



For the future you want

CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24 MAY 2022

14:00, Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present: Rose Dodgson; Lesley Drummond (Chair); Ann Landels; Gwen Raez.

In attendance: Nick Croft; Audrey Cumberland; Michael Jeffrey; Annette Lang (Midlothian Council) Shona Pettigrew; Marcus Walker (Clerk)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 The Committee NOTED apologies from Bruce Cassidy.

1.2 The Committee NOTED that Annette Lang, Group Service Manager at Midlothian Council, would join the meeting for Item 6.2 to present an update on the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 The Committee APPROVED the minutes from 1 March 2022 as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING REPORT

4.1 The Committee NOTED that actions from the previous meeting were complete, overtaken or on the agenda.

4.2 *ALTERNATIVE FUNDING OPTIONS (Minute 5.2.5/01.03.22 refers)*

4.2.1 The Committee NOTED that the Director of Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange had met with the Deputy Chief Executive of EVOC (a representative of the Midlothian Community Planning Partnership) to discuss alternative funding options for the College. The Director of Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange informed the Committee that,

using Grant Finder, both parties had agreed to monitor alerts for joint funding opportunities.

4.3 WATERFRONT NURSERY (*Minute 6.6/01.03.22 refers*)

4.3.1 The Committee NOTED an update on the Waterfront Nursery and the impact of the inclusion of associated costs in the College Management Accounts. The Director of Communications, Policy & Research advised the Committee that, even with the additional costs, the Nursery was expected to reach a breakeven position.

4.3.2 The Committee DISCUSSED the potential impacts of the cost-of-living crisis on affordable childcare and, further to this, AGREED that the Committee should undertake a deep dive into the financial sustainability of the Nursery in the upcoming academic year.

4.3.3 The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Nursery Manager and her team for their considerable efforts during a challenging year to ensure the Waterfront Nursery remained financially viable.

5. CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES UPDATE

5.1 The Committee NOTED a verbal update from the Vice Principal Corporate Development on the production of both a refreshed Engagement Strategy and a Commercial Strategy. The Vice Principal advised the Committee that the consultation process to develop both strategies would commence shortly and the Principal would produce a publicity video to launch the process of engaging with stakeholders.

5.2 The Committee NOTED that an initial draft of the Engagement Strategy would be presented to its next meeting on 31 August 2022, followed by a first draft of the Commercial Strategy coming forward to the Committee on 23 November 2022. The Committee DISCUSSED the development of both strategies and AGREED that dates to review and approve each strategy should be included in the Committee Programme of Work 2022/23.

6. RELATIONSHIP REPORT

6.1 RELATIONSHIPS UPDATE

6.1.1 The Committee NOTED a Relationships Report which outlined key developments in relation to stakeholder engagement, Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs), community and third sector outreach, major partnership projects and Board engagement.

6.1.2 The Committee NOTED that, as part of its community and third sector outreach, the College had engaged in providing ESOL support to two new groups of refugees residing in Edinburgh as a result of the UK Government's Afghanistan Refugee Relocation Scheme.

6.1.3 The Committee NOTED that the College had provided accommodation, catering, and English language learning support to 48 Dnipro children and eight Dnipro municipality staff. The Director of Communications, Policy &

Research advised the Committee that the College was also engaging with Edinburgh Ukrainian Refugee Reception Centre, managed by City of Edinburgh Council, which provides advice on ESOL courses and other learning and associated funding opportunities.

6.1.4 The Committee NOTED that the Director of Communications, Policy & Research had chaired several groups across the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, and East Lothian community planning partnerships in recent years. The Director of Communications, Policy & Research informed the Committee that, in agreement with the Vice Principal Corporate Development, his focus going forward would centre around major partnership projects.

6.1.5 The Committee DISCUSSED the wide range of partnership projects the College actively engaged in, and their impact. The Vice Principal Corporate Development advised the Committee that, as part of the consultation process relating to the creation of a new Engagement Strategy, the College would review all its partnership activity and consider its alignment with the strategic priorities agreed by the Corporate Development Committee.

6.2 MIDLOTHIAN COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Annette Lang, Group Service Manager (Midlothian Council) joined the meeting

6.2.1 The Committee NOTED a presentation on matters relating to the Midlothian CPP. The Group Service Manager, as a representative of the CPP, outlined the key priorities within the Local Outcome Improvement Plan relating to the following priority areas: (i) Health & social care; (ii) community safety & justice; (iii) improving opportunities; (iv) sustainable growth; and (v) 'getting it right for every child', and how these priorities were captured in the Midlothian CPP structure.

6.2.2 The Committee NOTED that, in response to the cost-of-living crisis, the CPP had recently created a Strategic Poverty Prevention Group. The Group Service Manager highlighted to the Committee that the Midlothian region had lower levels of young people going into FE and HE than the national average, whilst the annual wage of women in the region was also well below the recorded average across Scotland. The Committee NOTED that the College and the CPP, through shared action, had a role in improving positive outcomes for young people in the region and reducing poverty related inequalities.

6.2.3 The Committee NOTED that Midlothian Council was the fastest growing local authority in Scotland, following a significant increase in the construction of new homes in the area, and that continued growth was projected. The Group Service Manager informed the Committee that education and training needs within the region had continued to increase in scale and accounted for significant portion of Midlothian Council's annual budget.

6.2.4 The Committee welcomed the presentation provided by the Group Service Manager and DISCUSSED the following matters:

- (i) The development of further links between the College and Midlothian Council through placement opportunities on the HNC Communities programme.
- (ii) The supportive role the College could play in providing qualitative feedback to the CPP through on campus focus groups.
- (iii) The leadership provided by the College, which included the chairing of the Community Planning Board by the Principal.
- (iv) The contribution of the College to the CPP's aims around climate change and localised learning pathways.

6.2.5 The Committee AGREED that the College, through the Director of Communications, Policy & Research, should seek to support the CPP further by hosting focus group events for students at College campuses. The Chair thanked the Group Service Manager for her presentation and engaging with Members in discussion.

Annette Lang left the meeting

7. COMMERCIAL, INTERNATIONAL AND ALTERNATIVE FUNDING REPORT

7.1 The Committee NOTED that Flexible Workforce Development Fund activity had progressed well over recent months, with training to the value of approximately £2m being successfully delivered by the end of April 2022. The Director of Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange advised the Committee that the Commercial UK Team were now confident of exceeding their 2021/22 income target.

7.2 The Committee NOTED that, as of 11 May 2022, 72 Foundation Apprenticeship offers had been made across all frameworks starting in August 2022. The Director of Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange informed the Committee that Creative, Digital Media, Engineering and Social Care frameworks had received high numbers of applications which would ensure viable class groups. Further to this, the Committee NOTED that Foundation Apprenticeship inductions would commence in June 2022 and would be held on campus for the first time since 2019.

7.3 The Committee that the International Team activity had progressed positively in relation to a diverse portfolio of 15 separate programmes, with a total value of £1.6m. The Director of Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange advised the Committee that seven initiatives had been successfully delivered to date, including commercial English language programmes for Chinese partners.

7.4 The Committee DISCUSSED the delivery of programmes to Chinese partners and NOTED the need for a measured approach to overseas business. The Director of Enterprise & Knowledge Exchange advised the Committee that whilst the Scottish Government encouraged business activity with China there were growing concerns around UK-China relations, in relation to the Ukraine war and potential human rights abuses against China's Uyghur population.

7.5 The Committee NOTED the due diligence process undertaken by the College when engaging with new and existing international partners. The Chair advised the Committee that it may be appropriate for any corporate communications lines, relating to commercial and international business, to highlight the due diligence undertaken by the College when engaging with external partners.

7.6 The Committee AGREED that the potential reputational implications of operating educational programmes in China should be highlighted to the Board at its next meeting on 14 June 2022. The Chair highlighted to the Committee that the College's risk appetite and tolerance relating to commercial activity would be reviewed in early 2022/23, following the approval of a new Edinburgh College Strategic Framework.

8. BRAND AND REPUTATION REPORT

8.1 The Committee NOTED a Brand and Reputation Update which outlined progress on activities relating to communications, marketing, business intelligence, corporate development, policy research and public relations.

8.2 The Committee NOTED that Industrial Action communications had been disseminated to staff, students, and stakeholders throughout the ongoing national dispute. The Director of Communications, Policy & Research advised the Committee that an Industrial Action webpage and FAQs had been development to provide the most up-to-date information.

8.3 The Committee NOTED that the launch of the Friends of Edinburgh College Network had been delayed until August 2022, to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the formation of Edinburgh College. The Director of Communications, Policy & Research informed the Committee that activities to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the College would be promoted over the coming months.

8.4 The Committee NOTED that the College was engaged with three multi-agency project teams across Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian to develop one Integrated Strategic Needs Assessment for each local authority area. The Director of Communications, Policy & Research informed the Committee that these assessments would include key social, economic and environmental data sets, which would enable all public bodies to better plan the development of their services.

8.5 The Committee NOTED that the College had been shortlisted for six Herald Higher Education Awards 2022, including the Partnerships Award. The Principal advised the Committee that the winners would be announced at a ceremony on 31 May 2022 in Glasgow.

9. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE OPERATION 2021/22

9.1 The Committee NOTED that at the end of each academic year the Committee is required to review its annual activity. The Committee Chair advised the Committee that the same evaluation form, which asked members to consider the committee's operation and its performance monitoring and strategic roles, would be completed by all committees of the Board.

9.2 The Committee AGREED that its operation was compliant with its terms of reference, as outlined in 'Part 1' of the evaluation form.

9.3 The Committee DISCUSSED its performance over the academic year and AGREED that members' feedback should be relayed directly to the Chair and the

Clerk to the Board, prior to a finalised version of the report being recirculated to the Committee (outwith the meeting cycle) for approval.

10. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

10.1 DEPARTURE OF A STUDENT BOARD MEMBER

- 10.1.1 The Committee NOTED that the tenure of the Student Board, Rose Dodgson would end on 30 June 2022. The Chair, on behalf of the Corporate Development Committee, thanked Ms Dodgson for her significant contribution to the Committee over the past two years.

11. FOR INFORMATION

11.1 COMMITTEE PROGRAMME OF WORK 2022/23

- 11.1.1 The Committee NOTED its proposed programme of work for the upcoming academic year.
- 11.1.2 The Committee NOTED that the Chair, the Executive Lead, and the Board Secretary would meet during the summer to consider the inclusion and order of further deep dives within the programme of work.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Corporate Development Committee will take place on 31 August 2022.

Meeting closed at 15:40