



MINUTES OF THE TRC CORPORATION MEETING

MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2016

Part I

PRESENT

Mr P Jagger MBE (Chair); Ms J Collier (Vice Chair); Ms M Allen; Mr M Chaudhary; Mr R Gray; Mr S Kirk; Dr P R Williams; Mr J Ellis; Mrs A Todd; Mr T Mulroy

In Attendance:

Mr M Patterson, Vice Principal Finance & Resources; Mr T Dowling, Vice Principal Teaching & Learning; Mrs S Martin, Clerk

APOLOGIES

16.97 Apologies were received from Mr T Grice and Cllr D Roche

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

16.98 Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests and reserved the right to declare an interest at any stage of the meeting.

- Mrs J Collier reminded members of her position as a Feoffee
- Mr P Jagger reminded the corporation of his position as Vice-Chair of the Barnsley College Board of Governors.

MINUTES

16.99 The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

16.100 The Corporation received a list of actions arising from previous meetings and members noted that items were either complete, ongoing or scheduled for a decision at a future meeting.

Before proceeding the Chair proposed that, if required, maximum time should be allocated to item 5 - Area Based Review Recommendation to allow for a full discussion before making any decisions. Members agreed and decided that items 6 and 7 would be deferred to a future meeting if necessary.

AREA BASED REVIEW RECOMMENDATION

16.101 Having been circulated with the agenda, the Principal and Vice-Principal F&R presented the MAT update report.

The Principal informed members that, along with the option of joining a Multi-Academy Trust, the possibility of proposing TRC be a stand-alone academy had been considered given the current 'outstanding' financial health grade awarded by the Education Funding Agency.

The conclusion of this was however, that as a single academy trust TRC would be very vulnerable to the possibility of being assigned by the Regional Schools Commissioner to a multi-academy trust not chosen by the Corporation, in the event of any future difficulties.

With regard to founding a new MAT, the pros and cons discussed at previous meetings were summarised as follows:

The potential benefits:

- Embed ourselves firmly in new educational landscape and secure College's long-term future with our identity and ethos more intact than other 'change' options (i.e. merger with another SFC or with GFE colleges) might allow
- Stronger progression route to TRC for students in the 11-16 schools in a MAT – higher recruitment (esp. if other schools are attracted to join the MAT)
- Protect minority subjects through collaboration with 11-18 school(s) in a MAT
- Joined-up, combined (5-18) approach to difficult areas such as British values, Prevent, Mental Health, Safeguarding, Employability
- Better transition through all stages 5-19 for students within the MAT
- Sharing of good teaching practices across the MAT
- VAT and insurance savings –c£180,000

The potential dangers:

- Loss of absolute independence – if MAT failed at some point in the future the Regional Schools Commissioner could break it up and TRC could end up in one of the national or regional MAT chains
- Difficulty of ring-fencing College reserves for TRC use in the long term
- Contribution to central MAT budget – Executive Head and other central posts- need to be cost effective for TRC needs
- Staff concerns over terms and conditions and loss of our independence over how we manage potential redundancy situations
- Irreversible decision for foreseeable future

The report confirmed that since the last Corporation meeting progress has been made under the following areas:

1. Due Diligence covering the initial Finance review has been completed.
2. The new 'Central Overhead' structure and costs are being firmed up.
3. Draft TRC potential cost savings have been compiled.
4. Revised timescales agreed.
5. Future Funding Rates
6. Reserve and Cash Balances
7. Local Government Pension Scheme Impact

The report provided detail for each of the above areas, although it was stressed that these are still draft findings and much more work is required.

Two further draft documents were presented by the Principal - 'Governance and Executive Framework' and 'Staffing Structures'.

The Governance and Executive Framework document included the following detail:

- An introductory overview of the MAT with detail of the vision for the organisation as a whole.
- Priorities
- Governance, leadership and operational structures including a scheme of delegated responsibilities.

The Staffing Structures document set out a possible executive leadership structure with details of the leadership arrangements and potential costs both pre-opening and post opening.

Considerable discussion was held regarding the content of the documents presented with the key points summarised below:

- Some members felt that the proposals didn't present a vision for the MAT that was dynamic enough for TRC. The Principal reassured the board that proposals for the vision are still at the draft stage and therefore can be developed further with input from all parties.
- Mr J Ellis raised concern about the additional bureaucracy within the executive framework and also the potential for conflict of interest, with board members possibly having a more vested interest in their own organisation than the MAT as a whole body. Some members agreed with the concerns raised and it was suggested that perhaps the members should be more independent. Mrs J Collier stated that the ethos of the college should be retained within the decision making process.

It was explained that the current framework is a standard requirement when forming a MAT so is unlikely to change at this stage and also, that the membership of the trust executive is a starting point. In the longer term, trust executive membership will become more independent.

- Members agreed that it is vital to make clear that the permanent Chief Executive position is not a guaranteed post for the Interim Chief Executive.
- Sixth Form provision across the MAT was discussed in detail with an explanation of how it is likely to work in practice and how support would be offered in the event of any identified weakness.
- During discussions relating to the financial information within the report, the difficulty of ring-fencing College reserves for TRC use in the long term was raised. Mr S Kirk commented that, although each organisation may be keen to ring-fence their assets and reserves, it may not be the best option for the long term future of the MAT.
- Members queried the costs relating to the process of transferring to a MAT e.g. legal costs and how this would be funded. The VP F&R responded, explaining the cost savings identified within the report along with details of the transition grant received from the

Education Funding Agency.

- The Principal concluded that, ultimately, the decision to be made is not a financial one but a strategic one.

Mrs M Allen questioned whether the views of staff are to be considered before making a decision. The Principal confirmed that staff views had been requested and this information will be collated to feed back during the meeting on 5th December 2016.

The Chair requested a list of discussion points to be produced by the Principal and Clerk in preparation for the meeting on 5th December 2016.

Mr T Mulroy left the meeting at 7pm.

- RESOLVED:**
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| 16.101.1 | that the decision regarding the ABR recommendation should be deferred to the meeting to be held on 5th December 2016 |
| 16.101.2 | that feedback from staff should be collated for consideration at the Meeting to be held on 5th December 2016 |
| 16.101.3 | to defer agenda items 6 and 7 to a future corporation meeting |

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

16.102 The next meeting is to be held on Monday 5TH December 2016 at 5.30 pm.

Staff members withdrew at this point.

Part I of the meeting ended at 7.05pm – the meeting remained quorate

Signed _____  _____

Date _____ 05.12.16 _____