



**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE (60)
OF THE CORPORATION OF BLACKPOOL SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

Date: Tuesday 30th November 2010

Venue: Sixth Form College

Room: Committee Room

Time: 1700hrs - 1815hrs

Present:

Cllr. D Clapham (Chair)
Ms K Edwards (Student Governor designate)
Ms F Greeves
Dr A Mohan
Ms K Talboys
Mr R Weaver

Mr J Boyle (Observer)
Ms K Kirkwood (Deputy Principal)
Mrs JA Trainor (Assistant Clerk to the Corporation)
Dr J Burgess (Clerk to the Corporation)

In the absence of the Vice-Chair, Cllr. Clapham was elected to Chair the meeting.

49.2010 Apologies for Absence

Mr G Curry, Mr A Goodinson & Dr D Sanders.

50.2010 Declaration of Interest

None.

51.2010 Consideration of any items of urgent business

None.

52.2010 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2010.

(Paper A)

52.2010 D1 Resolved: that the Minutes be approved.

53.2010 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th September 2010

39.2010 Examination Results 2010 – tabled paper

The Principal reminded Governors about the College's concern regarding the apparent decline in the 2010 Value Added Results for AS Level courses. Following a detailed analysis, this was because of the inclusion of BTEC achievements. Subsequently, this had been challenged and a request made that Value Added results be presented specifically for AS.

Action

As only a handful of Sixth Form Colleges routinely offer a comprehensive combination of AS and BTEC programmes, this request had been granted. The recalculated result placed the pure AS provision in band 2, making the College one of the top five in the country.

54.2010 Safeguarding Report November 2010

(Paper C)

The Deputy Principal explained that this was the first report of this type to Governors, prompted by a desire to improve openness and responsiveness to safeguarding issues. The apparent rise in reported cases from the start of the academic year was in part due to improved reporting. Governors reviewed the summary of incidents reported and were concerned about the numbers of vulnerable students being supported by Student Services Welfare Officer. They questioned the processes in place and the effectiveness of partnership working. Overall, the Report, and proposed actions, were welcomed. Governors alerted Senior Managers to additional agencies that could offer help, guidance and support. It was anticipated that the College would experience an increase in the complexity and range of challenges in this area over the coming months.

54.2010 D1 Resolved: that the **Safeguarding Report November 2010** be received.

55.2010 Annual Review of the Strategic Development Plan 2009 - 2010

(Paper D)

The Principal introduced the report and focused on the small number of objectives that had either not been achieved or only partially achieved. She highlighted retention, (which actually looks to have improved this current year), and overall success rates which continues to be a challenge in certain subjects. Governors questioned a number of other areas where further work was deemed necessary and were assured that work was in hand to address these issues. Overall, Governors were very pleased that the majority of objectives had been successfully achieved and congratulated the Management Team.

55.2010 D1 Resolved: that the **Annual Review of the Strategic Development Plan 2009 - 2010** be received.

56.2010 Strategic Review Group

(Paper E)

Governors reviewed the minutes of the second meeting of the Strategic Review Group held on the 8th October 2010. Mr Boyle, recalling the Terms of Reference of the Group, considered that some wide-ranging positive thinking had taken place and that the Corporation & Management Team were better prepared to tackle the uncertainties created both by the rapidly changing educational policy agenda and the anticipated funding cuts. The issues raised would be explored further at the forthcoming Governors' Residential Conference in 2011.

56.2010 D1 Resolved: that minutes of the **Strategic Review Group held on the 8th October 2010 be received.**

57.2010 Draft Marketing Strategy 2010 – 2011

(Paper F)

Since August 2010, the Principal had taken direct responsibility for this area and enhanced the Marketing Team by the addition of two specialists from the Visual Arts Department and provided an increase to the budget. The thrust of the strategy was to further promote the brand identity making this synonymous with highly successful student achievements in examinations, destinations and careers.

Governors were very impressed with the level of detail in the objectives proposed and the range of initiatives planned. The loss of the concert hall had provided the opportunity to travel to partner high schools and potentially reach new markets. Comments from the Student Governor (designate) confirmed that the College web site was very attractive, easy to use and an important gateway for new recruits.

Thanks were expressed to the Marketing Team for their work on this Strategy.

57.2010 D1 Resolved: that the **Draft Marketing Strategy 2010 – 2011 be approved.**

58.2010 Internal Departmental Inspection Report - English & Modern Languages

(Paper G)

The Principal was pleased to introduce the first internal inspection report of the year and to highlight many of the improvements and strengths observed during the weeklong engagement in late September 2010. The Head of Department had been identified as the catalyst for change, raising standards and delivering improvements in achievements. Governors questioned a number of issues identified in the report and were pleased to note that the data-sheets provided to all staff were addressing the lack of awareness and ownership by staff of their class data. The large number of the lesson observations and general audit of schemes and students' files confirmed an overall grade of Good.

58.2010 D1 Resolved: that **Internal Departmental Inspection Report - English & Modern Languages be received.**

59.2010 Internal Departmental Inspection Report - Maths

(Paper H)

Whilst this internal inspection report highlighted a number of important strengths of the Department, e.g. the increase in student recruitment and the high student attendance rates, the below College target on AS success rates and a number of limitations observed in the teaching sessions meant that an overall Satisfactory grade was awarded. The Head of Department returns from maternity leave in January 2011 and is focused to implementing the improvement plan.

59.2010 D1 Resolved: that **Internal Departmental Inspection Report – Maths** be received

60.2010 Revised Leadership Charter
(Paper I)

Governors were particularly pleased to review the Revised Leadership Charter, which had been redrafted and realigned to the core values of the College. They were impressed with the clarity and directness of the language and the under-pining positive and proactive management culture.

60.2010 D1 Resolved: that the **Revised Leadership Charter** be received.

61.2010 Any other business
None

62.2010 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was confirmed as **Tuesday 15th March 2011 @1700hrs.**

The Chair thanked members for their support, attendance and contributions and closed the meeting.

Members
Note

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....