**MINUTES OF THE CORPORATION’S BOARD MEETING (PART A)**

**4pm Monday 31 March 2025, L104, Weymouth Campus**

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| ***Members:***  | ***In attendance:*** |
| Chris Evans | Chair  | Lily Garth | Governance Professional (Interim) |
| Richard Barker | Vice-Chair | Julian Tucker | Chief Finance Advisor(Interim) (Up to Item 16) |
| Kate Wills | Principal  | Tom Hallam | Vice Principal (Up to Item 16) |
| John Bullen | Governor | Julie Hodge | Governance Administrator (Up to Item 16) |
| Rod Davis | Governor | Duncan Adams | Strategic Advisor for Branding, Marketing and Communications (Item 8 only – via Teams) |
| Jacqui Gerrard | Governor |  |  |
| Dawn Harvey | Governor *- Via Teams* |  |  |
| Graham Ledden | Governor |  |  |
| Angela Neuberger | Governor *- Via Teams* |  |  |
| Nicola Newman | Governor |  |  |
| Kay Taylor | Governor |  |  |
| *Steve Webb* | Governor *- Apologies* |  |  |
| Hannah Crocker | Staff Governor(Up to Item 16) |  |  |
| Anne Munro | Staff Governor (Up to Item 16) |  |  |
| Ralph Hrustinszki | Student Governor(up to Item 16) |  |  |

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|  | **PART A** |
|  | **Apologies and Welcomes*** Apologies for absence were noted from Steve Webb.
* Ralph Hrustinszki was welcomed to his first Board meeting. Ralph was based on the Weymouth Campus and had recently been elected in line with the agreed process.Subject to standard conditions, the Board **APPROVED** Ralph Hrustinszki’s appointment as a Student Governor up to 31 July 2026.
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|  | **Declarations of Interest**Noted as none. |
|  | **Notification of Any Other Business**Noted as none.In order to accommodate attendee availability, there were some adjustments to the agenda order. For ease of reference, the minutes have been matched to the original agenda order  |
|  | **Approval of previous minutes** The minutes of the 24 February (ordinary – Part A) and 19 March (special) meeting were reviewed, agreed to be a correct record and APPROVED.The confidential Part B minutes of the 24 February 2025 meeting would be considered under today’s Part B Agenda, Item 17. |
|  | **Matters Arising** The Board reviewed the Matters Arising. Action Log updates:* 1 – complete
* 8 – complete
* 9 – photos/profiles – in progress – c/f
* 11 – complete (although some completed by email rather than directly on GVO)
* 18 – c/f checks (and some Governors’ terms of office on GVO need checking/updating to match Board approvals)
* 19 – superseded - close
* 20 – on today’s agenda – close
* 22 – established as ongoing – close
* 23 – on F&R – therefore close on the Board’s action log
* 24 – duplication – on today’s agenda – close
* 25 – Gender Pay Reporting update – share on GVO as soon as possible for Board approval (draft could be published on website) – KW
* 26 – Under today’s Part B agenda

The Board also noted the written resolutions which had taken place since the last Board meeting.  |
|  | **Principal’s Report**The Board received and noted the Principal’s report.On this occasion, discussion focussed on:* Staff and Culture Development
* Restructuring update
* The Spring Statement – particularly the £625m investment in construction skills, aiming to train up to 60,000 new workers over the next four years – and how this might relate to activity/funding in the South West
* Curriculum and Assessment Review 2025 (Interim Report)
* Portland Project: Offshore Wind Development (‘PortWind’)
* King’s Fund
* The Hidden Side of the Museum – and very positive reviews
* Young Farmers and Students Tractor Run

A number of questions were asked and answered. The Board praised the quality and breadth of the report. |
|  | **KPIs, PIMs and Milestones**The Board reviewed this significant report (which had been sent for advance reading to governors ahead of the usual Board pack date).Progress to date was discussed – as was the DfE’s reaction to that progress. Barriers and challenges to progress were consistent in the context of other reporting. Funding and support options after July 2025 were considered. Some aspects of this report would be discussed today under Part B. |
|  | **Strategic Development, Branding, Marketing and Communications update**Duncan Adams led the presentation on this comprehensive paper which had been distributed to the Board in the main pack.Follow-ups to the 19 March Special Board meeting were covered in discussion.After consideration, the Board RESOLVED:* That the proposals for values, purpose, college vision and college mission are adopted.
* *Confidential minute*
* That the strategic position statements are rolled out over the coming months with the new trading name being launched to staff in May and then rolled out according to an agreed timetable.

The Board was very clear in supporting a one college, two campus approach. *Confidential minute*Duncan and the Team were thanked for their ongoing work. The next update would be on 19 May. |
|  | **Estates Strategy Discussion**The Board reviewed and noted the presentation which had been considered in detail at last week’s Estates Sub-Committee and more briefly at today’s Finance and Resources Committee. The Board’s discussion was consistent with that of both the Estates Sub-Committee and F&R Committee.Points noted in discussion included:* Studio School changes, options and negotiations – value/usefulness of the land
* Student experience at both campuses – educational and recreational facilities, potential consolidation of some curriculum on one campus (and others continuing to be provided at both campuses), space utilisation
* Work of Peter Marsh Consultancy
* PIMs and DfE involvement/oversight
* H&S (and safeguarding) considerations – onsite, travelling between campuses and in respect of online/IT
* Hospitality, catering – the Avenue - school meals – outdoor market garden
* Financial and educational factors plus community/reputational considerations
* Overlap with commercial business matters (a paper on which was being prepared for next week’s F&R and Board meetings)
* Draft design ideas for the campuses
* Relationship between branding (new name etc) and architectural planting
* Security and public access issues at both campuses – including barriers
* Notice periods
* Student, staff and wider consultation
* Media
* Sports Hall practicalities and key purpose (again, overlap with commercial considerations)
* Nursery (current situation and potential options at both campuses)
* Animal Park
* Weymouth Town Centre building tenancy
* KM House – detailed paper on costings had been considered by F&R in February 2025 –options (sell, lease completely, lease in part, expand educational use) – covenants, risks (particularly the roof/chimneys and the unknowns) situation in the midst of the KM campus
* Other buildings – repurposing, renovation, demolition
* Dairy – infrastructure practicalities and costs of relocating versus rebuilding on the current site
* Animal park
* Farm shop and café

Input from staff on several aspects and from the new student governor (particularly in relation to architecture) were welcomed. Members particularly emphasised the importance of costings – the College could not approve a real Estates Strategy which it could not afford.The Board supported the Estates Sub-Committee suggested actions regarding a working group and also the creation of a decision log/masterplan of some kind on GVO.The College had to submit a Board approved Estates Strategy to the DfE by 31 July 2025. |
|  | **Commercial Business Paper**This item had previously been discussed in detail at today’s Finance and Resources Committee. The Committee had broadly supported this paper and RECOMMENDED it to the Board for additional consideration and approval.Discussion of this paper included cross-references to the detailed appendix to the February 2025 management accounts. KW gave a line-by-line presentation of the paper. Governors sought – and received – assurances on a number of matters encompassing the student experience, community need, value for money, health and safety and curriculum planning.Discussion was consistent with that of the Finance and Resources Committee.After consideration, the Board APPROVED all of the SLT recommendations in relation to commercial activity as set out in the paper.*Confidential minute* |
|  | *Consent agenda (items 11-14)* |
|  | **Quality and Standards Committee 03 March 2025**The Board noted the report of the Q&S Committee including the Safeguarding update. |
|  | **Audit and Risk Committee 12 March 2025**The Board noted the report of the A&R Committee including work-in-progess on Risk Register and Disaster Recovery updates.Following the recommendation of the A&R Committee, the Board APPROVED the internal audit arrangements for the remainder of 2024/25 as set out in the paper. |
|  | **Search and Governance Committee 17 March 2025**The Board noted the report of the S&G Committee.a. Determined MembershipFollowing the Search and Governance Committee’s recommendation, the Board APPROVED the principle of working towards achieving a determined membership of 17 as soon as practicable without compromising the skills required to perform the Corporation’s duties.b. Committees’ Terms of ReferenceHealth and Safety overlap across the corporation’s committees was discussed. Whilst minimising duplication where possible, it was important to ensure that no aspects of H&S were lost. There were sound reasons for continuing to include it as a standing item on every agenda to ensure that all the facets of the incidents relevant to each committee were still considered – but that there should be greater focus on the relevance on each occasion. Overall H&S reporting it was felt should go to Audit and Risk Committee.Subject to taking into account today’s Health and Safety discussion, the Board APPROVED the revised Committee Terms of Reference and the ‘next steps’ actions for the governance team as set out in today’s paper.Of particular note within this approval was the change of status of the Estates Sub-Committee to become a full Committee reporting directly to the Board, and the merging of the Search and Governance Committee with the Remuneration Committee.c. Standing OrdersFollowing the recommendation of the Search and Governance Committee, the Board APPROVED the revised Standing Orders and the ‘next steps’ actions for the governance team.d. Composition of Committees & CompaniesFollowing the recommendation of the Search and Governance Committee, the Board approved the proposed membership changes as set out in the paper, plus the inclusion of:* Kay Taylor on the Search, Governance an Remuneration Committee
* John Bullen on the Finance and Resources Committee
* Ralph Hrustinszki on the Estates Committee
* Sophie Pain on the Quality and Students Committee

e. Student Governors Sophie Pain was based on the Kingston Maurward Campus and was today announced as the successful candidate. Subject to standard conditions, the Board **APPROVED** Sophie Pain’s appointment as a Student Governor up to 31 July 2026.After a brief discussion, the Board APPROVED an updated Student Governor appointment process for future appointments. f. Link Governor SchemeThe Board noted the tabled papers and was content with progress on this scheme which would be renamed Beyond the Boardroom. A launch event was scheduled for 23 April 2025 for Link Governors and Staff Leads. |
|  | **Finance and Resources Committee 31 March 2025**The Board noted the report of the F&R Committee.a. Financial Report: Management Accounts (Jan & Feb)Due to the significance of college finances and the late availability of the February Management Accounts, Governors had requested additional time to consider this item. Discussion was consistent with that of the F&R Committee.b. Systems ProcurementCross-referencing this with the PIMs item, noting the paper contents and following the recommendation of the Finance and Resources Committee, the Board APPROVED the College committing to the OneAdvanced products (ProSolution & ProMonitor), involving the signing of a 5-year contract at a net cost of £347k. |
|  | **Confidentiality** *(Currently Confidential Minute)*The Board agreed that items which should remain confidential related to:* All staff matters – whilst communications and negotiations were underway
* Individuals- data protection
* Commercial Business and Estates Items (where they have commercial sensitivity and/or relate to decisions which impact of particular staff and communities)
* New College Name
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|  | **Date of Next Meeting – 19May 2025** |

*PART B Confidential agenda followed and minutes were recorded separately.*

*Meeting closed: 6.30pm*

*The meeting was quorate throughout.*

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