



AGENDA  
REFERENCE

**A2**

## CORPORATION/COMMITTEE PAPER

Meeting of the Corporation  
16 December 2020

<b><i>TITLE</i></b>	Minutes of the Special Corporation meeting held on 26 November 2020
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<b><i>PURPOSE</i></b>	To receive, agree and approve the minutes of the Special Corporation meeting held on 26 November 2020
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<b><i>RECOMMENDATION</i></b>	Governors are requested to note the minutes and agree their accuracy
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<i>No. of pages in main paper</i>	6
<i>Appendices/Annexes</i>	None
<i>Financial Implications</i>	None
<i>Risk Implications</i>	Failure to follow agreed and proper practices
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# MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LEICESTER COLLEGE CORPORATION

HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2020 VIA TEAMS



Present:	Jonathan Kerry (Chair) Lisa Armitage Shaun Curtis Kathy Foster Danielle Gillett Verity Hancock Chan Kataria	Brigitte Heller Zubair Limbada Louisa Poole Caroline Tote Trisha Spencer Tom Wilson
In Attendance:	Louise Hazel Shabir Ismail Della Sewell Tina Thorpe Kully Sandhu  Adam Clarke Steve Frampton	Director of Governance and Policy Deputy Principal Director of HR Vice Principal Vice Principal  Deputy City Mayor Association of Colleges

## **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

- 1.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## **2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from John Allen and Simon Meakin. Tim Gray and Andrew Hind were absent.
- 2.2 Steve Frampton and Adam Clarke were welcomed to the meeting.

## **3 THE CLIMATE COMMISSION FOR HE AND FE ROADMAP**

- 3.1 Steve Frampton gave a presentation on the work of the Climate Commission for HE and FE. The following points were highlighted:
- 3.1.1 The Commission had been working for a year. It had learned a lot from the work already underway in HE and in Scotland. The roadmap, which had been co-created with the sector, had been published in May and.
  - 3.1.2 It was the right time to be taking action and the work of the Commission and the sector would have a lot of political traction. Recent international research undertaken into climate change showed that young people

identified it as an important issue that should be treated as seriously as the pandemic. The involvement and leadership of students was crucial in achieving change.

3.1.3 Support was available to colleges through Salix loans; training was also available on carbon literacy.

3.1.4 There were several good examples of institutions working together to make commitments and achieve positive outcomes.

### 3.2 **Governors asked a number of questions including:**

3.2.1 **How long might it take to work through the three stages in the roadmap?** It could take three years but this would require a massive collective response. It was likely that there would be statutory requirements on corporations in the future but it was for the College to decide where it wanted to go and how quickly.

3.2.2 **The College was already doing a lot in the ‘emerging’ phase of the roadmap and was now looking at the Sustainable Development Goals. Was it likely that there would be impact ratings for FE as there were for HE?** This was already in place but not well-publicised at the moment. The NUS/SOS was keen that this be promoted and it was likely these would be launched in 6-12 months. There were lots of opportunities for working with HE; in some institutions, students were undertaking institutional self-assessments in a volunteer capacity.

3.2.3 **What could the Student Union do to promote the work?** Involvement of students was key and the union had an important role to play in holding the Board and SLT to account. FE college students could access training on sustainability through UNLOC.

3.2.4 **The Student Union already had an established forum and this could be used to help promote the roadmap.** This would be helpful and would be followed up.

## 4 **LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

4.1 Councillor Adam Clarke gave a presentation on Leicester City Council’s response to the climate emergency. The following points were highlighted.

4.1.1 The City Council had been one of the first to declare a climate emergency in 2019. It had set and was exceeding its targets for carbon emissions.

4.1.2 There was still an issue with electricity emissions and there was a need to reduce them or produce electricity in different ways. There were 14km of district heating which covered City Hall and homes in the City; this might be of interest to the College.

4.1.3 Travel emissions had flatlined since 2008/09 but there had been reductions in other emissions and so the proportion of emissions from travel had increased.

4.1.4 A Climate Emergency Strategy had been published. Only 5% of emissions were from the City Council and so there was a need to work in partnership with other organisations and businesses to reduce emissions. Conversations had taken place with a range of people including the College and its students. There was a shared vision for

what needed to change. Leadership particularly among young people was key.

4.1.5 The City's ambition was to be carbon neutral by 2030. New carbon zero housing was being built and the City had more green flag schools than anywhere else. There were lots of opportunities for green jobs particularly in construction; the College could support with this.

4.1.6 Lots of work had been done to open up the City for walking and cycling particularly during the pandemic. There would be further changes including the introduction of electric buses, a zero-carbon bus station and the use of e-bikes loan scheme. The Council was keen to promote this scheme to students.

4.2 **Governors noted the presentation; discussion took place under the following item.**

## **5 LEICESTER COLLEGE'S APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY**

5.1 The Principal and Director of Estates and Campus Services gave a presentation on the College's approach to sustainability. The following points were highlighted.

5.1.1 Waste produced was down by 14% since 2018/19; nothing now went to landfill.

5.1.2 100% of the College's energy supply was from green sources, 60% from wind, 30% from solar and 10% from hydro/wave. During lockdown there had been a 21% drop in electricity use.

5.1.3 Gas consumption had reduced by 15% since 2017/18.

5.1.4 A range of green technologies was being used including LED lighting, solar panels, solar heated water at FPC and a building management system. The College had a green travel plan. It had also replaced all plastic cutlery with forest managed wooden cutlery and cooking oil was returned to suppliers to conversion to Bio Diesel.

5.1.5 Future initiatives included work with the Student Union around green initiatives, introduction of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to the sustainability forum, discussions with students around COP26 and further rollout of green tech where appropriate.

*Steve Frampton left the meeting*

5.2 Governors asked a number of **questions** including:

5.2.1 **Whether there was the possibility of having e-bike docking stations near College sites.** More sites were being set up in phases 2 and 3 of the project and the City Council was taking requests for additional sites.

5.2.2 **What opportunities were there to promote the scheme to students though the student union?** The City Council could talk to the SU about this.

5.2.3 **What were the reasons for the increase in travel emissions?** This was largely about the increase in the proportions of emissions; other sources had reduced but travel emissions had not changed and so represented a larger proportion of all emissions.

- 5.2.4 **Were there any comparators against which the College/City could measure itself?** The City compared well to other similar cities. There were not many comparators for the College at the moment although the impact ratings would be interesting.

5.3 **Governors noted the presentation.**

**6 NEXT STEPS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

- 6.1 The Principal presented a paper setting out further context and some questions for discussion to identify the next steps and implications for the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan. The following points were highlighted.

- 6.1.1 The College was starting from quite a high base but the roadmap was helpful in providing ideas for what further action could be taken.
- 6.1.2 Considerations would include what the College should do in terms of the curriculum; it would want to develop sustainable technology programmes but there were difficulties in finding people who could teach these.
- 6.1.3 The following key questions were posed:
- Do we want to declare a climate emergency?
  - Should we sign up to the roadmap?
    - Should this be one of the College's main strategic objectives for the next Strategic Plan?
    - How far should we aspire to go on the roadmap?
    - What would be the impact on decisions about the estate, capital investment, other investment?
    - In addition to the targets in the roadmap, are there any other KPIs that the College should set for itself?
  - What are the barriers to success – are there any particular challenges for the College?
  - Who are the key stakeholders and how can we best engage with them?
    - Would anyone like to take on the role of climate change/sustainability link governor for the Corporation?

- 6.2 **Governors discussed the questions raised. The following comments were made:**

- 6.2.1 **The College should declare a climate emergency; this was an important issue and the College should show its commitment.**
- 6.2.2 **It should adopt the roadmap and this should be a main objective in the new Strategic Plan.**
- 6.2.3 **A governor champion would be a good idea; it would also be helpful to have staff champions.**
- 6.2.4 **The roadmap was helpful but it did raise questions as to how far the College was, and could be, green, for example, if it continued to use gas boilers, given that replacing these might not be affordable.**
- 6.2.5 **Government driven initiatives would change the landscape and**

- this would also impact on how the College needed to train people, including in sustainable technologies.
- 6.2.6 **A working group would be a good idea but would it also be helpful to put some responsibility onto students?** This would be helpful. If there was a clear rationale and the message was well communicated, people would be willing to change their habits. The individual and well as the organisational impact should be reinforced.
- 6.2.7 **It might also be helpful to involve employers and universities in discussions.**
- 6.2.8 **There was a clear moral case to declare a climate emergency but this would also be expedient in business terms as the College's commitment to sustainability would be a factor when working with other businesses. If the College wanted to be the college of choice, it should make its commitment clear.**
- 6.2.9 **There would be barriers to achieving some of the outcomes in the roadmap and the economic situation might create additional barriers. However, the College should try to overcome them.**
- 6.2.10 **The discussion was very encouraging and while it would be challenging, there would be lots of opportunities including in economic and cultural terms.**
- 6.2.11 **Would it be possible to run some workshops and make use of the expertise in the College to promote green initiatives including through food and other cross-College services?**
- 6.2.12 **Sustainability should be a College objective but it should be student centric and cross-cutting. The College should try and go as far as possible; there might be resource implications but it should try and identify what it wanted to do and then think about the resource implications after.**

*Adam Clarke left the meeting*

**6.3 Governors agreed that:**

- 6.3.1 **The College should declare a climate emergency and that climate change/sustainability should be a major objective in the new Strategic Plan.**
- 6.3.2 **The College should adopt the roadmap; the SLT would consider this in more detail and bring back more information on the implications for how the College conducted its normal business. This would be discussed in more detail at the June Away Day.**
- 6.3.3 **All governors would think about any further targets or actions and send them through to the Director of Governance and Policy.**
- 6.3.4 **All governors would consider whether they would want to be the lead on climate change for the Corporation and let the Director of Governance and Policy know by 11 December.**

**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 16 December 2020

**8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 There was no other business.