

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON COLLEGE CORPORATION

**MINUTES OF STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP MEETING
TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2009**

Present:	Alan Richardson	Chair
	Mike Atkins	Governor
	Tony Jefferson	Governor
	Martin Penny	Principal
In attendance	David Jackson	Clerk to the Corporation

1. APOLOGIES / WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

- a) An apology for absence had been received from Charles Anderson;
- b) Mike Atkins and Tony Jefferson were welcomed to their first meeting of the Group.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interest in business to be discussed at the meeting, following which Alan Richardson reminded the meeting that he was Chair of Governors at Coventry University.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was resolved **THAT:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2009 be regarded as correct and signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda as substantive items.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Group reviewed the revised Terms of Reference for the Strategic Planning Group. It spent some time exploring the College's educational character and mission, the type of college that Stratford-upon-Avon College is, and the options that could potentially be available. The Group recognised the need to look again at the College mission in the light of funding changes.

The meeting went on to discuss the Group's membership and the need for a Vice-Chair, following which,

It was resolved **THAT:**

- a) A review of the College Mission would be carried out by the end of the current academic year at the latest;
- b) The size and membership of the Strategic Planning Group be reviewed in six months;
- c) The Group will be quorate when 3 members are present, excluding the Principal;
- d) The role of Vice-Chair be deleted from the Terms of Reference. In the event of the Chair not attending a meeting, the Group will elect a Vice-Chair for the meeting from amongst its members.

6. STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

The Principal led a discussion on the current environment in which the College finds itself and some of the issues the College will need to face in the coming months. In particular, the following were discussed:

- a) The high degree of uncertainty around funding changes that will emerge following the demise of the LSC;
- b) The implications of capital funding;
- c) The requirement for a new vision and mission for 2010 onwards;
- d) The need for realism given the political environment, regardless of government;
- e) The inevitability of a reduction in public sector spending;
- f) The need to explore scenarios around reductions of 10%, 15% and 20%;

- g) The need for clarity, consistency and leadership to create a sustainable future based on hard facts;
- h) The educational nature of the College from 2010/11 onwards;
- i) The need to examine leadership, energy, relationships, resources and structures to ensure that any changes required can be carried through;
- j) Has the Group confidence in:
 - The strength of the College;
 - The College's ability to become a world-class brand;
 - The recognition of the need for change;
 - We know what needs to be done?
- k) The College's ability to continue to work in the community given the current economic climate;
- l) Is Business Development a viable option?
- m) What are the benefits of consortia?
- n) What is the shared services agenda?

The Chair summarised the debate by saying that this was not a time for the College to grow but recognising that some areas will expand whilst others will contract but, overall, it was likely that the College would get smaller. He asked the Principal to re-run the presentation to all Governors in December to give them an understanding of the landscape before the Corporation goes on to look at the various options that will emerge for the College. Finally, he emphasised the need for the College to stay fit and focused.

7. GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT DAYS – 21/22 JANUARY 2010

The Group reviewed the draft programme on 21 and 22 January 2010 in the light of the discussion that had taken place earlier in the meeting. After a wide-ranging discussion,

It was resolved **THAT:**

- a) The programme be refocused, concentrating on the key issue of review of the College's Mission: the College's shape, size and offer in the new landscape;
- b) The Principal issue a briefing pack prior to the Development Day;
- c) The matters of equality and safeguarding be dealt with, particularly given the increased focus in Ofsted Inspections, in standard Corporation meetings;
- d) Rather than break the session over night, move to a one-day event on Friday 22 January 2010 with Governors and members of the College Executive;
- e) An evening session with Governors, members of the College Executive and CAMs be arranged mid-March 2010.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was resolved **THAT:**

The Strategic Planning Group meet again on **Friday 8 January 2010** at 8.30am.