

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON COLLEGE CORPORATION
MINUTES OF STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP MEETING
TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2011

Present:	Mike Atkins	Governor
	Jeremy Moore	Chair of Governors
	Tony Jefferson	Governor
	Martin Penny	Principal
In attendance:	Charles Anderson	Deputy Principal
	David Jackson	Clerk to the Corporation

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Elaine Rowlands.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was resolved **THAT:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2011 is correct and signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

Tony Jefferson, Vice-Chair introduced a discussion paper he had prepared on the LSIS publication entitled 'Influencing the Future' and related it to the present economic climate. He considered that the country was in danger of slipping into the worst recession since the 1930's. Against this background the group debated what the College could do to position itself to be of benefit to its stakeholders and to ensure the long term viability of the College. The group recognised that FE was more cost effective than HE and that vocational qualifications were likely to be more attractive to students entering the job market.

The group recognised the need to highlight the skills and benefits associated with some provision, such as Performing Arts, to both students and employers both on the website and in publicity materials. No one was now giving independent advice and guidance in schools. The College had a reputation for recruiting with integrity and that must continue. However, concern was expressed that the College needed to keep under review its educational character. It was not in existence to take pupils the schools did not want.

All parties considered and agree the importance attached to both Quality and Finance through these difficult times and beyond, and the College could not afford to let standards slip.

Whilst qualifications were important so was links with employers and Stratford was the only College in the country, it was believed, with a place at the LEP Board for the area.

There was agreement on the need to act quickly to respond to initiatives and Market changes and whilst the College could do this it was not reflected in some areas of the local community. Contacts with the local politicians was recognised as important and Governors should be encouraged to raise the profile and apply pressure whenever it was appropriate.

The group then moved on to discuss International and HE work against the current backdrop and the possibility of further cuts in public spending. This was vital to the future income of the College.

The Governors considered that the College had a good handle on reality which was crucial and the College must stay ahead of the game and ensure it remains

nimble but considers at all times the bigger picture, and continues to carry out environmental scans.

Before bringing discussions to a close, the group went on to discuss the importance of Performance Management in these troubled times and the opportunities for recruiting talented staff.

In the light of discussion the Principal indicated that he would now look at the Strategic Plan again and ensure that all the work undertaken by the College relates back to the Strategic Plan and that new initiatives are consistent with the plan and if appropriate revisions will be recommended at the appropriate time.

In conclusion, all parties recognise that to survive, the College needed to be better than its competitors in all that it does, and the effort to achieve this should not be underestimated.

6. GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT DAYS

There was a brief discussion on the Governor Development Day scheduled for January 2012. It was resolved that a draft outline programme be brought to the next meeting of the group.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was resolved **THAT:**

The Strategic Planning Group meet again on **Monday 21 November 2011** at 8.30am.

Signed :(Chair)