



**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATION MEETING
HELD ON 4 July 2025
At the Warrington Campus**

Present:

Andrew Ellams	Chair
Andrew Bainbridge	Member
Martin Berman	Member
Ben Brady	Member
Andrew Ellams	Member
Lucy Gardner	Member
Lily Jones	Student Member
Nichola Newton	Principal
Paula Rowland	Member
Caroline Rowley	Member
Anne Ryans	Member
Peter Scott	Member
Geoff Spencer	Member
Debbie Warren	Member
Marlena Wyszomierska	Student Member

In attendance:

Rebecca Anderson-Moss	Assistant Principal: Business Development and Growth
Rebecca Welch	Assistant Principal: Quality and MIS
Andrew Williams	Vice Principal: Curriculum
Laura Churchill	Clerk to the Corporation

The meeting opened at 4:02pm.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES MATTERS (from 9.00am)

1.1 Chair's Update

For information: to receive and note an update from the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee on the work of the Committee

1.1 The Chair of the Committee reported that the Finance and Resources Committee had received a report on projects and that there was not currently much in the way of ongoing projects. It was explained that the HR update to the Committee covered the usual recruitment turnover and sickness and there were no particular concerns to note, however, the Committee had been made aware of the potential for strike actions from the union. Members of the Committee received a report on employer engagement and growth and were pleased to hear about the Winsford campus science networks.

1.2 The Board heard that there was encouraging news following the period 10 management accounts and that the National Insurance funding had come in and there were

improvements on some lines. It was explained that there was a positive surplus expected for the end of the year and a good financial health score. Members noted that the Committee had received the budget forecast for 25/26 and 26/27 which had been covered under part II of the meeting and was a good piece of work. Members noted that the Principal now sat on the AoC national pay committee.

1.3 Members noted that the Committee had spent time considering whether the college should repay the loan early to save money and that there was a case for using the cash in the bank to save on interest, however, there was also a different argument to invest in the areas of the college which would not be covered under any grant funding. Members heard that the Finance and Resources Committee had asked for a paper detailing the pros and cons of early repayment of the loan which had an end of term date of 2031.

1.4 The Chair of the Committee explained that £1.1m of capital from the DfE arrived in the bank on the day of the Committee meeting, however, colleges had been informed that they were not able to use the cash to improve the financial health score. It was explained that the money would be invested and spent over three years and therefore the college were able to make some interest in the meantime.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** an update from the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee on the work of the Committee.

1.2 Review of Financial Performance 24/25 to date

For discussion: to receive and discuss the management accounts for period 10

1.2.1 The Director of Finance commented that the forecast surplus had increased since the previous period and was now at £184k. Members were assured that costs would continue to be monitored.

Members **RECEIVED** and **DISCUSSED** the management accounts for period 10

1.3 Subcontracting Arrangements 2025-26

For resolution: to consider and if so minded, approve the subcontracting arrangements for 25/26.

1.3.1 Members were informed that the paper should read that there had been a 3% reduction in the adult education budget and the college had reviewed its subcontracting provision and a decision had been taken to reduce subcontracted provision. It was explained that the college would move forwards with two partners: Cheshire Fire and Rescue and the King's Trust. Members noted that the college were terminating the contract with Unite Union for taxi provision in Liverpool and Rugby League Learning which was nationwide. It was explained that the King's Trust had three different venues and the college would continue with Winsford and Halton but would not fund Macclesfield, however, Cheshire College South and West were likely to pick up the Macclesfield contract because the college would not get progressing learners from Macclesfield to Warrington or Winsford. Members were informed that the college would be delivering more in college within budget. It was also reported that the college had increased management fees for Cheshire Fire and Rescue from 10% to 15% so the college would retain more funding. It was explained that there would be a move over time towards the standard 20%, however, it was currently a step too far for the King's Trust.

1.3.2 Members were informed that two policies had had annual updates: the HE Student Protection Plan and Subcontracting Policy. It was explained that the HE Student Protection Plan included an additional risk to do with potential industrial action, however, the college believed it had mitigated the risk because of synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Q- A member questioned why the HE Policy had not been through the Standards and Curriculum Committee. Question was also raised over whether the college were absolutely sure that the Protection Plan did not imply that college were asking people to make provision in case of industrial action which the college were not able to do.

ACTION 1 – Director of HR to review the HE Student Protection plan to ensure that it does not imply that the college were asking people to make provision in case of industrial action which was not allowed.

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the HE Student Protection Plan subject to clarification from the Director of HR.

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the Subcontracting Policy.

The Vice Principal: Curriculum updated members about the Turing Scheme and confirmed that the college had won the bid and had therefore potentially got funding in place for 50 or so students and staff to visit Sri Lanka on an industrial placement trip. It was explained that the contract needed to be signed on 18th August 2025. Members noted that the first look at the contract had indicated that there might be a shortfall for the college and meetings were taking place to look in detail at this, because the Board had approved the Turing Scheme subject to there being no cost to the college. Will be exploring ways to make up shortfall. It was confirmed that the college had been awarded everything it had asked for, but some of the rules had changed.

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the subcontracting arrangements for 25/26.

AUDIT MATTERS

2.1 Chair's Update

For information: to receive and note an update from the Chair of the Audit Committee on the work of the Committee

2.1.1 Members noted that the meeting of the Audit Committee had initially been planned to take place on the 18th June, however, due to availability of members, the meeting had to be rescheduled to the 25th June, and the internal and external auditors were present at the meeting.

Members heard that the Committee:

- Spent a significant amount of time discussing the risks around cyber security and governance, the latter in light of the Weston College scandal.
- In respect of cyber security, members heard that following achievement of Cyber Essentials, there was no estimated timeframe as yet for achieving Cyber Essentials Plus, however, an internal audit piece of work on cyber security had been planned in for October 2025 and external penetration testing was also scheduled in for 2025/26.
- Members of the Committee were assured that there were no concerns in regards to health and safety and that the number of accidents and incidents had remained the same as previous years, with no patterns causing concern. Members discussed an incident related to theft of a bike but were assured that the college did everything possible to help students to keep their assets safe, however, sometimes issues occurred because of carelessness, for example, not locking bikes up.

- Members were pleased to receive an internal audit report on payroll controls which had a substantial assurance judgement from the internal auditors with only 1 low priority action. The Committee also received 2 other audit reports pertaining to HTQ2 and the Local Skills Improvement Fund and noted that there was a small underspend on both, although HTQ2 had already received governor approval to scale back. Members were assured that clean certificates were issued for both.
- Members of the Committee received a report comparing the college's internal controls and governance processes against the Further Education Commissioner's Recommendations which were published following the Weston College scandal. The paper is contained within the pack and the Audit Committee are taking forwards a series of actions following the meeting, which will be reported back to the Board. The actions the Committee are proposing to take are outlined on the paper contained within the pack.
- Following scrutiny, the Committee are recommending for approval by the Board the external audit plan and internal audit plan and rolling 3 year strategy. Members are asked to note that the scope of the external audit will include the widening of testing of off-payroll payments following the governance discussion as outlined above.
- Members received a report about the college's compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation and noted that there had been an increase in freedom of information requests, potentially linked to the college's cost saving plan.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** an update from the Chair of the Audit Committee on the work of the Audit Committee.

2.2 Internal Audit Tracking Document

For information: to receive and note progress against internal audit actions

2.2.1 Members noted that the tracking document was a standard document presented to the Audit Committee at each meeting and showed progress of implementation of recommendations. It was reported that 4 recommendations had been implemented since the previous meeting and outstanding actions from the recent internal audit reports had been added.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** progress against internal audit actions.

2.3 Risk area of Focus – Governance

For discussion: to receive and consider a report on governance risk, following the Weston College Scandal

2.3.1 Members discussed that the response by the college to the Weston Scandal recommendations had been exemplary and members were pleased that the auditors had made the point that the college had been the most responsive they had seen. A member made an additional suggestion which could be done internally or by the auditors to get substantive evidence of accruals and balances.

ACTION – DP:FR, Chair of Finance and Chair of Audit to consider whether an internal process or process led by the auditors should be undertaken to look at evidence of accruals and balances. Decision to be taken via email and reported to the Audit Committee.

2.3.2 Members expressed frustration that where people within the sector acted without integrity it meant that all organisations had additional bureaucracy enforced. Members agreed

that the college's senior postholders were excellent as evidenced by the Ofsted report, growth and outputs.

2.3.3 Members discussed that some time ago, there was a similar issue at Halton and whilst it was frustrating to have to spend time doing additional work because of the poor behaviour of others, the Board had a responsibility to swallow the tasks and ask awkward questions to ensure good governance. Members agreed that there were additional mitigations in place at the college, in addition to those listed within the papers, in that the college had three senior postholders appointed, whereas there was only 1 at Weston.

Members **RECEIVED** and **CONSIDERED** a report on governance risk, following the Weston College Scandal

2.4 External Audit Strategy

For resolution: to consider and if so minded, approve the External Audit Strategy 25/26, as recommended by the Audit Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the External Audit Strategy 25/26.

2.5 Internal Audit Plan and Three-year Rolling Strategy

For resolution: to consider and if so minded, approve the Internal Audit Plan and Three-Year Rolling Strategy, as recommended by the Audit Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the Internal Audit Plan and Three-Year Rolling Strategy

Susanne Dewhurst left the meeting at 9:33am.

Presentation from Chris Jones – follow up on the external review of governance actions

Chris Jones joined the meeting at 9:33am.

Chris Jones explained that he had conducted the external review of governance in 22/23 and reported back to the Board on the findings in March 2023 and had subsequently been asked to do a follow up piece of work earlier in the year, focusing the review on the recommendations from the external review and progress of implementation. Members noted that the strengths had not been revisited. As part of the follow up review, it was explained that Mr Jones had met with 4 members including the Chair, CEO and Clerk and had also reviewed paperwork, including a full cycle of Board meetings. Members heard that as part of the follow up, there had been a report writing workshop delivered by Mr Jones to some of the senior team.

Members were assured that there were significant strengths in governance and the external review had concluded governance was effective, and therefore the recommendations and follow up were about improvements and refining

EDI as one of the recommendations was discussed and it was agreed that equality, diversity and inclusion was about being moral and as good as the Board could possibly be in terms of diversity of skills, experience and backgrounds. It was discussed that the Board as part of the external review had been asked to consider what it meant by diversity and inclusion in terms of its own membership. Mr Jones reported that good work had been undertaken in regards to training, meetings students and the such like and it was clear the college were considering EDI as being broader than race and gender.

In respect of Board membership and team building, it was reported that the college had increased the number of members with a strong understanding of FE and there was now space and time created for Board members to get to know one another better.

Question was posed to the Board about how much time had been spent thinking about succession planning for the role of the Chair. Members were advised that once a new Chair had been appointed, a review needed to be undertaken more frequently than annually to ensure that the Chair was delivering what the college expected and the relevant support provided. Members were encouraged to ensure there were processes in place to ask members leaving the Board about why they had done so.

Mr Jones reported that the induction arrangements had improved and were continuing to evolve.

Members heard that reports and report writing was one area where little action had been taken. It was discussed that in terms of consistency and practice, some colleagues were doing as they had always done, some were unsure and all recognised that there were some significant inconsistencies at the report writing coaching session. It was discussed that great report writing ensured better Board practice and was therefore incredibly important. In respect of stakeholder engagement, it was reported that there had been a good start with facilitating opportunities for the Board to meet staff and students, however, it needed to be revisited after declining a little in 24/25. It was agreed that there also needed to be more logged about employer engagement.

In regards to review the Board's own effectiveness of meetings, it was discussed that there had started to be ad-hoc meetings with the Chair and Chairs of Committees after some meetings which was working well. Mr Jones concluded that the feedback provided was about things the College had potential to do better, however, governance continued to be effective and good.

Q- A member commented that in industry, there were quality processes to identify what was being done at different levels of an organisation and whether there was anything similar for the college.

R- The Clerk replied that she was currently looking at a governance maturity matrix and would provide further information to the Board in the new academic year.

ACTION – Clerk to present to the Board information about the governance maturity matrix.

Mr Jones explained that part of the original brief for the external reviews of governance was to benchmark practice which was difficult, however, there was agreement that the real value of governance centred around behaviours in the Boardroom.

ACTION – Principal to add a new equality objective around the composition of the Board.

Members discussed that some members had spent time at the Search and Governance Committee considering the Board's own approach to equality, diversity and inclusion, however, that now needed to become wider. It was discussed that it might be useful to have an external facilitator and also look at where it was done well elsewhere.

A member commented that in the NHS, there was reverse mentoring with underrepresented communities or groups so that Board members could learn more about what impacted individuals and bring it back to the Board for discussion.

Chris Jones left the meeting at 9:55am.

Members **RECEIVED** a presentation on the follow up from the external review of governance.

Appointment of the Chair of the Corporation

For resolution: to consider and if so minded, appoint Andrew Ellams as the temporary Chair of the Corporation until 30th December 2025

Andrew Ellams left the meeting at 10:00am.

Members discussed that it was important to engage in a transparent process for appointing a new Chair following Andrew Ellams' end as interim Chair in December 2025. It was agreed that engaging external support might be helpful and this should be agreed at the Search and Governance Committee in July.

Members expressed their thanks to Mr Ellams for stepping up as interim Chair and providing stability.

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the appointment of Andrew Ellams as the temporary Chair of the Corporation until 30th December 2025.

Andrew Ellams returned to the meeting at 10:05am.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

For noting: to receive any apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Lily Jones and Nidi Etim.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

For noting: members to declare any interests in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest from members in any item on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

For resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2025

GS at meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st April 2025.

MATTERS ARISING

For discussion: to consider progress against actions from the meeting on the 1st April 2025

Members **CONSIDERED** progress against actions from the meeting on the 1st April.

CHAIR'S ACTIONS

For resolution: to approve any actions taken by the Chair on behalf of the Corporation since the last meeting

For resolution: to approve the action taken by the Chair to approve the Accountability Statement

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the actions taken by the Chair on behalf of the Corporation, including the approval of the Accountability Statement.

For resolution: to approve the action taken by the Chair to temporarily appoint Caroline Rowley onto the college's Audit Committee until 31st July 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the action taken by the Chair to temporarily appoint Caroline Rowley onto the college's Audit Committee until 31st July 2025

STRATEGIC MATTERS

10.1 Principal's Update

For information: to receive and note an update from the Principal, including:

- EOY round up (verbal)
- New strategic aims and priorities (as previously seen)

10.1 The Principal reported that the college had been focused on bringing in the end of the year and ensuring the college retained good financial health. Members heard that the end of year predictions were looking strong. Members were informed that the college had been working hard on the cost savings plan which had taken up an extraordinary amount of time and as one of the consequences was that there were 5 appeals which had been heard at the start of the week. Members noted that there was union involvement but were assured that that the college had used its legal team in every step of the process. It was reported that union relationships were currently strained.

Q- A member asked whether the relations were strained with all unions or just one.

R- Members noted that relationships were strained with UCU.

10.1.2 It was reported to members that UCU had released a statement which had been picked up by the local media and that the college had responded via Warrington Worldwide.

10.1.2 Members heard that the Accountability Statement had been published, however, the pledges were likely to change as a result of changes to strategic aim 2 which dealt with curriculum responsiveness. It was explained that a number of documents had been recently published and the college might want to change the pledges in light of the publications.

10.1.3 Following Board feedback, members noted that in the college's values, more had been added about inclusion and that the values were reflective of the character of the college.

10.1.4 Members noted that the college had 3 strategic aims with one linked to quality improvement and building on the Ofsted report. Members heard that the new Ofsted framework was still undecided at present. It was explained that strategic aim 2 was around meeting skills need and would be reviewed in light of the industrial strategy and the final aim was around financial health.

10.4.5 It was discussed in regards to the equality objectives that following the Supreme Court ruling on gender, the sector were awaiting guidance which had not yet been published and was anticipated in the summer.

10.4.6 In discussions about the curriculum and investment, the Principal explained to members that the college were well aware that areas like sport were not likely to receive investment. Members also heard that the AoC and other colleges were pushing back on technical excellence college funding as currently, it was only likely to go to big college groups.

10.4.7 The Principal explained to members that significant thought had been given to succession planning of staff and bringing people through to the highest levels of the organisation. Members heard that there was significant work around enrolment ready for the start of the new academic year. Members were assured that Governors would be kept informed regarding union relationships. It was discussed that remuneration was a key issue for the college.

Chair assured senior team and legals done what can. Principal working with Cheshire and Warrington principals – college not alone with industrial relationships being strained. AoC need to tackle adult funding.

Q- Do team expect remuneration to be accepted.

R- Strategy college go out with award can afford and no negotiation. Never horse trade with something as important as pay. Will be more generous award. UCU held local ballot around strike action. Outcome unknown. Around trade dispute over pay 24.25 way seeing pay offer around 2 year offer. Compensates for last year and generous going in to current year.

Q- strategic aims – in midst closing over this year. Key points inclusion, mental health support, welfare support. Inclusive curriculum and mental health – ensure students get access to welfare support. Student gov asked.

R- Every student different and each need something different. Like how college have safeguarding and wellbeing – every student mental health problem can go. Already options for mental health counselling. Referrals can be out of area e.g. Widnes. Better if in Warrington. Not all parents can afford to take children. College could support with funding – 16-18 free not fair on adults have to pay £5 per consultation.

ACTION – Principal to explore. All adult funding cut by 3%. If HE student, might be able to look at hardship fund. ACTION.

Aligned in terms of what is on offer with pay and approach with unions.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** an update from the Principal, including:

- EOY round up
- New strategic aims and priorities (as previously seen)

10.2 College Development Plan

- For information: to receive and note a verbal update about the college's development plan

10.2.1 16-18 looking to be 4% above PGA, 19+ 6% and apprentices 7%. Strategic aim 1 quality – good to great – lots work with underperforming areas. Talked about areas in enhanced support. Looked at staff workload and how can be more efficient and save time. Looking to move to different ILP. Enrolment review still underway – moved from paper based to automated, digital process. Now in process of finalising for August intake. Members noted that in teaching and learning there had been a focus on questioning which was one area Ofsted had identified as an area for improvement.

It was explained that there had been significant work around sharing best practice which started with the FEC and apprenticeships which covered quality and financial viability.

In regards to strategic aim 2, members heard that from a planning process point of view, the college had been able to access more funding around skills bootcamp and T-Levels growing. Still work to do around Winsford identity – brought forward in strategic aims. Work to do around classroom based and 16-19. Tailored learning going well focus on harder to reach areas. Secured café site in Orford working with foundation learning. Skills employability looking at destinations as driver to reduce NEETs. It was discussed that the college were awaiting the summer results for English and maths resits and next year, there would be less students entered in the autumn term. Challenge for Cheshire West and Chester around NEETs.

Q- Comments about management of teacher training programme

R- Going to set up working group to look at expectations and policy around recruitment of unqualified teachers. Current requirement enrol onto 15 teaching qual. Challenge for some non-academic. Members were assured that the college had improved the induction process for non-qualified teachers and had put mentoring arrangements in place. Comment was made that the role in an FE college of teacher from those who had come from industry was a real challenge, such as having almost half of the learners with an education health care plan. Members agreed that it was helpful to have experience prior to entering into a qualification.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** a verbal update about the college's development plan.

10.3 Risk Management

For information: to receive and note an update on the college's key risks

10.3. Members heard that the most significant risk was cyber security. Members noted that the two other severe risks were achieving good financial health and student recruitment.

Q- risk 10, failure of a main server. Do have more?

ACTION – change to main servers – plural.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** an update on the college's key risks

10.4 Senior Staff Salaries Committee

For resolution: to consider and if so minded, recommend the change of name of the Senior Staff Salaries Committee to the Senior Staff Remuneration Committee, to reflect the wider context of total remuneration rather than just salary.

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the change of name of the Senior Staff Salaries Committee to the Senior Staff Remuneration Committee, to reflect the wider context of total remuneration rather than just salary.

STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM MATTERS

11.1 Chair's Update

For information: to receive and note an update from the Chair of the Standards and Curriculum Committee on the work of the Committee

- The Committee discussed the Supreme Court judgement on gender and its implications for the college. It was reported that the sector were awaiting guidance and further

updates would be provided to the Board. It was discussed at the Committee that some colleges were seeing the ruling as an emerging risk.

- In regards to HE, the Committee heard that there were significant reforms coming out in the summer which the Committee would be kept apprised of and the college were currently working in close connection with the University of Chester and were considering 'double badging' the campus to promote the partnership.
- The Committee heard from the director of teaching and learning and spent time discussing the move from differentiation in the classroom to adaptive teaching where the expectations for all students are the same, but scaffolds and structures are put in place to support students to achieve the aims. Members questioned how the effectiveness would be measured and an action was taken away by the team to present the Board with further information about quality assurance and quality improvement and outcomes/impact measurement mechanisms of adaptive teaching. It was agreed that adaptive teaching was so crucial in terms of the curriculum that the impact would be seen overall.
- The Committee received a paper about careers delivered by the Director of Marketing and members noted that the college had disbanded the Careers Strategy Group and were now focusing on smaller working groups to target particular issues, such as NEET learners.
- Members were pleased to note that predicted achievement for 16-18 looked positive and above the same time last year and provider group average, but that 16-18 apprenticeship data remained a concern. Members heard that the college were forecasting optimistic growth of 300 students for 25/26.

It was discussed that an announcement was going to be made imminently from the DfE about in year growth and members heard that the college were not anticipating in year growth for 25/26.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** an update from the Chair of the Standards and Curriculum Committee on the work of the Committee

11.2 Quality Key Performance Indicators ('KPIs')

For information: to receive and note progress against the KPIs, including a report on retention and predicted end of year achievement

11.2.1 The Assistant Principal: QMS highlighted areas of key concerns and big focus apps 16-18. Not on par with national. Director Apps doing significant review to address gap going forwards.

Q- Is across all areas or specific

R- Certain standards pulling down – brick and joinery. 4 year programme challenge at 16 years old. Hope around foundation apprenticeships. Members were assured that work was taking place. 16 year olds need a lot of wrap around support.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** progress against the KPIs, including a report on retention and predicted end of year achievement

11.3 Operational Planning, Budget and Curriculum Planning

For discussion: to consider an update on future planning

11.3.1 The VP:C explained that for T Levels, there were 275 spread across a number of areas. Bulk growth early years, health, design, surveying and planning. Cautiously, in DfE return last October for September 2025 receiving funding for 216 so should avoid clawback.

Q- Any T Levels changing awarding bodies

R- No.

It was explained that City and Guilds were seen as the sector leading expert and the fact that they were not backing carpentry and joinery meant that the college were also losing confidence.

Potential shortfall from adult point of view. Moved some curriculum managers around in terms of cost savings.

Q- A member asked whether T Levels were likely to remain.

R- Members were informed that they would possibly remain in some areas, and that childcare and health were both strong T-Levels.

Members **CONSIDERED** an update on future planning

11.4 Safeguarding, Prevent and Vulnerable Learners

For discussion: to consider and note the termly report

11.4.1 The VP:C explained that the paper had been discussed at length at Standards and Curriculum, however, there was an update on the figures following the leadership team meeting earlier in the week. At SLT on Tuesday, update on numbers – 913 referrals in Warrington 406 learners from safeguarding point of view, biased towards 16-18. Some highest areas from level 2. Health and social care, foundation and art. Welfare 2414 referrals involving 846 learners, most from 16-18 at 80%. Even split across levels. Not slowed down at this point in year compared to other years. Number EHCPs taking significant time to get through to ensure can meet needs of learners. Continues to grow.

Members **CONSIDERED** and **NOTED** the termly safeguarding report

11.5 Self-Assessment Procedure for 24/25

For information: to receive and note an update on the self-assessment procedure for 24/25, including heat maps and quality improvement plan

11.5.1 The AP:QMS reported that self-assessment at curriculum level was about to conclude. Changed from written report to much more visual 1 page heat map which contains Ofsted criteria and quality team perspective. Members noted that the change in process had reduced report writing time. Access adult provision moved grade 3 and 2, electrical and hair also positive improvement in results. TU always outstanding. AAT, GMP, AAT 20-30 above provider group average. Apps business and professional outstanding.

Members noted that the areas requiring improvement going in to 25/26 were plumbing, engineering, motor vehicle, carpentry and joinery and education.

Staff appreciated the heat map process – better for facilitating discussion and debate.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** an update on the self-assessment procedure for 24/25, including heat maps and quality improvement plan

11.6 HE Update

For information: to receive and note a HE update, including Office for Students

11.6.1 The VP:C reported that there had been positive meetings with University of Chester to accelerate strategic partnership and double badge provision out of Winsford campus. Looking to develop relationships and develop silver ticket type initiative. Looking to ensure digital is applied.

Good to see Winsford mentioned frequently throughout the meeting

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** a HE update, including Office for Students

SEARCH AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS

12.1 Chair's Update

For information: to receive and note an update from the Chair of the Search and Governance Committee on the work of the Committee

Met George Huang, potential new governor. Background business and finance, green skills and sustainability.

Subject to NN meeting approved.

Looked at governor attendance – no significant concerns. Only issue on couple committees last minute apologies.

Areas for improvement will also include follow up review from external review of governance.

Members **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** an update from the Chair of the Search and Governance Committee on the work of the Committee

12.2 Self-Assessment of Governance

For resolution: to consider and if so minded, approve the self-assessment of governance and resulting action plan

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the self-assessment of governance and resulting action plan

12.3 Draft Scheme of Delegation

For resolution: to consider and if so minded, approve the revised scheme of delegation, subject to any amendments proposed by members

- Include subcontracting arrangements

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the revised scheme of delegation, subject to any amendments proposed by members

12.4 Careers Link Governor

For resolution: to consider and if so minded, approve Anne Ryans as the college's careers link governor

Anne met Colette

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the appointment of Anne Ryans as the college's careers link governor

POLICY APPROVAL

For resolution: to consider and minded, approve the following policies:

- Customer Complaints and Compliments Policy
- Student Disciplinary and Positive Behaviour Management Procedures
- Teaching, Training, Learning and Assessment Policy
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- Fraud Response Plan
- Counter Fraud Strategy
- Gifts and Hospitality Policy
- Freedom of Information
- Data Protection Policy
- Rights of the Individuals Policy
- Rights of the Individuals Procedures.
- Risk Management Strategy
- Higher Education Student Protection Plan (inc. Contingency Plan)
- Subcontracting Policy
- HE Tuition Fees Break in Learning and Refunds Policy 2025-2026
- Tuition and Exam Fees and Appeals Policy 2025-2026
- Learner Involvement Procedures 2025-2026
- Higher Education Financial Assistance Fund Procedures 25 26 (HE Opportunities Fund),
- 16 – 19 Discretionary Learner Bursary Fund Procedures 2025-2026,
- Advanced Learning Loans Bursary Fund Procedures 2025 2026,
- 19+ Discretionary Learner Support Fund Procedures 2025-2026
- Health and Safety Policy 2025-2026

All except one been through committees.

LG share freedom to speak up.

Delegated authority Chair, Chair Standards, Kirstie Simpson.

It was **RESOLVED** that members approved the policies listed above.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

For discussion: to consider any items of other business

Resignation Gill HB.

NN difference approach unions- not the case.

Thanks from Chair for engagement in college this year.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Corporation will be held on Monday 6th October at 8am, remotely.

The meeting closed at 11:25.