

STAFFORD COLLEGE CORPORATION

**MINUTES of
CORPORATION MEETING, 23 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Present: A P Davison (Chair), S Birkin, P Buttery, Cllr W D Davis, Mrs S Green,
G M Humby, I Mason, Mrs J Tanner, S Willis, Mrs V Woodward

In Attendance: J P Charleton (Clerk), Ms A Piercy, C Riding, I Rigby

Observer: R Barnett, I Starkie

Apologies: M R Bagguley, Dr H Duggal, Mrs H Haroon-Iqbal, Dr T Ramgopal,
G Taylor Marshall, Cllr M Winnington

PART I

1708.0 MEMBERSHIP

The Chair reported the resignation from the Corporation of Colonel C Turner with effect from 1 September 2010. On behalf of the Corporation the Chair thanked Colonel Turner in his absence for his contribution to the work of the Board during his period of office.

1709.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of their duty to declare an interest, financial or otherwise, in any item on the Agenda. Cllr D Davis declared that as Cabinet member of Stafford Borough Council for Planning and Regeneration he had an interest in Agenda Item 3 – Accommodation Strategy – in respect of planning permission issues. Mr G Humby declared that he was an employee of Sterling Power Group.

1710.0 ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

(a) Progress Report

Mr C Riding, Head of Capital Development, reported on progress with the New Build Project and presented the latest design development plans and images.

Developments since the last report included receipt of SFA approval for the Project, the issue of tenders for key consultants, and the appointment of specialist consultants for Landscape Architecture and Catering Design.

Following review of the draft plans by planning officials, the Environmental Agency, English Heritage and the Accommodation Strategy Working Group, a number of design changes had been adopted. User group meetings with College curriculum staff had focused on aspects of internal design of the relocated Catering and Hospitality and Beauty Therapy functions.

Members highlighted the need for remedial work to improve the exposed Tenterbanks gable end and inner wall of the Broad Eye building given the public views into the new landscaped area. Following discussion on the additional option to extend the Sports Hall, College Management agreed to prepare outline drawings and indicative costs in the hope that this work could be included within the overall budget for the Project.

Mr Riding reported on activities undertaken to prepare for demolition which included the decommissioning of key facilities and infrastructure and the leasing of an additional units at Palmbourne.

Members welcomed the good progress made in developing the Project and the significant improvements in the design plans presented.

It was RESOLVED that:

- (a) College Management and the Design Team be congratulated on progress made in developing the Project;**
- (b) the Project design development plans be presented to the Corporation for approval prior to submission for planning consent on 22 October.**

(b) Bank Loan Facility

The Vice Principal (Resources) gave an oral report on progress with arranging the bank loan facility for the Project. Following discussions with the banks tenders for the loan had now been issued with a recommendation to be presented to the Corporation at its meeting in October for approval of the bank loan facility and the associated terms and conditions.

It was RESOLVED:

that the report be received.

(c) Tenterbanks – Windows and External Refurbishment

The Vice Principal (Resources) presented a report on the latest position regarding the College's applications to the SFA for the Renewal and Enhanced Renewal Grants, previously reported to the Corporation at its meeting in July 2010.

The College's application for the Renewal Grant of £225,000 had been successful on condition that funds are used on a capital project to be completed by September 2011 and matched by a minimum College contribution of £450,000. The College's application had proposed that the Renewal Grant be used to bring forward the replacement of the Tenterbanks windows which had been scheduled for completion over a three year period from 2014. As anticipated, the College's application for the Enhanced Renewal Grant had not been supported by the SFA.

Modelling of the impact of the Renewal Grant on the 10 Year financial forecast indicated a total increase in Capital expenditure of £475,000 in 2010/11 and 2011/12 while cash balances would be £225,000 above the original forecast from the end of 2017 onwards.

Tenders received for the replacement of Tenterbanks windows and associated works were currently being reviewed by the College's Project Manager with costs expected to be within the budget set for this part of the Project.

It was RESOLVED:

that, as recommended by College Management, additional Capital expenditure of £475,000 be approved by September 2011 to enable the SFA Renewal Grant of £225,000 to be used for the replacement of the Tenterbanks windows.

1711.0 ENROLMENTS

The Vice Principal (Curriculum and Quality) presented an oral update on the latest position regarding FE enrolments. Recruitment had been very successful with the College significantly exceeding its target numbers and increasing its market share of students from the South Staffordshire area. While some decline in numbers in Construction had been expected, actual enrolments in this area of provision had remained healthy.

Members welcomed the report and congratulated College Management on the rate of growth in student numbers.

It was RESOLVED:

that the report be received.

1712.0 ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE (AoC) MEMBERSHIP

The Principal presented a report on the proposed renewal of the College AoC membership for 2010/11.

Members agreed that the College's continued membership of the AoC be supported, given the importance of the AoC's role in lobbying the government on behalf of the sector.

It was RESOLVED:

that the College's membership of the AoC for 2010/11 be supported.

1713.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 14 October 2010 at 5.30 pm.

1714.0 PART II ITEMS

Under Part II of the agenda members considered the following item of business:

- Staffing Issue

Cllr W D Davis left the meeting at this point