It had been agreed that an options appraisal for 2026/2027 would be brought to the next meeting. Further information on A Levels would be submitted to a future L&Q Committee meeting.	
367	The Corporation expressed concern that at their current rates of performance the areas of 14-16, A Levels and HE were unsustainable and presented a drain on resources. However, it was acknowledged that the 14-16 provision was a valuable alternative for some of the most vulnerable students within Walsall and that the College faced an enormous challenge in balancing its educational character and mission with the need for financial solvency. Prior to any firm decision being made on 14-16 provision, the College would need assurance that suitable alternative provision was available at other suitable organisations. If the	

	College was to continue to offer this provision it had to demonstrate that it provided a higher quality of education than other institutions in the region.	
	AUDIT COMMITTEE – 11TH MARCH 2025	
368	The Chair of the Audit Committee presented a verbal summary of the meeting held on 11th March 2025. A pre-meeting had taken place with the Assistant Principals for MIS and Adults & Work-Based Learning to receive a progress report on the actions from the apprenticeship audits. The College was currently evaluating options for a new tracking system which would address some of the issues identified in the KPMG audit report.	
369	Three Internal Audit reports had been received on Marketing & Engagement, Student Voice Framework and Bursaries. A total of 4 medium priority recommendations had been made and corrective actions were already underway.	
370	A report that benchmarked the College's performance on internal audits against all RSM's clients was presented for information	
371	Governors had received a report on a recent ESFA audit of its bursary funding arrangements for 2023/2024, which was a new requirement. No issues had been raised in relation to student eligibility, travel payments, equipment payments or free school meals. However, a number of minor recording issues had been identified as to which parts of bursary provision the funding was allocated (as the College administers the funds as a single 'pot' of money which can be vired between free school meals (FSM) and discretionary bursary). Procedures for 2024/2025 had been amended to take account of this recommendation.	
372	In response to a question about the demographic profile of students claiming bursaries, the Interim Director of Finance reported that this analysis was not undertaken at present and that there was an inconsistency within Government on the level of scrutiny for bursaries compared to Income Support claims.	
373	A recent audit by the Office for Students had graded the College's higher education provision as providing a 'moderate' level of assurance with 6 recommendations - 2 high priority, 2 medium priority and 2 low priority.	
374	The Committee had discussed a further report on a health and safety audit carried out by a specialist consultant. This had covered 26 functional areas and had identified a total of 15 recommendations, 5 of which were graded as priority 2 (potential risk), 9 of which were graded as priority 3 (minor regulatory non-compliance) and one of which was graded as priority 4 (best practice).	
375	Following the recent governor training session on Risk Management and to align with the College's new Strategic Objectives, the draft Risk Management Policy and Board Assurance Framework had been updated. The Committee had also received the annual Value for Money Report for 2023/2024.	
376	Governors had recommended for approval a proposal to tender for the funding assurance audit contract for a 3 year period with the option to renew for upto a further 2 years. A detailed programme of work had been set out, which meant that all funding streams would be covered by the audit in year 1 to provide a high level of assurance to the College and to the Board.	

377	**Resolved** - That the initiation of a tender for the Funding Assurance Audit contract be approved	
EXECUTIVE REPORT		
378	Governors received for information the regular Executive Report.	
RETIREMENT OF GOVERNOR		
379	The Chair thanked Garry Welborn for his service as a staff governor over the past couple of years and wished him well for his retirement from the College.	
	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS	
	13th May Finance & Resources Committee 15th May Search & Governance Committee 22nd May Corporation	

The staff governor, student governors and members of the Executive Team left the meeting at this point.