



## **Minutes of the Birmingham Metropolitan College Strategy, Finance & Business Development Committee, held at Sutton Coldfield Campus on Thursday 08 October 2009**

**Present:** Mr D Edmonds (Chair)  
Mrs C Braddock (Principal)  
Mr A Burley

**In attendance:** Mr C Hill (Executive Director of Support Services)  
Mr B Pattni (Executive Director for Finance and Data Management)  
Mr N Davies (Executive Director of Business Development)  
Mr R Minett (Executive Director of HE and International)  
Ms N Patel (Interim Clerk to the Corporation)

Ms N Patel was formally appointed as Interim Clerk to the Corporation.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr T Lipscombe and Mr S Pearce.

### **Item 1\* Minutes of the minutes held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**

The public and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2009 were approved.

### **Item 2 Transfer of 16-19 Funding to Local Authorities**

**2.1** The Executive Director for Finance and Data Management introduced the paper, the following points were made:

- As part of the Machinery of Government (MOG) funding for 16-19 year old learners will transfer from the LSC to Local Authorities from April 2010. The process will be supported by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA).
- Members were presented with a detailed report on all the changes to 16-19 funding and the first draft of the National Commissioning Framework was fully explored.
- The YPLA will be the overarching planners to direct Colleges in provision ordered by Regional and Sub Regional Planning Groups.

- The changes to funding for 16-19 learners may potentially impact on the college's funding allocations and impact on the size and shape of the organisation.
- The College has assigned an Executive Director to build relations with Local Authorities and work with them more closely.
- It is key that we continue to attract learners travelling to Birmingham Metropolitan College and offer incentives such as Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and accessible transport.

## **2.2 Resolved:**

- That the Committee noted the report and were aware of the changes.
- Further information would be provided to the Committee when available.

## **Item 3 Financial Regulations for BMET 2009/10 (on CD) Treasury Investment Policy for BMET 2009/10 (on CD)**

### **3.1 For Information**

### **3.2 Resolved:**

- That the Committee approved the new:
  - i) Financial Regulations for BMET
  - ii) Treasury Investment Policy for BMET

## **Item 4 Student Enrolment and Recruitment**

### **4.1** A report on the current student enrolment and recruitment had been produced by the Director of HE and International. The following points were made:

- An updated version of the 2008/09 and 2009/10 enrolment comparisons were distributed.
- The College main enrolment period has been very busy, comparisons to last year were reported, however it was noted that figures may change. A full report will be made to the committee in December.
- There has been an increase in part time 16-18 learners and adult learners.
- There is a negative variant for full time learners, it was noted this does not include 16-18 Year 2 learners and for adult learners enrolling on access courses.
- There have been changes to the curriculum provision compared to last year. Figures show an increase in numbers for Science, Engineering, Health and Business.
- There are negative variances for ICT, Creative and Performing Arts and Humanities due to additionalities not yet being accounted for, and also in the case of Creative and Performing Arts provision from Birmingham Theatre School had been discontinued.

- Higher Education recruitment although not yet complete has been buoyant. Figures have been based on offer numbers.
- Large amount of provision was through Birmingham Theatre School, this has been re-profiled to offer courses such as foundation degree in counselling.
- The recommendation was made to continue to offer students popular courses but on a fee only basis.
- Accurate comparisons for International student recruitment compared to last year were difficult. It was reported a new point based system has been introduced, where there has been a tighter control on Visa's. This has held up the College recruitment process due to Visa requirements.

#### **4.2 Resolved:**

- To endorse the intention to report student enrolment and recruitment back to Corporation in December.
- To endorse the strategy of enrolling some higher education students on a fee only basis if required.

### **Item 5 Summer Works and Future Estates Development**

**5.1** This item was introduced by the Executive Director of IT, Estates and Capital Projects. The following points were noted:

- The works approved last year have been handed back to the College and both students and staff have benefited, allowing the College to make some moves and decant some curriculum areas.
- The work carried out has resulted in a significant increase in the volume of students at the James Watt Campus which has created the need for additional in year works.
- In the medium term James Watt Campus has become the "third campus" in lieu of Riverside. Additional work has been costed without going to tender and is within the financial plan.
- The Director highlighted options to be considered for In Year Estates developments at James Watt, Sutton Coldfield and Erdington.
- Mrs C Braddock reiterated the importance for the College to invest as complaints have been received from businesses surrounding the James Watt Campus with regards to car parking.

#### **5.2 Resolved:**

- To approve the principle of in-year works within budget plans
- To approve the development of a new property strategy and explore the use of a professional feasibility study for Erdington and James Watt.

## **Item 6 IT Managed Services**

**6.1** The Director of IT, Estates and Capital Projects gave a background to the paper. The following points were raised:

- It was noted that the College was unaware of the service change from Carillion to Capita, there has been no change to contract terms.
- Performance over the last 7 months has been varied; projects completed behind the scenes were discussed as well as the need for IT capital investment. The Director presented 3 options:
  - To revert back to an in house service
  - Continue with the interim service
  - Move into an agreed five year contract
- The College intentions are to move into a five year contract but it was felt there had to be some negotiations before doing so.
- A discussion was had to possibly change the break clause to introduce a break at Year 1 and Year 2.

**6.2 Resolved:**

- i) That the Committee noted the progress and future IT systems development and the intention to move into an agreed five year contract.

## **Item 7 Contract Harmonisation**

Confidential Item

## **Item 8 Employer Responsive Funding 2009/10**

**8.1** The Executive Director of Business Development introduced this item giving an overview of employer responsive funding for 2009/10. The following details were noted:

- Employer responsive funding has been split, causing concerns for the College in terms of efficiencies and performance. The consequences of this means the College is required to backload activity to the last four months from April to July 2010.
- Restrictions on employer responsive funding also includes the ESF amount of funding allocated to the College, thus meaning the College can only deliver first level 2 qualifications within the West Midlands. This will cause increased competition as a result of reduced recruitment opportunities.
- Many providers are now in the same position; the long term strategy for the College is to work with key partners for support.
- The Principal stated that these are substantial changes and it is key to keep members informed of the progress.

## **Item 9 Collaborative Activity**

**9.1** This item was noted for Information

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Strategy, Finance and Business Development Committee of Birmingham Metropolitan College will be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 at 8:30am.