GRANTHAM COLLEGE CORPORATION MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 July 2022, 18.00 Conference room and Remote access via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Mr G Brewis	General Member (Chair)
Mrs C Brocklebank	General Member
Mr P Deane	Principal & Chief Executive
Mr N Jones	General Member
Ms M Marshall	Staff Member (appointed 22/118)
Mrs N McCoy-Brown	General Member
Mr B Redfearn	General Member (appointed 22/118)
Ms L Smith	Staff Member
Mr C Turner	General Member

In Attendance:

Mrs A Harrison	Director of Finance
Mrs T Hart	Director of Planning, Funding, Information & Marketing
Dr S Peacock	Vice Principal – Higher Education & Institute of Technology
Mrs T Scarborough	Vice Principal - Quality & Curriculum
Mrs C Temprell	Vice Principal – HR and Student Services
Mrs J Taylor-Holmes	Clerk

Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

	22/117 - Apologies for absence	
1	Apologies were received from; Ms B Dungarwalla, General Member Mr N Manoussakis, General Member Mrs A Treacy, General Member (appointed 22/130) Miss R Tapper, Student Member Mr E Ohanekwu, Student Member	
2	Apologies were also received from Dr S Peacock, Vice Principal – Higher Education and Institute of Technology	
	22/118 - Confirmation of eligibility, quorum and declarations of interest	
3	No notice had been received of any Member becoming ineligible to hold office. The meeting was quorate and there were no declarations of interest in agenda items.	

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	Appointment of members	
4	Resolved: The Board approved the appointment of Mr Bradley Redfern as General Member for an initial period of four years.	
5	Resolved: The Board approved the appointment of Ms Michelle Marshall as Staff Member for an initial period of four years.	
6	It was noted that Mr T Radley, General Member had resigned from his position of Governor. Governors thanked Mr Radley for his contribution and commitment to the Governing body.	
	22/119 - Minutes of the previous meeting: 29 March 2022	
7	Resolved – The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 March 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.	
8	In relation to the equality and diversity profile of the governing body it was noted that this would be completed in the new academic year along with a skills audit.	
9	Mr P Deane, Principal and Chief Executive explained that additional funding had been received for more bootcamps in digital and green areas, Governors were asked to support enrolment by forwarding information to any contacts who may find or have staff who would benefit from attendance.	
10	In relation to safeguarding; Mrs C Temprell, Vice Principal – HR and Student services explained that she had met with the previous safeguarding link Governor before she had left the role and had completed a safeguarding audit. This would be presented to the Board in October along with updates to the Safeguarding Policy following the publication of the revised 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance.	
11	All further actions were complete or on the agenda.	
	Notification of Urgent Business / Any other business	
12	There had been no items of urgent business / any other business notified.	

22/120 - Minutes of Committee and other meetings

Standards Committee

- Governors received the minutes from the Standards Committee meeting held on 15 March 2022.
- Mr G Brewis, Chair of the Corporation, on behalf of Mr C Turner, Chair of the Committee explained that the Committee had met on 21 June 2022 and had received a presentation from Charlotte who had been on an Erasmus trip to Malta, it was fantastic to see her enthusiasm and the skills she had developed as a result of the experience.
- The Committee had also received a presentation from Mrs J Brunt, Head of Curriculum for Health & Social Care, Early Years, Future routes, Humanities, Science, Animal Care & Public Services on the basis of the Education Inspection Framework and an update on the Curriculum areas, information on strengths, opportunities and business planning was provided.
- The Committee had reviewed the Quality report and the Quality Improvement plan, information on T-level implementation and had received the student survey results and noted the actions being undertaken to make improvements in terms of participation and responding to areas of challenge.
- The Committee had also received assurance regarding progress in HE and initiatives being undertaken in HE such as bootcamps.

Strategic Planning Session

Governors received the notes from the Strategic Planning session held on 21 June 2022.

Finance & Resources Committee

- On behalf of Mr N Manoussakis, General Member and Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee, Mr Deane provided feedback from the meeting held on 22 June 2022. the Committee had;
 - 1. Received and reviewed the Finance report to end of April 2022 with all appendices. an operating deficit of

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- just over £366,200 with a predicted financial health grade of 'requires improvement' at year-end.
- 2. Reviewed the forecast outturn, budget for 2022/23 and the two-year forecast and additional information had been requested before recommendation to the Corporation meeting on 5 July. The budget included a significant increase for utilities.
- 3. Received the Estates & Capital update and had discussed options in relation to the replacement of the roof.
- 4. Received the HR dashboard and noted changes since the last review in March.
- 5. Approved a number of financial policies.

Audit Committee

- 20 Mrs C Brocklebank, General Member and member of the Audit Committee provided feedback from the meeting held on 22 June 2022;
- 21 Mrs Brocklebank explained that the Audit Follow up report had been received and it was pleasing to see progress.
- 22 The Committee had received the risk management report.
- Relevant Sector Information had been received and there was a discussion around the ONS review of classification of colleges as public sector organisations and if and how this may be included on the risk register.
- Committee members had received substantial assurance in relation to the income and debtors internal audit report. Noting that there were no management actions identified. There had been good progress identified as part of the follow up review.
- The Committee had approved the Internal Audit Plan 2022/23 subject to amendment to the scope of the governance review and the Committee had also approved the External Audit Plan.
- 26 Mrs Brocklebank confirmed that the Committee had formally approved the Appointment of Price Bailey LLP as External Auditors.
- 27 **Resolved:** The Board received the minutes from the previous meetings and updates.

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regularly updated and provided to Governors to detail opportunities for interaction with students and staff. 35 Mrs Brocklebank asked that the schedule be updated to include activities and events in accommodation to support her role as Accommodation Link Governor. 36 Mr Deane commented on the College success in the Turing application and confirmed that the College would be able to continue to offer overseas opportunities for students. Further information would be provided on the scope of opportunities in due course. 37 Mr Deane explained that the hot topic was around the impact of the FE staffing challenges and the cost-of-living	22/135	•••••	
the Institute of Technology which had been an excellent event also attended by the local MP. Mr Brewis had also attended a breakfast meeting with the Greater Lincolnshire Engineering Initiative which was very positive and demonstrated the College and local area investment in engineering. Mr Brewis explained that there had been a number of AoC briefings referencing the increase in the cost of living and the impact of the war in Ukraine the content of which was due to be covered in item 22/122. Mr Brewis also commented on the Governor recruitment activity which had been undertaken with support from the Clerk during the period. Resolved - Governors noted the content of the Chair's Report. 22/122 - Principal & Chief Executive's Report Mr Deane presented the Principal and Chief Executive's Report and a summary of key matters. Mr Deane referred Governors to the schedule of forthcoming events. It was noted that this would be regularly updated and provided to Governors to detail opportunities for interaction with students and staff. Mrs Brocklebank asked that the schedule be updated to include activities and events in accommodation to support her role as Accommodation Link Governor. Mr Deane commented on the College success in the Turing application and confirmed that the College would be able to continue to offer overseas opportunities for students. Further information would be provided on the scope of opportunities in due course. Mr Deane explained that the hot topic was around the impact of the FE staffing challenges and the cost-of-living		22/121 - Chair's Report	
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22/135 38 Mr Deane referred to the sector challenges around staffing which had been documented by the ESFA as part of the feedback from the annual strategic conversations with the sector and circulated to Governors. 39 In relation to sector staff pay; the AoC continued to negotiate with the Trade Unions around a potential pay increase. 40 Mr Deane explained that the Unions were requesting a significant pay increase and it was noted that Governors had previously agreed a 5% pay increase of all staff at the College from April 2022 and that this would be reviewed again in March 2023. 41 Mr Deane also explained that plans were continuing to review working hours. 42 Mrs Temprell explained the progress made in changing the working week from 37 hours to 33 hours over four days. 43 Mrs Temprell explained that all staff had received a communication which had also been copied to Governors and consultation meetings had commenced. Consultation meetings were scheduled to be held with all staff by the end of July and the Trade Unions had been included in the communication. Work continued to review processes around new potential working schedules and Mrs Temprell explained that around 30 staff had received their consultation meeting and no opt outs had been received so far. 44 In response to questions from Governors, Mrs Temprell explained that there had been some concerns expressed regarding workload and how work would be managed within the compressed hours and consideration was being given to staff development and how ideas to support efficiency gains were developed to support staff. Staff were being given opportunities to ask questions, share concerns and work together to find solutions and a staff voice meeting was due to be held on the 7th July. 45 Timetabling was being considered and it was acknowledged that there may be the need to keep workshop space open on Fridays to ensure all students have access as needed. 46 Mrs Temprell explained that a press release had been

prepared and would be shared and that the new working

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	hours would be mentioned on future recruitment adverts. It remained the aim that the project would support staff retention, quality, staff wellbeing and reduced sickness absence.	
47	Mrs Temprell explained that progress would be reviewed every six weeks and that an update would be provided to Governors in due course.	
48	Mrs Temprell explained that the project had also been shared with the AoC.	
49	In relation to capital projects, Mr Deane explained that the work on the energy centre was almost complete and an open day would be arranged.	
50	Work continued to identify potential funding for replacement of the main block roof. There may be an opportunity to apply to a new Transformation Fund in Autumn.	
51	There had been some interest shown in the purchase of land behind the hair and beauty building and offers would be sought.	
52	Mr Deane referred to the potential AEB clawback and the current lobbying to try and reduce the threshold tolerance to acknowledge the continued COVID disruption. It was noted that there could be a clawback of up to £360,000 should the tolerance remain at 97% .	
53	Mr Deane referred to the positive media coverage particularly in relation to the opening of the IoT and the former student who would be representing England in table tennis in the 2022 Commonwealth games.	
54	In relation to school leaver applications, Mr Deane explained that these were approximately 12% higher than in the previous year and there continued to be a focus on converting applications to enrolments.	
55	Mr Deane referred to the ONS review of the status of colleges and the potential risks of the College being changed to a public sector organisation. It was noted that this included increased regulation and restrictions particularly in relation to finance.	

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56	Mr Deane referred to the collaborative application to the strategic development fund around the green agenda. And the HE capital application to the OfS.	
57	Mr Deane also commented on the bid to the GLLEP labour market support fund to support the development of health and social care apprenticeships to address labour shortages in this area.	
58	Mr Deane referred to the multiply numeracy programme funding and the work underway to support the investment plan.	
59	Governors commented on the positive work being undertaken with local stakeholders and employers to collaboratively develop projects to respond to local need.	
60	Governors discussed potential involvement in staff voice meetings to review the success of the change in staffing hours. It was noted that Ms L Smith, Staff Governor was a member of the staff voice Committee and would be able to provide feedback to Governors at future meetings.	Mrs L Smith When updates available
61	Mrs Temprell explained that key indicators of success were being developed to include retention, recruitment, turnover and staff and student satisfaction surveys. An update would be provided to the board in due course.	
62	Mrs N McCoy – Brown, General Member referred to the South Kesteven UK shared prosperity fund and explained that she would liaise with Mr Deane around the direction and local skills need in advance of the investment report submission.	Action: Mrs N McCoy-Brown & Mr P Deane October 2022
63	Resolved - Governors noted the content of the Principal's Report.	
	22/123 - Reporting against Strategic Plan 2019-2022	
64	Governors received the dashboards. It was noted that the Finance dashboard had been reviewed by the Finance & Resources Committee and the Quality dashboard had been reviewed by the Standards Committee.	
65	Mr Deane thanked Governors for their contribution to the review of the new Strategic Plan and confirmed that this had been updated with suggested changes.	

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66	Strategic Plan Progress Report Governors received an update on each of the four main goals identified within the strategic plan.	
67	Mrs T Scarborough, Vice Principal, Quality & Curriculum provided an update on progress against goal 1; Ensure that student and apprentice progression, employability and career opportunities are central to everything we do so that we help to improve social mobility, reduce employers' skills gaps and support the creation of a thriving local economy and community.	
68	Mrs Scarborough commented that there had been significant work undertaken through curriculum reviews and gathering information on teaching, learning and assessment. Timely reports on progress had been provided to students and parents / guardians.	
69	Satisfaction had been received from both students and employers through regular surveys.	
70	Areas for improvement had been identified through the Quality Improvement Plan with a focus on attendance, retention and achievement and new goals had been added to provide additional support.	
71	Work had been continuing to improve activities and engagement with employers.	
72	Governors discussed the use of surveys as benchmarks and noted the apprenticeship survey for employers. It was noted that there had been some issues identified within some apprentice programmes and HE students and there had been a plan to improve induction, particularly where there is limited access to the College site.	
73	Mrs T Hart, Director of Planning, Funding, Information & Marketing provided an update on progress against goal 2; Develop and deliver a vocational, technical, professional and higher education curriculum which supports the above whilst increasing access & inclusivity.	
74	Mrs Hart explained that there had been an increased emphasis on collating meaningful destinations data.	
75	It was noted that the curriculum plan was on the agenda and sought to reduce gaps in provision.	
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Mrs Hart explained that curriculum areas had worked with 76 the LEP and employers in preparation of the plans. 77 Mrs A Harrison, Director of Finance explained that much of the information in relation to goal 3 following within the Finance papers, budget and the capital / estates projects update. Goal 3; Maintaining a financially robust and sustainable organisation that allows us to continue to invest in delivering our mission. 78 Mrs Harrison explained the College was mindful of energy efficiency when replacing equipment. Some of the ovens were being replaced with induction technology to reduce energy usage. Staff requests for capital investment included consideration of sustainability and reducing the carbon footprint. 79 In relation to goal 4; Create a values driven organisation where all staff are supported & empowered to deliver the above, continuously improve & inspire our students to strive for and achieve the highest standards. 80 Mrs C Temprell, Vice Principal - HR and Student Services explained there had been a focus on communication with staff. 81 Monthly ten-minute catch ups and coffee and cake sessions were planned along with a staff picnic and rounders game. 82 Improvements were also being introduced in relation to communication with employers with a focus on networking and the number of industry placements was improving. Efforts were underway to encourage employers to come into the College to provide information and support to students and to provide industry updates to staff. 83 In relation to accommodation; Mrs Temprell explained that an Ofsted inspection was due in November 2022. Information in relation to student accommodation had been included within the strategic plan. Mrs C Brocklebank, Accommodation Link Governor commented that there remained positive feedback from students in relation to accommodation. It was noted that there was a focus on arranging social activities for students within the accommodation. 84 It was agreed that the most up to date strategic plan would Action: Mr Deane be circulated to Governors. It was noted that the July 2022

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	dashboards would be updated and provided to relevant Committee meetings and the Corporation Board regularly to monitor performance against the plan.	
85	It was agreed that Mrs Temprell would consider any offers which could be made available to students in accommodation such as discounted entry to local attractions.	Action: Mrs Temprell TBC
86	In asking about the reduction in carbon footprint, it was noted that the move to a four-day week should have a positive impact and would be one of the elements measured as part of the review. One further item to consider was the potential reduction in travel emissions due to the move.	
87	Resolved: Governors received the update on progress against strategic goals.	
	22/124 -HE update	
88	In the absence of Dr Peacock, Mr Deane provided the HE update.	
89	Mr Deane commented that the Institute of Technology, energy centre development and bootcamps had been mentioned previously.	
90	Governors were referred to the conclusions of the report and the appendices.	
91	It was noted that the IoT was performing reasonably well with 89% of the cumulative target achieved.	
92	Resolved: Governors received the update.	
	22/125 - Business and Curriculum Planning	
93	Mrs Hart provided the update.	
94	Mrs Hart explained that the business and curriculum planning process was cyclical and ongoing and was responsive to need. Mrs Hart explained that new adult courses had been added in January to respond to need.	
95	Mrs Hart further explained that discussions were held with the LEP and employers in the preparation of the plans. The information included was reviewed and challenged to	

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	ensure that the plans were robust on a course-by-course basis.	
96	Enrolment was regularly monitored and Mrs Hart explained that a meeting was planned with staff to try and ensure that all areas would hit and exceed their allocation.	
97	It was noted that as part of the process, the cost effectiveness of all courses was assessed.	
98	Governors noted that, from September Ofsted evaluation would include a "sub-judgement on the college's contribution to meeting skills needs", which would be "linked to and dependent on the quality of education and leadership and management key judgements".	
99	Governors commented that the $16-18$ -year-old recruitment appeared positive.	
100	Governors asked about areas of lower recruitment. Mr Deane explained that some areas were lower than expected in relation to retention and progression. All areas had targets and these were being reviewed by the Heads of Curriculum to try and make sure that there were enough students to support the provision of the courses.	
101	Resolved: Governors received the Business and Curriculum Planning report	
	22/126 - Finance Report	
102	Mrs Harrison provided the Finance Report.	
103	The report summarised the financial position at the end of May 2022.	
104	Mrs Harrison explained that as at end of May 2022, the College was reporting an operating deficit of £333,600 against the original out-turn budgeted deficit of £421,300 and a financial health assessment of 'requires improvement'.	
105	Mrs Harrison referred Governors to the funding update and the income adjustments within the paper along with the breakdown of pay and non-pay costs.	
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106	Mrs Harrison confirmed compliance with the loan covenants. A breakdown of capital expenditure and cashflow was noted.	
107	Mrs Harrison confirmed that the current year end out-turn included provision of £300,000 for AEB clawback.	
108	In relation to the financial health rating, Mrs Harrison commented that if the EBITDA was less than 1%, the College was automatically rated as requires improvement.	
109	Mr Brewis explained that this matter had been discussed in detail at the Finance and Resources Committee along with the impact of the AEB clawback on the sector and the EBITDA measure of 'profitability'.	
110	Resolved: Governors received the Financial Report to the 31 May 2022.	
	22/127 Forecast out-turn 2021/22 and Budget 2022/23 and 2-year forecast	
111	Mrs Harrison provided the Budget for 2022/23 and the 2-year forecast.	
112	It was noted that this had been reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee.	
113	Mrs Harrison explained that the current budget position was an operating surplus of £3000 for 2022/23 and £4000 for 2023/24 and a good financial health rating.	
114	It was noted that the budget included £150,000 capital spend for each of the years. It was noted that the financial return was due to be submitted to ESFA at the end of July. Mrs Harrison explained that this also included the commentary. It was further noted that the budget had been prepared on the basis of the College achieving the adult budget allocation.	
115	Mrs Harrison explained that the budget had been prepared on the basis of secured income and did not include income from the successful Turing bid and other funds which the College had applied to. Throughout the budget, staffing remained 70% of income. Mrs Harrison confirmed that the budget included a provision of £140,000 to cover a potential staff pay increase from April 2023.	

- Agenda Item No. 22/135 The non-pay budget had also been revised upwards but was 116 offset against the depreciation from the IoT and Energy Centre capital expenditure. 117 Mrs J Taylor-Holmes, Clerk to the Corporation explained that she had received an email from Mr Manoussakis in relation to the budget. 118 In the email, Mr Manoussakis explained that he had had a conversation with Mrs Harrison around the size of the improvement of staff costs/total income and also operating costs/total income, at 3.4% and 1.8% respectively. Mr Manoussakis commented that Mrs Harrison had responded that the increase in income (for 16-18-year-olds) would provide the "lift", despite the fact that all costs (staff and operating) were increasing too. 119 Mr Manoussakis went on to state that if Mrs Harrison would be able to demonstrate her assumptions and calculations and commented that on the basis of this being done, he would be happy to recommend the budget to the Corporation. 120 Mr Manoussakis also commented that he was happy that the expenses regarding planning permission for the barracks had now been written off rather than capitalised. 121 Mr Manoussakis further commented that the debts over 120 days old were fully provided in the accounts (as the amount was substantial). 122 Mr Deane commented that there was £120,000 additional income due to the funding increase. The assumption made
 - Mr Deane commented that there was £120,000 additional income due to the funding increase. The assumption made was that there would be no COVID related lock-downs and that face-to-face teaching would not be impacted. It was noted that the ESFA had the opportunity to comment on the submission.
 - There would be the opportunity to not award a pay increase or to substantially reduce the capital spend if necessary.
 - In response to a question around curriculum planning and the impact of T-Levels. Mrs Scarborough commented that T-Levels were being implemented in five areas and would be balanced with level 2 programmes to support transition. Mr Deane explained that there was a risk around the funding however, a mapping exercise was being undertaken to ensure that the potential implications were fully

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	understood. It was noted that some students would attend the College for three years rather than two which may result in additional funding. Governors also discussed the potential competition from schools in T-Level provision. It was noted that additional information on T-Levels was due in September.	
125	Resolved: Following a thorough review of the budget, Governors approved the budgets for 2022-23 & 2023-24 to allow the completion of the CFFR.	
126	Resolved: Governors approved the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee (Mr Manoussakis) and the Chair of the Corporation (Mr Brewis) to approve the final version of CFFR electronically once completed to allow submission to ESFA by 30th July 2022.	
	22/128 Capital / Estates Projects update	
127	Mrs Harrison explained that the LEP project was progressing well and was currently on budget with a slight underspend.	
128	Opportunities to fund repairs to the roof were currently being explored and Mrs Harrison referred to the possibility of a new Transformation Fund scheme opening which may create an opportunity for funding.	
129	Mrs Harrison also explained that consideration was being given to the installation of additional solar panels on the roof.	
130	Resolved – Governors noted the update	
	22/129 Audit Committee issues	
131	Mrs Harrison explained that Price Bailey LLP had been appointed by the Audit Committee as external auditors for an initial period of three years.	
132	Resolved: Governors received the update in relation to external auditor recruitment.	
	22/130 Governance update	
133	Mrs Taylor-Holmes presented the Governance update.	
134	Resolved; Governors;	

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	a. approved the appointment of Mr Bradley Redfearn as Governor (External Member) for a period of four years (agenda item 22/118)			
	b. approved the appointment of Mrs Michelle Marshall as Governor Staff Member) for a period of four years (agenda item 22/118)			
	 approved the appointment of Mrs Ann Treacy as Governor (External Member) for a period of four years approved the Committee Membership schedule. 			
135	Governors received the updated 2022/23 schedule of meetings.			
	22/131 - Urgent Business / Any other Business			
136	There being no further business the meeting closed.			

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 11 October 2022

Signed as a true and accurate record

Chairman Date

Action Table

Agenda Item	Description	By whom	Bv when
21/175 - Governance Report	The Equality and Diversity profile of the Governing body would also be reviewed. Also to include a skills audit	All / Mrs Taylor- Holmes	Autumn 2022 Verbal update
22/109 - Reporting against Strategic Plan 2019-2022	One of the opportunities arising from the bootcamps was for employers to provide interviews for those who had been on the bootcamps. It was agreed that Dr Peacock would circulate information on the interviews to allow Governors to participate in the interviews.	Dr Peacock	ТВС
22/113 - Safeguarding Annual Report	It was agreed that Governors would be invited to complete Safeguarding training online with the educare provider.	All	June 2022
22/115 Governance update	It was noted that the 2022/23 schedule of meetings would be updated and recirculated.	Mrs Taylor-Holmes	July 2022
22/122 - Principal & Chief	schedule of forthcoming events. It was noted that this would be regularly	Mr Deane	October 2022 and ongoing

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Executive's Report	updated and provided to Governors to detail opportunities for interaction with students and staff. Governors discussed potential	Mrs L Smith	When updates
Principal & Chief Executive's Report	involvement in staff voice meetings to review the success of the change in staffing hours. It was noted that Ms L Smith, Staff Governor was a member of the staff voice Committee and would be able to provide feedback to Governors at future meetings.		available
22/122 – Principal & Chief Executive's Report	Mrs N McCoy – Brown, General Member referred to the South Kesteven UK shared prosperity fund and explained that she would liaise with Mr Deane around the direction and local skills need in advance of the investment report submission.	Mr Deane & Mrs McCoy-Brown	October 2022
22/123 Reporting against Strategic Plan	It was agreed that the most up to date strategic plan would be circulated to Governors.	Mr Deane	July 2022 Complete
22/123 Reporting against Strategic Plan	It was agreed that Mrs Temprell would consider any offers which could be made available to students in accommodation such as discounted entry to local attractions.	Mrs Temprell	ТВС