

Minutes

Corporation

Monday 11th May 2025

At City Hub, Nottingham, NG1 7HB and via MS Teams

Present:	Carole Thorogood (Chair) (CT)	)	
	Simon Bedford (SB)	)	
	Craig Elder (CE)	)	External governors
	Patricia Harman (PH)	)	
	Yvonne Kelly (YK)	)	
	Helen Ma (HM)	)	
	Liz Mossop (LM)	)	
	Andrew Simpson (AS)	)	
	Ben Smithwell (BS)	)	
	Steve Wooler (SW)	)	
	Janet Smith (JS)		CEO/Principal
	Kirsty Bailey (KB)		Staff governor
	David Wainwright (DW)		Staff Governor
	Raphael Bedi (RB)		Student Governor
	Collicia McCarthy (CM)		Student Governor
In attendance:	Andrew Comyn (AC)		CFO/Deputy CEO
	Cheryl English (CEn)		Vice Principal Marketing and Student Journey
	Ruth Perry (RP)		Vice Principal Improvement and Innovation
	Rachel Wadsworth (RWa)		Vice Principal Curriculum and Support
	Rich Williams (RWi)		Vice Principal Funding, MIS and IT
	Rachel Robson (RR)		Director of Governance
	Jo Welham (JW)		Head of Governance and Corporate Services

1	APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Andy Batty and Andrew Unitt. The Chair thanked all staff, students and governors that had contributed to a very enjoyable and interesting open day for governors. Governors asked that thanks be given to the staff and students involved in the day noting that the dedication shown throughout the day had been inspiring.
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Interests declared: • JS - CEO/Principal Nottingham College - Trustee and Board Member of Skills and Education Group (SEG), awarding organisation and charity - Ofsted Inspector - Member of EMCCA Principals' Group - Member of Construction Skills Mission Board - Vice Chair of the Nottingham Growth Board - Member of the Tertiary Colleges Group • LM - Vice Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University • RR - daughter works for Peridot - Governance consultant, Stone King No other declarations of interest were received in relation to matters on this agenda.
3	MINUTES The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting held on 25th March 2026 (distributed as CORP.110526.002). The Board resolved that the minutes be approved as a true record.
4	ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING 4.1 Action Tracker The Board reviewed the open action tracker and noted that the actions were not yet due for completion (distributed as CORP.110522.003). 4.2 Matters arising There were no matters arising.
5	STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-26 RP and RW gave a presentation to the Board on Strategic Objective 2 – Develop our curriculum so it is responsive, agile and aligns to the skills needs of our region, ensuring all our learners are future ready. Governors raised queries on the pathways being developed for students with specific industries and through working with particular employers. RP and RW provided further detail on the work with employers and with other providers to develop relevant pathways and work experience opportunities. A governor confirmed that she had attended an Industry Advisor Board for construction and noted that both local and national employers had attended. She queried whether it is possible to engage younger learners sooner to support progression into apprenticeships. JS highlighted the work experience opportunities being made available and the work being done through the Construction Skills Mission Board to support this nationally to improve progression into construction.
6	ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT RP took governors through an update on progress against the Accountability Statement

	actions for 25/26 and on themes for 26/27 (distributed as CORP.110526.004). The revised submission date of 31st July to the DfE means that the completed Accountability Statement for 26/27 will come to Board on 1st July for review and approval. The Board were pleased to accept the report noting the positive progress made against the vast majority of actions for 25/26.
7	FINANCE AND ASSETS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK AS presented his Chair's report from the most recent meeting of the Committee held on 28th April (distributed as CORP.110526.005). As summarised in his report AS alerted the Board to key issues raised at the meeting and to areas where the Committee had been provided with assurance. Governors resolved to approve the following, as recommended by the Committee: • Contract award re finance system (distributed as CORP.110526.006) • Contract award for people and payroll system (distributed as CORP.110526.007) • Contract award for apprenticeship and commercial accommodation (distributed as CORP.110526.008) • Contract award for PPE and uniforms (distributed as CORP.110526.009) • Contract award for fire damper and fire safety remedial work (distributed as CORP.110526.010) • Shared services agreement and shared resources agreement with Nottingham College Services (distributed as CORP.110526.011) • Fees Policy (distributed as CORP.110526.012) The Board were advised that an additional Finance and Assets Committee meeting would need to be held in early June to review a proposal and contract award for refurbishment works to the Adams campus. As it is intended that those works are completed across the summer break the matter cannot be held until the usual round of meetings in the second half of the term. Following consideration by Finance and Assets Committee a recommendation will be made to the Board for decision via a written resolution. The Board were extremely pleased to note the final position agreed with the landlord on the dilapidations following the exit from London Road. Thanks were given to the Director of Estates, his team and advisors for the agreement reached.
8	STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-29 CEn presented a draft of the Strategic Plan 2026-29 to the Board (distributed as CORP.110526.013). She highlighted that the draft had been compiled as a result of comprehensive feedback and input from governors, staff and external stakeholders. Governors noted that the structure of the plan remains largely unaltered from the 2023-29 plan, with the strategic objectives updated to reflect different starting points that represent the current position of the College. CEn asked for governors' views on the proposed titles being considered for the plan; 'Future Now' is seen as a continuation of the 'Future Ready' concept and 'Extraordinary Together' embraces the messages received from stakeholders both internal and external. Governors provided feedback on the overall draft plan, noting this to be a positive and cohesive document that reflects the College well. Views on the title were shared with some governors suggesting that wording that provided a combination of both options could be a positive solution. A governor suggested a different way to cluster the objectives in terms of the impact of the objectives. CEn thanked governors for their input and confirmed that a final version will come to the Board on 1st July for approval.
9	AOB None

10	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next Corporation meetings will be held on: • Thursday 14th May 2026 at 5.00pm at City Hub and via Teams to consider the outcome of the new Chair recruitment process • Wednesday 1st July 2026 at 4.30pm at City Hub The Chair closed the meeting at 5.38pm.