

BASINGSTOKE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

CORPORATION

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2025

Membership (20):	1.	*	Mike Howe	External Member	Chair
	2.		Caroline Baker	External Member	
	3.	*	Anthony Bravo	Principal	
	4.	*	Priya Brown	External Member	
	5.		Charles Cardiff	External Member	
	6.	i	Terry Clarke	Staff Member	
	7.	*	Kevin Croombs	External Member	
	8.	*	Steve Fussey	External Member	Vice Chair
	9.		Beryl Huntingdon	External Member	
	10.		Nicole Martin	External Member	
	11.	*	Maria Miller	External Member	
	12.	*	Arun Mummalaneni	External Member	
	13.	*	Dave Murray	External Member	
	14.	*	Rowena Prenderville	External Member	
	15.	*	Martin Slatford	External Member	
	16.		Toby Sole	Student Member	
	17.		Sam Swinstead	External Member	
	18.	*	Ian Ward	Staff Member	
	19.	*	Colin Willoughby	External Member	
	20.	*	Pamela Woolgrove	External Member	
Quorum:			8 required	13 present at start	Meeting quorate
In Attendance:		*	Simon Burrell	Clerk to the Corporation	
		*	Lorraine Heath	Deputy Principal (DPCPI)	
		*	David Moir	Deputy Principal (DPFR)	
Present at meeting:		*			
From Minute 1416:		i			

PRE-MEETING DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING

Changes to Foundation Learning and Personal Development (Alexis Smith, Assistant Principal: Foundation, Learning and Student Voice) (AP)

The AP outlined a number of changes to Foundation Learning and Personal Development from Sept 2025.

Key points from the presentation included:

- The education picture had changed dramatically over the last 10 years, especially post-Covid
- Increase in young people not getting the grades for level 2/3 (Future Pathways started with 80 this year, now over 300)
- Increase in students with mental health issues
- SEN needs presenting differently
- Parental expectations
- Too many students withdrew pre-42 days

The development of Four Pathways within Foundation Learning with possibly up to 295 learners

- Vocational Pathway
- Employability Pathway
- PSD (Personal and Social Development)
- Kings Trust

Stopping offering 14-16 provision

Personal Development Changes:

- A changing world – again related to post-Covid
- Preparing students for life
- Critical Thinking
- Creativity
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Company behaviours

Lifeskills Changes:

- Financial literacy
- Political literacy
- Employability skills - interviewing, speaking on the phone, remote interviews
- Keeping safe
- Community action
- Charity projects
- Sport/activity

At the conclusion of the presentation Members sought clarification on a number of elements cover in it.

The Principal also highlighted the growing number of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) young people in the Basingstoke area, and stressed that it was also a growing national issue too.

It was also highlighted that SEN (Special Educational Needs) spending currently through HCC would be impacted through the devolution process with an unknown impact on the College.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

(5.10pm)		ACTION
1405.	<p>WELCOME</p> <p>Rowena Prenderville was welcomed to the Corporation.</p> <p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Caroline Baker, Charles Cardiff, Terry Clarke (late arrival), Beryl Huntingdon, Nicole Martin, Toby Sole, Sam Swinstead.</p>	
1406.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arun Mummalaneni declared an interest that he was an elected Councillor for Hampshire County Council and for Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. 2. Priya Brown and Arun Mummalaneni declared an interest in Agenda Item 4: Membership of the Corporation. 3. Anthony Bravo declared an interest in Agenda Item 18: WBTC Update. 4. The Principal, the Staff Members and the Deputy Principals declared an interest in Confidential Agenda Item 5.2: Pay Award 2025. 	
1407.	<p>NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business notified.</p>	
1408.	<p>MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATION</p> <p>1. Appointment of Members</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Search Ctte had recommended that Priya Brown and Arun Mummalaneni be re-appointed for a second term of office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">It was RESOLVED that Priya Brown and Arun Mummalaneni be re-appointed as External Members, each for a four-year term of office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>[Search Ctte meeting, 12 March 2025, Minute 366 refers]</i></p>	
1409.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.</p>	
1410.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>1. Corporation Self-assessment 2024 (Minute 1396.2)</p> <p>The Chair advised that he was proposing to schedule annual one-to-one meetings with all Members and would review succession planning matters at those meetings.</p>	

	COMMITTEES OF THE CORPORATION	
1411. (5.12pm)	<p>Audit Committee (AC)</p> <p>The unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 12 March 2025 were received and noted.</p> <p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. Risk Report and Risk Register (Minute 869)</p> <p>A copy of the Risk Report and the Risk Register (as reviewed by the Audit Ctte) were received for information. It was noted that local government devolution would be added to the Risk Register because of the uncertainties of its impact on the College. It was also noted that the Audit Ctte had recommended that the impact and continuing implementation of AI should be included on the Risk Register.</p> <p>In response to a question from a Member it was noted that the uncertainties over government funding were already included on the Risk Register.</p> <p>In response to a further question from a Member the DPCPI advised that following the withdrawal of the University of Portsmouth with regards to nursing courses, and changes by the North Hants Hospital Trust, it was noted that the College would not be offering HE level nursing courses. The DPCPI also advised that regarding mitigation on the reliance on key customers, Thames Water had agreed a four-year extension to their contract.</p>	
1412. (5.15pm)	<p>Curriculum & Quality Committee (CQC)</p> <p>The unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting of the Curriculum & Quality Committee held on 13 March 2025 were received and noted.</p> <p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. Corp Members Link Visits (Minute 858)</p> <p>It was noted that the Link Visit report form had been simplified and that all Members should ensure that they completed it after every link visit.</p>	
1413. (5.17pm)	<p>Finance & Resources Committee (FRC)</p> <p>The unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Resources Committee held on 19 March 2025 were received and noted.</p> <p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. Management Accounts: February 2025 (Minute 1077)</p> <p>In response to a question from a Member the DPFR advised that current indications were that the government would fund 80% of the additional costs related to the increase in national insurance contributions, and that it would also include the College's subsidiary company BCoT Professional Services Ltd.</p> <p>2. Appointment of Director of Finance (Confidential Minute CF72)</p> <p>It was noted that the new Director of Finance would start on 19 May 2025.</p>	

<p>1414. (5.19pm)</p>	<p>Search Committee (SC)</p> <p>The confirmed Minutes of the meeting of the Search Committee held on 11 December 2024 and the unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting of the Search Committee held on 12 March 2025 were received and noted.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1. Mentor/Buddy Role Description (Minute 365)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">It was noted that the four new Members had all been allocated Mentor/Buddies.</p>	
<p>1415. (5.20pm)</p>	<p>Strategic Plan Working Group</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Working Group had met and considered a range of matters appertaining to the development of a new Strategic Plan, and that it would form the basis for discussion at the Development Day on 7 May 2025.</p> <p>In response to a question from a Member related to the downturn in adult student numbers, the Principal advised that many adults were now undertaking professional courses.</p> <p>In response to a further question from a Member regarding the gender mix on various programmes, especially around engineering and construction courses, the Principal advised that College liaison visits to schools and roadshows included representatives of successful females in those areas of activity. In addition, it was stressed that schools needed to start highlighting such career opportunities from Year 7.</p>	
<p>1416. (5.23pm)</p>	<p>STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-25 (KPIs)</p> <p>A written report was received for information and noted. The DPFR took Members through the report. In particular, he highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff sickness (both short and long term) was slightly higher than at the same point in the previous year. • To date, of 112 lesson observations undertaken, 92% (94) were graded 'good/outstanding'. • Delivery of the adult grant should be met in full by the end of the academic year. • Applications for Sept 2025 were, surprisingly, at the same level as at the same point in 2024 despite the fact that there were currently more Year 11 students in schools in the current year (2024/25). • National average (NA) achievement data showed that in 2023/24 16–18-year-olds were slightly above the NA and 19+ slightly below – the net overall effect being 0.1% below the NA. Apprenticeship achievements were below the NA. • Retention in 2024/25 was slightly below the previous year. • Destination data for 2023/24 showed an increase in most elements. <p>In response to a question from a Member relating to industry placements, the DPFR advised that the data presented for 2024/25 only showed those students that had completed their industrial placement.</p> <p>[Terry Clarke joined the meeting]</p>	

<p>1417. (5.41pm)</p>	<p>PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE</p> <p>The Principal updated the Corporation on various matters. In particular, he advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional government funding had been received for capital works (to improve the estate and IT infrastructure). • There were, currently, two options for local government devolution being promoted for Hampshire with considerable uncertainty for colleges (to be discussed further at the Development Day). • A number of curriculum changes would be taking place because of the changing student profile. • Newbury College was actively seeking a potential merger partner, but it was not felt to be a financially viable option for BCoT. • Following recent national publicity regarding a number of 'unsavoury websites' these had all been blocked by the College. • The College refectory ("Taste") had received a food hygiene rating of '1' following a recent inspection. He advised that this was NOT related to food hygiene or cleanliness matters but was a procedural issue regarding 'paperwork' matters. The refectory would be re-inspected in due course. However, because of the concerns related to potential reputational damage a positioning statement had been drafted by the College for issue to the local press and for the College's website. • There had been a very successful Staff Wellbeing day held on 1 April 2025. • There had been a meeting with the DfE earlier that day that had been very positive with good outcomes. 	
<p>1418. (5.47pm)</p>	<p>WEST BERKSHIRE TRAINING CONSORTIUM (WBTC) UPDATE</p> <p>The Principal advised that WBTC was not recruiting as many apprentices as it had targeted, mainly as a result of employers currently not taking-on new staff at the present time.</p>	
<p>1419. (5.54pm)</p>	<p>CHAIR'S UPDATE</p> <p>The Chair advised that he had joined the meeting with the DfE and that they (DfE) had been very complimentary about BCoT.</p>	
<p>1420.</p>	<p>ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business discussed.</p>	
<p>1421.</p>	<p>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS <i>[Meetings commence at 4.30pm unless stated]</i></p> <p>Wed 7 May 2025 (3.00pm Development Day) Wed 2 Jul 2025 Wed 8 Oct 2025 Wed 19 Nov 2025 (3.00pm Development Day) Wed 10 Dec 2025</p>	
<p>(5.56pm)</p>	<p>Part 1 Meeting closed</p>	