

THE TRAFFORD COLLEGE GROUP

**Minutes Resources Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday 11 October 2022 at 5.30 pm via Microsoft Teams**

Present:	Janet Grant James Scott Jill Bottomley Alison Hewitt Ayo Oyebode	(Chairperson) (Principal and CEO)
In Attendance:	Barry Watson Carmen Gonzalez-Eslava Michelle Leslie Kal Kay Kelly Wright Natasha Bintley Naomi Harrop Alison Duncalf	(Corporation Secretary) (Deputy Principal) (Vice Principal Corporate Services & Planning) (Chief Finance Officer) (Assistant Principal Funding, Performance and Planning) (Director of Finance) (Director of Human Resources and Performance) (Deputy Corporation Secretary)

Minute No:

RES/46/22 Apologies for Absence

The Corporation Secretary (CS) reported that apologies for absence had been received from Graham Luccock, Louise Richardson and Sabine Van der Veer.

Jeremy Woodside was not in attendance.

RES/47/22 Election of Chairperson of the Resources Committee 2022-2024

The CS sought nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Committee for the Academic Years 2022/2024.

Janet Grant was the sole nomination, and it was unanimously resolved that she be elected as Chairperson of the Committee for the period outlined.

Action: Corporation Secretary

RES/48/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of either direct or indirect interest in any of the meetings business items.

RES/49/22 Election of Vice Chairperson of the Resources Committee 2022-2024

The Chairperson sought nominations to the position of Vice Chairperson of the Resources Committee for the Academic Years 2022-2024.

Jill Bottomley was the sole nomination and it was unanimously resolved that she be elected Vice Chairperson of the Committee for the period outlined.

Minute No:

RES/50/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2022

There was agreement that RES/36/22 Draft People and Culture Strategy 2022–2025 (page 8), fifth paragraph, read “Wider **Employee** Value Proposition” and the CS undertook to make the necessary adjustment.

Action: Corporation Secretary

The minutes of the meeting, incorporating the above revision, were approved as a correct account of the meeting proceedings.

RES/51/22 Matters arising from the Minutes Proforma

The Chairperson referred members to the previously circulated summary of actions arising from the minutes and the progress attained therein.

(i) RES/31/22 – Learner Numbers and Funding Audit 2021/2022

The Deputy Principal (DP) reported that regarding the introduction of blended learning programmes for adults the Group had engaged with Skills Network to provide a range of short programmes with the offer to be advertised further in the coming weeks.

There were no further matters arising from the minutes that were not contained within the meeting's business items.

RES/52/22 People Strategy Action Plan – Update October 2022

The Director of Human Resources and Performance (DHRP) referred members to the previously circulated report which provided the Committee with an update on the progress against the People Strategy Action Plan during 2021-2022.

The report provided members with Rag Rated progress against the Strategy including Key Performance Indicators for the three-year period 2019-2022

The DHRP confirmed that recruitment continued to be a particular focus during the previous academic year due to internal and external factors, along with the embedding of staff from Cheadle and Marple colleges into the wider organisation.

The DHRP provided the Committee with a detailed overview and narrative of the progress that had been made in respect of the key strategic aims as follows:

- Attract
- Develop,
- Retain,
- Excellence in Leadership and Management,
- Supportive, Collaborative and Healthy Working Environment.

Minute No:

Questions from members were invited.

- A member commented on the people aspects of the report and the current anxiety associated with the cost-of-living crisis and asked what support the Group were offering to staff in this context.

The DHRP responded that this aspect was being addressed as part of the 2022-2023 strategy and action plan. It was stated that during the next half term there would be a focus on Employee Assistance Programmes (EAPs) one aspect of which was the utilisation of counselling services as a means of signposting to advice and support.

The Vice Principal Corporate Services and Planning (VPCSP) added that this was an area that the Executive Leadership Team was very aware and mindful of in the plans for the future. It was further stated that staff meetings were currently taking place across each of the campuses at which these issues would also be addressed and promoted.

Action: Executive Leadership Team

- A member further commented on the issue of Financial Well Being which was associated with the cost-of- living crisis and ways that employers could help employees through the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) website, and which also included the sharing of best practice. It was also advised that there was a forthcoming Conference being held by the CIPD in Manchester the following week which might be helpful for relevant officers to attend.

There were no further questions or comments made by members and following due consideration and deliberation it was resolved that the update in respect of the People Strategy Action Plan be received and noted.

RES/53/22**People and Culture Action Plan – Year One 2022-2023**

The DHRP referred members to the previously circulated People and Culture Action Plan (PCAP) 2022-2023. There was confirmation that the report presented the first action plan of the People and Culture Strategy (PCS) 2022-2025.

The DHRP advised the Committee that the PCS was a working document which would evolve over time based on outcomes from reviews and the requirements of the organisation.

The DHRP provided the Committee with a detailed overview and narrative of the progress that had been made in respect of the key interrelated strategic aims as follows:

- Organisational culture.
- Attraction of talent.
- Employee and organizational development.
- Employee experience.

The DHRP reiterated that all the actions were also viewed through an Equality Diversity and Inclusion lens and that work would continue to build upon the details of the actions including developing, embedding and ensuring alignment with the organisational

Minute No:

culture. There was confirmation that the first action plan would also focus on developing a framework around expected leadership behaviours and the further embedding of the Group's values.

Questions from members were invited.

- A comment was made in relation to the action plan, and it was asked as to how impact of the actions would be communicated.

The DHRP responded that reporting would follow the standard format adopted in relation to the Group's other action plans within which impact would be recorded and communicated accordingly. The DHRP undertook to clarify the reporting arrangements going forward.

Action: Director of Human Resources and Planning

The Principal and CEO (PCEO) added that the strategy and action plan arising were aligned to the Group's 3 Year Strategic Plan for which there was consistency in terms of both approach and reporting of all underlying strategies.

- A member commented regarding the risks from external factors that could impact on the plan particular regarding changes in Employment Law. The member also recognized the comprehensive nature of the action plan suggesting that there were a lot of actions for delivery alongside the "day job". The member also commented concerning external review of the actions contained in the plan.

The DHRP confirmed the arrangements that were in place regarding to ensure the objectivity of the plan together with the other sources of input from across the organisation. It was added that should changes occur in the wider environment it may be necessary for the ELT to revisit the Group's priorities. The DHRP stated that many of the actions had been developed around back to basics and that there was a need to establish the foundations from which other work would then emanate.

Members acknowledged that expectations may need to adapt and change in view of what was going on in the wider world.

- A question was asked by a member in relation to when reporting against progress would next take place.

The CS advised that a mid-year review would be presented in February 2023 with a final outcomes report presented to the Committee at the end of the academic year.

There were no further questions or comments made by members and following due consideration and deliberation it was resolved that the People Culture Action Plan 2022-2023 be approved.

RES/54/22

Employment Relations Update – October 2022

The DHRP referred members to the previously circulated report and an update in respect of employment relations.

Minute No:

The DHRP provided members with a detailed overview of the key issues with respect to employee relations as follows:

- The final outcomes from the pay offer for 2021-2022 which had largely been successful with no industrial relation impact at the Group.
- The current position in respect of the pay offer for 2022-2023. The DHRP provided the Committee with details of the current position in respect of all the accredited Trades Unions and the PCEO also provided the Committee with an update on national and local issues relating to the negotiations particularly in the context of some of the issues in terms of staff and the Cheadle and Marple campuses. It was recognised that the academic year was likely to be highly challenging within this context due to the external and internal pressures that the Group faced.
- The market testing outcomes of support services and the transfer of catering and security services to third parties which had been completed successfully and was working well.
- The creation of a workload working group in response to concerns raised by the trade unions, and which was continuing to meet with a view to reporting back at the end of the term.

The Committee had a broad ranging discussion concerning the issues raised in the report and after due discussion and consideration it was resolved that the report be noted.

RES/55/22

Draft Objectives for the Sustainability Strategy 2022-2025

The Vice Principal Corporate Services and Planning (VPCSP) referred members to the previously circulated report and an update on the direction of travel for the development of a five-year Sustainability Strategy (SS) including the first draft of the sustainability strategic objectives.

There was confirmation that the SS would be aligned to three priority areas underpinned by leadership, governance and partnerships which included:

- the curriculum
- the estate
- operational management and supply chain.

It was reported that a Sustainability Committee had been established including representation from the Board of the Corporation, Leadership Team, specialist curriculum and enabling team staff and students.

The VPCSP reported that the draft objectives had been built upon the Strategic Planning event, held earlier in the year and that the proposed SS would provide:

- an effective framework to identify priorities with clear targets and outcomes.
- identify the measurable benefits of sustainability alongside risks and opportunities.
- address aspects such as the initial investment required, the savings that could be achieved, the training opportunities and collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

Minute No:

Reference was made to the priority areas which highlighted the benefits to the curriculum around aspects including the development of skills and students as global citizens. It was further stated that the building design of the Cheadle campus redevelopment provided an opportunity to address and include sustainability aspects at an operational level.

The VPCSP suggested that the targets set over the five-year period were ambitious and that there would be many challenges particularly from a financial perspective. It was noted however that there were opportunities to unlock support in terms of grants and SALIX loans but that the challenge would be to build in the capacity and expertise to source and progress such applications.

Emphasis was placed upon the political challenges and the need for the Group to take a longer-term strategic view. The VPCSP stated that consultation had commenced via the Sustainability Group and had included the setting up of staff and student focus groups.

It was confirmed that the next steps would involve further consultation prior to the finalisation of the objectives. The VPCSP added that there would also be commencement of work in relation to an Estates Plan.

Questions and comments were invited from members.

- A question was asked by a member in respect of priority area 3, to deliver ethical and best practice circular economy principles, and whether there would be expansion of the green travel panel and the targeting of aspects such as reduction in pollution. Reference was also made to the actions and it was commented that they appeared to have a greater employee, as opposed to a student focus.

The VPCSP responded that the Group was required to and had a green travel plan in place as part of the Re development of the Stockport College but that it would also continue to pursue opportunities and initiatives in conjunction with other partners.

In relation to the comment around employee focused actions it was suggested that staff travel between sites was more of an issue for staff than students and that the impetus was to minimize travel to and between sites alongside the exploration of other benefits that could be offered.

- Members applauded the partnership approach being adopted.

The VPCSP responded that the strategy would present opportunities as well as responsibilities.

- A comment was made around the discussions from the Strategy Planning Day and the AoC's recommendations around sustainability. It was asked whether there had been any assessment as to how far the Group was aligned to these recommendations.

The VPCSP responded that within the SS there was cross referencing to external guidance including both AoC and DfE documentation.

Minute No:

There were no further questions or comments made by members and following due consideration and deliberation it was resolved that the initial draft objectives of the Sustainability Strategy 2022-2025 be endorsed.

RES/56/22 Management Accounts for the Year Ending 31 July 2022

The Director of Finance (DF) referred members to the previously circulated report and information on the financial performance of the Group for the period up to 31 July 2022 together with the Management Accounts for the year which were also appended to the report.

The DF confirmed that the final outcomes and results for the year remained subject to audit by the Group's Financial Statements and Regularity Auditors Armstrong Watson and maybe impacted ion in relation to the final ILR position and Apprentices and Adult Funding.

The DF reported that there was very little change to that reported at period 11 with all KPIs being met except for a slight difference in the EBITDA as a percentage of income ratio of 0.1% and the staff to income ratios, due to the additional agency costs incurred to support the significant number of vacancies across the Group.

It was noted that staffing costs as a percentage of income would continue to be challenging going forward into the new financial year.

The following key aspects were highlighted:

- 16-19 income, the in-year benefit from growth funding and the increased allocation of £1m for the 2022-2023 academic year
- the challenge of the delivery of adult education provision and the projected claw back in this area of circa £1m, the cash impact of which would be seen in the current financial year (likely to recovered between November 2022 and January 2023)
- reduced pay costs, which had been impacted by a significant number of vacancies (100 FTE) but offset by higher agency costs
- non-pay costs, which had seen the benefit from one-off rebates from exam costs and the VAT refund and had offset the impact of additional costs in the areas of Information Technology and Estates. It was advised that non -pay costs finished on budget.

Questions and comments from members were invited.

- A comment was made by a member that there were no great surprises arising from the previous financial year. It was asked whether there were any significant risks that may impact in the current year.

The FD responded that the outcome of the audit was awaited in respect of the 2021-2022 financial year and that in terms of the current year it was anticipated that there would be ongoing income issues in relation to delivery and challenges from both staff and energy costs. It was further stated that there would also be the adult education funding repayment to be made.

The CFO advised the Committee that there had also been several emerging risks over the last week which included a query from Greater Manchester Combined

Minute No:

Authority (GMCA) in relation to some adult learning support claims from which there may be some potential for claw back.

It was further reported that there may also be potential for some further claw back in relation to an audit of apprenticeships from 2017-2018 that was being undertaken by the ESFA.

There were no further questions or issues raised by members arising from the report and following due consideration and deliberation it was resolved that the Management Accounts for the year ending 31 July 2022 be recommended to the Board of the Corporation for approval.

Action: Board of the Corporation

RES/57/22 Energy Costs Update Report

The CFO referred members to the previously circulated report and an update in respect of energy costs.

The following aspects were highlighted:

- A Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) had provided initial information on a six-month scheme named “Energy bills relief scheme” (EBRS) for which further guidance was awaited.
- It was anticipated that the scheme would provide an energy cap for businesses through to April 2023.
- Quantification of the position of increases before the impact of the EBRS
The impact of the government intervention and the EBRS as included within the forecast in the management accounts
- An assumption that the same energy as the previous year (2021-2022) would be used in 2022-2023 however it was hoped that pushing forward with some of the sustainability objectives may help
- That the Energy Costs return made to the ESFA included identification of impacts to delivery including changes to opening hours, investment in teaching resources, investment in the estate and staff numbers or pay.
- The implications for the Group and the actions and mitigations that had been taken and were under consideration

Questions and comments from members were invited.

- A member asked for clarity around the prices in the report and the CFO confirmed that they were not worst case and that there would be mitigations around the Group's non -pay costs.
- A member referred to modelling undertaken elsewhere in relation to the trialing of a 4-day week and asked if the Group were considering it a serious option.

The VPCSP responded that early modelling had been undertaken but that the Group were not in a position to be able to move currently to a four-day week due to timetabling constraints. It was added the most effective way forward was to have

Minute No:

cost efficient buildings that were not bigger than needed. It was suggested that even with a 4-day week there would be a requirement to extend into the evenings.

It was further commented that there was recognition that no options had been excluded and that the other aspect that needed to be taken into account was the need to operate in the best interests of all which may include aspects such as the provision of warm places for students. It was reiterated that there was no simple solution and that there would be an emphasis upon making the right decision which may not necessarily be from cost perspective.

- A member further commented that the biggest part of the Group's energy usage was electricity. It was asked whether there was a clear understanding and insight as to the Group's electricity usage.

The CFO provided assurance that there was a good understanding of energy usage on a campus-by-campus basis.

The PCEO reiterated that core to the Group were the students and that all available opportunities to provide the required support to them would be explored including learning delivered in the classroom. It was further stated then when looking at a 4-day week the impact on students as well as staff needed to be assessed with the driver being both well-being and cost driven.

- A member commented that it was her view that a 4-day working week would become the norm in the next few years and it provided an opportunity for real collaboration between business and the community in the form of an additional day for employment.

There were no further questions or issues raised by members arising from the report and following due consideration it was resolved that the update on energy costs be received and noted.

RES/58/22 Annual Treasury Management Report 2022

The CFO referred members to the previously circulated report and annual treasury management update to the Committee consistent with the requirements of the Group's Financial Regulations.

The CFO provided the Committee with an overview of the key headlines arising from the report and confirmed that the Group's financial performance in terms of meeting the Bank's loan covenant requirements. There was confirmation that the covenant was being comfortably met. The CFO also advised of the arrangements that were in place in respect of the loan with Barclays Bank and the limitations that were currently placed on making any changes due to the ONS review of the status of colleges.

The following other aspects of the report were highlighted:

- Loan capital and interest,
- Loan covenant, special conditions and security.
- Cash flow forecasts.

Minute No:

- Cash investments consistent with high cash balances forecasted to be held during the current financial planning period to July 2023.
- Day to day banking and a proposal that retendering of banking services be deferred for one further year pending the outcome of the ongoing ONS review.
- Debt write offs.
- Treasury activity for 2022-2023 which addressed options for consideration in relation to investments made during the year and the proposal of the extension of the waiver to the temporary limit (increase of funds on deposits at other banks from £1m to £2m) for one further year.
- Details of the loan breakage costs from Barclays bank which had substantially been reduced to £29,000

Questions and comments from members were invited.

- A question was asked in relation to deferment of the tendering process for banking services and whether this would be for one further year only.

The CFO indicated that a tendering exercise had not been undertaken for a period and the requested deferment was for one year only.

There were no further questions or issues raised by members and following due consideration and deliberation it was resolved that:

- (a) the Annual Treasury Management Report 2022 be received and noted;
- (b) treasury activity for 2022-2023 comprise the investment of surplus funds in short term deposit accounts across both Barclays Bank and Lloyds PLC of periods up to 180 days, with maturity dates staggered across the financial year, be approved and implemented: and
- (c) the continuation of a temporary waiver to the limit placed with one institution of deposits of up to £2m for up to six months, for the 2022-2023 financial year only, be approved and implemented.

Action: Chief Finance Officer

RES/59/22**Procurement Strategy Outcomes 2021-2022 and Action Plan 2022-2023**

The DF referred members to the previously circulated report and an update on the Group's Procurement Strategy, setting out the performance against the action plan for 2021-2022 and the Procurement Action Plan for 2022-2023.

The DF confirmed that this was year 2 of the plan and that the appended report included a summary of performance against the action plan for 2021-2022.

It was reported that a key target of the strategy was the delivery of non-pay savings of £300k each year. The DF confirmed that savings of over £300k had been achieved the previous year but that achievement in 2022-2023 presented a significant risk.

It was noted that over the course of the previous year there had been implementation of a new financial system which enabled greater oversight and transparency in relation to procurement. The DF added that a significant focus over the last year had been some

Minute No:

of the Group's big value items which would now cascade down to other aspects of the organisation.

With respect to 2022-2023 it was reported that a key area of consideration would be the fixed cost base of the Group with a view to identifying any adjustments that could be made with a view to making the entity more agile and responsive to both income and cost pressures.

Questions and comments from members were invited.

- A comment was made by a member in relation to costs and whether they could be looked at from the perspective of what costs would have increased by as opposed to savings made.

The CFO responded that there may be opportunities to look at this aspect from a cost calculation perspective.

Action: Chief Finance Officer/ Director of Finance

There were no further questions or issues raised by members and following due consideration and deliberation it was resolved that the Procurement Strategy Outcomes 2021-2022 be received and noted and the Action Plan for 2022-2023 be approved and implemented.

Action: Director of Finance

RES/60/22 Capital Funding Bid Office for Students 2022-2025

The CFO referred members to the completed bidding template for capital funding for 2022-2025.

There was confirmation that the Group had been invited to bid for capital funds through the Office for Students towards the end of May, with a submission deadline of 11 July 2022. It was also confirmed that approval of the submission had been sought retrospectively from members of the Committee via email and that ratification of the action taken was now being sought.

The key headlines of the bid were highlighted:

- total funding request of £1.75m over three years, with total spend of £2.79m noting that the Group's own resource contribution would be a proportion of current capital commitment to the digital strategy and as already included within capital plans.
- of the £1.75m ask, £1.3m related to existing capital bids/budgets with the new items relating to a new clinical suite, a new heating and installation workshop, learning pods, e-sports and equipment
- confirmation that while the bid was for £1.75m the financial risk to the Group was negligible.
- if the bid was unsuccessful there were £443k worth of capital projects which would not likely be undertaken and there would be a number of existing capital bids which would have to be rejected or deferred into future years.

Minute No:

It was noted that the decision in respect of the outcome of the bid was due during October 2022.

There were no questions or comments from members and following due consideration approval of the Capital Funding Bid Office for Students 2022-2025, as previously sought by email, was duly ratified.

RES/61/22 Accommodation Strategy Update October 2022

The VPCSP referred members to the previously circulated report and an update on accommodation strategy activities across the Group.

The VPCSP provided an overview of current activity and highlighted the following:

Stockport College Redevelopment

- phase 2 was progressing well and on schedule to complete in December 2022
- the anticipated spend for the project was in the region of £25.2m, with the overall contingency now £172k.

Cheadle College Capital Application

- following formal notification of the success of the Group's application for a capital grant design works were continuing.
- several initial stakeholder meetings had taken place.
- the total project costed at October 2021 was £26,912k following value engineering work and taking into account significant inflationary pressures for construction costs the project was now costed at circa £28m, a net increase of £800k since the submission of the application.
- consideration was ongoing in relation to the making of further savings by looking at building area, the sports hall refurbishment, the building design and/or external works.
- discussions were taking place with both Sports England and the local authority with a view to a detailed application for the project being submitted before Christmas 2022 with an outline application for the disposal of surplus land and revised arrangements for sports facilities.

Disposal Plans

- the Group was awaiting the outcome of an appeal by Sale Sports Club before engaging in further discussions with Trafford Council in relation to the Group's aspirations to dispose of surplus land at the Altrincham site including the sports pitch and overflow car park
- an offer had been received from Investar; in relation to the mothballed Lyme building and area marked to be the car park and following advice that the offer was below market value further discussions had been held in abeyance.

There were no questions or comments made by members and following due consideration it was resolved that the Accommodation Strategy Update report be received and noted.

Minute No:**RES/62/22 Learner Numbers and Funding Update – October 2022**

The Assistant Principal Funding, Performance and Planning (APFPP) referred members to the previously circulated report and a summary report and update of the current position in relation to recruitment and learner numbers.

There was confirmation that work was continuing to review the position from a funding perspective which would be reportable from mid-October 2022.

The APFPP presented an overview of the enrolment position as at the end of September 2022 and highlighted the following:

- for 16-19 ESFA funded learners there had been recruitment of 5540 learners against an allocation of 5,510, recognising that work was continuing to take place to verify this data.
- the new study programme funding structure and associated banding structure
- T level recruitment was down (49 versus an allocation of 127) which presented a potential risk of clawback in the region of £108k
- the Adult Education Budget (AEB) was now approaching 2,000 learners with further work taking place to recruit learners
- a similar position was presented in relation to Community where enrolments continued to be processed for September 2022 starts
- Apprenticeship learners were being actively recruited against a full year recruitment target for 702 learners
- confirmation that the apprenticeship offer in Early Years, in discussion with employers, had elements that were being converted into an adult offer delivered as part of the AEB.
- Higher Education (HE) learners had been significantly under recruited in Early Years, Engineering, Sport Studies and Computing and work was taking place to review the areas of under recruitment with a view to determining opportunities for starts outside of the current term.
- the number of HE students recruited was currently 329 against a target of 438, presenting a potential financial impact of circa £500k.
- advanced learner loan recruitment was currently under target, with 150 enrolled learners against a target of 255, presenting a potential impact of circa £315k.

Questions and comments from members were invited.

- A comment was made in relation to the census date for 16-19 learners and whether there would be any impact on income moving forward.

The PCEO provided some context in relation to recruitment and funding revenue and offered some assurance in relation to the mitigations in place. It was suggested that for 16-19 learners the Group was likely to be short of its allocation but it was added that historically many students had been on lower funding bands. The PCEO reported that work was taking place to maximise funding bands and furthermore active work was also taking place to support “swop rather than drop” initiatives.

In terms of adults, it was stated that there was a long way to go. It was noted that numbers were down on adult loans but with there was more take up of Level 3 courses through AEB provision.

Minute No:

It was stated that in relation to HE there would be a focus on January 2023 starts for non-franchised provision and that for apprenticeships there continued to be a carryover of £2.1m from the previous year with work also taking place to reprofile with a view to targeting the gap in funding.

The DP added that HE was very challenging across the sector with applications commonly being higher than the conversion rate and that the approach being taken by some learners that, for them, it was not necessarily the right time to pursue further study placing instead a priority on paid work.

- A question was asked by a member in relation to T levels and how the take up at the Group compared to the position nationally. Concern was also expressed at the lack of awareness of the qualification in small and medium sized businesses.

The APFPP stated that there had been attempts to promote T levels via a national campaign however this had been restricted by Covid. It was added that there was recognition nationally recruitment was not where it should be and that currently all institutions were required to submit recruitment data on a monthly basis.

The DP reported that in discussions with other GFE colleges a mixed picture was presented with numbers being low adding that overall, there was a lack of understanding by young people of the qualification. It was noted the reluctance to engage with the new qualification was compounded by a poor knowledge on the part of schools and the parents of young people.

It was further suggested that another issue related to some of the challenges encountered in determining pathways and approving qualifications. The DP stated that a lot of work took place advertising pathways for them then not to have been approved which subsequently had not helped in terms of confidence in the qualifications.

There were no further questions or issues raised by members and following due consideration and deliberation it was resolved that the update on learner numbers and funding be received and noted.

RES/63/22 Partner Subcontracting Update 2022-2023

The APFPP referred members to the previously circulated report and information in relation to partner subcontracting activities update for 2022-2023.

There was confirmation that ESFA funded subcontracted study programmes for young people were continuing in the current academic year with Flixton Girls' School, Carrington Riding School, Debut Academy of Performing Arts and Stockport Football Club.

The following position in relation to enrolment figures was noted:

- for 16-19 enrolments the figures were down by 67 which could have an impact on the Group's allocation for next year
- in relation to adult education subcontracting the work with Code Nation had ceased and the Group was continuing to focus on securing additional partnership

Minute No:

- arrangements for adult provision to meet the £450k gap in provision (financial risk to the Group equated to a contribution of £90k)
- in terms of partnership working the relationship with ABC Sports Learning Limited had now ceased with a new arrangement was in place with Altrincham FC and Manchester City Football Club's charitable foundation, City in the Community.

Questions and comments from members were invited.

The PCEO reminded members that the DfE had only extended the subcontracted arrangement with Flixton Girls School by one year only and that moving forward beyond this time it was likely that the school would pursue provision via their new multi-academy trust relationship.

There were no further questions or comments made by members and following due consideration it was resolved that the Partner Subcontracting update report 2022-2023 be received and noted.

RES/64/22 Any Other Business

There were no matters raised under any other business.

RES/65/22 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 16 November 2022.

Action: Corporation Secretary

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

The Director of Human Resources and Development left the meeting at 6.27pm following consideration of agenda item 9.