

THE CORPORATION OF THE COLLEGE OF NORTH EAST LONDON

Policy and Resources Committee

Minutes of the meeting held 7.45pm Tuesday 6th May 2008 in the Committee Room at the Tottenham centre of the College.

Present: Mr K Brown (Chair)
Mr L Brissett
Mr P Head

Apologies: Ms C. Sullivan

In Attendance: Mr C McCutcheon (Vice Principal Finance and Resources)
Mr S. Hyde (Acting Clerk)
Ms C Wills (Director of Human Resources)

Apologies: Mr D Mathieson (Secretary to the Corporation)

771 Urgent Business and Announcements

There was no urgent business to be taken at this meeting.

The Committee AGREED that:

- i) In the absence of the Secretary to the Corporation, Mr Stewart Hyde act as Clerk to the meeting.**

772 Declarations of Interest

There were none

773 Minutes (PR615)

The confidential minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th February 2008 were agreed as a true record.

The Committee AGREED to:

- i) Approve the minutes as true and accurate record and that they remain classified as 'Commercial in Confidential', and that this will be reviewed 24 June 2009.**

774 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

775 Human Resources Report (PR616)

The Director of Human Resources presented a report on information and other activities effecting human resources at the present time.

The committee noted the report but particularly made reference to the following:

Recruitment

Director of Human Resources to investigate whether it is possible to include some 'trend' data on recruitment statistics in the regular monitoring report.

Investors in People

Noted that the Chair Keith Brown and also Judy Bax will engage with the IIP assessor by telephone interview and that 61 employees will be interviewed.

Harmonised Pay Spine

The UCU claim is more costly than the financial provision available to the College.

Pay Award 2008-09

Noted that UCU took strike action recently in a 'day of action'. Members requested an update of numbers involved in the industrial action for the next meeting.

Remuneration Package & Employee Benefits

Members were supportive of the plans to co-ordinate and publicise this package.

The Committee AGREED to:

- i) note the report**

776 Finance and related reports (PR617)

The Vice Principal (Finance & Resources) presented a report on current issues on various financial matters for the College.

The committee considered the report and made specific reference to the following issues:

Electricity Supply

It is unlikely that any blame regarding the supply installation because of the passing of the time and lack of detailed information as to what exactly happened. It is clear that legally the College is liable for the debt.

Ian MacWhinnie Building

In view of the fact that Neilcotts were unwilling to meet with the College unless any further evidence is produced and that they are minded to pursue the debt, members felt that we should now take legal opinion on our position.

Risk Management

While the College has been successful in winning competitive bids, there has been concern about the quality of delivery by some external providers.

It was felt that the College should attempt to be more in control of income generation for the future by delivering more contracts ourselves.

Budget 08-09

Although there are still many factors still to emerge on funding for next year, but It is anticipated that the College will be able to determine a viable budget. It is likely however that there may be some skills mismatch at the end of the process which will have implications for human resources planning.

Local Government Pension Scheme

Members were concerned at the increasing cost of the employer's pension contribution. The Chair advised that he would arrange to have a meeting with the Leader of Haringey Council about the issue.

Treasury Management Policy and Financial Regulations

Members noted the up to date Financial Regulations and the Treasury Management Policy Statement.

777 External Providers (PR618)

Partnerships and Franchise

The Committee received a report from the Vice-Principal, Finance and Resources providing an overview of the various partnerships and franchise programmes currently held. It was noted that there are some concerns about the operation of the Elite and Medi Prospects contracts and these would be reviewed.

Joint Ventures

The Vice Principal Finance and Resources provided an update on the various Joint Venture currently operating within the college and was generally optimistic about this area. He reported that Cathall Road is still being kept under review and that it is hoped by the end of May 08 it will be possible to make a decision about the future.

In the case of TGEC the Committee were asked to approve the provision to enter into a sub let lease agreement. The Committee approved this subject to each such sub-let having the consent of both freeholders (ie. CONEL and LBH).

The Committee AGREED to:

- i) note the report**

777 Health & Safety (PR619)

The Director of Human Resources reported on a number of Health and Safety issues currently being dealt with by the Health & Safety Committee. The Committee members noted that the Director of Human Resources is currently drafting a Stress Policy which the College is required to have.

The Committee AGREED to:

- i) note the report**

778 Date of next meeting

Due to a clash of dates the meeting scheduled for Wednesday 25th June 2008 will need to be changed. The Secretary will contact members to agree a new date.