

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY QUALITY & STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD: 16.30 on 16 June 2022 in 4F07 DHB Boardroom

Present	In attendance
Billy Khokhar (Chair)	Craig Tupling (Vice Principal Quality & Student Experience)
Fiona Thompson (Vice Chair)	Chris Malish (Vice Principal Finance & Corporate Services)
Cath Orange	Sarah Applewhite (Director of Quality & Information Services)
Chris Webb (CEO)	Asa Gordon (Vice Principal Curriculum)
Jevgenija Mironova	Sarah Cooper (Director People Services)
Habiba Shiraz	Alina Khan (Vice Principal of Equality Diversity & Inclusion)
Richard Woods	Sarah McKenzie (Clerk)
Umar Rafique	Allison McEvoy (Assistant Clerk)
Apologies	
Shezad Aslam	
Steve Roberts	
Emmanuel Osei Boateng	
CLlr Kyle Green (co-opted member)	

The quorum was 4 committee members

L-J Denotes the time any individual left- re-joined the meeting.

Item		Action
Housekeeping		
1.	Welcome, Apologies for Absence and Disclosures of Interest	
1.1	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies were made for Shezad Aslam, Steve Roberts, Emmanuel Osei Boateng and Kyle Green.	
1.3	There were no disclosures of interest.	
The Purpose of HE		
2.	The Purpose of HE	
2.1	The Chair advised that the purpose of the meeting was to facilitate a discussion on the purpose of HE at Bradford College.	
2.2	The CEO had provided a paper in advance of the meeting which set out against each of the strategic objectives, the recent changes and direction of travel that was being taken in relation to HE in the furtherance of the College's vision of <i>Creating a better future for all through education and training</i> and College's purpose of <i>Working together to transform lives</i> .	

	<p>The Committee agreed that as a community college, the aim remains, to provide a curriculum that meets the needs of learners, employers and the local communities.</p> <p>That the quality of the student experience should be outstanding in all aspects. That the college should seek to recruit students with integrity ensuring that the curriculum and courses that they are enrolled on to have currency and value to both the students and employers and be reflective of the future world of work.</p> <p>After establishing a common understanding of what constitutes HE at the College, the CEO explained that the College’s HE curriculum was not meeting the needs of learners nor employers as it was either too academic in nature, not delivered in a mode that removed barriers to study and was being delivered at times not accessible by the different demographics and cohorts that the College should be locally and regionally supporting.</p> <p>The Committee heard that the re-purposing and positioning of the College’s HE was under way and a new suite of Level 4 and Level 5 was in design and would be ready for delivery for September 2023 start.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that a repurposing and repositioning of the College’s HE provision, along with a focused marketing and reputation enhancement plan would help increase student numbers. Governors were keen for the College to be very clear in its marketing about the offer from the College and for it not to focus on the traditional university academic approach to HE.</p> <p>Governors reflected on the direction of travel, the economy, local competitors offer and agreed that there was a need for the college to be delivering better and Higher technical and professional qualifications and courses, not only to differentiate itself from competitors but to fulfil the needs of the community.</p> <p>It was agreed that until this re-purposing and re-position of the provision was delivered, the College would not truly deliver upon its mission of transforming lives.</p> <p>The Committee considered the local demographic and the reach that the College has. The Committee was clear on its vision for the College, that the College should facilitate lifelong learning where people can come into the College at various stages of their lives and develop new skills to support personal progression. The College should play a key part in raising aspirations in the local</p>	
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	<p>community and be part of the solution to realising those aspirations.</p> <p>Bradford had been announced City of Culture 2025 and it was felt that this would present great opportunities.</p> <p>Governors were mindful of the impact the College has on relieving poverty and the need for Bradford to retain local talent so that aspirations can rise and be perpetuated though out the city.</p> <p>It was explained that Bradford College students attend the College primarily because of its locality, with a high number of students attending from within a small radius of the College. The student governors’ experience correlated with this and it was explained that culturally, there is sometimes a preference amongst families for students to remain local. It was agreed that without a strong repurposed HE offer there is risk of marginalisation.</p> <p>Staff demographics were not reflective of the student demographic at the College. The VPED&I explained that being more representative of the community the College serves was to be incorporated into the new Strategic Objective – <i>To be a truly inclusive college.</i></p> <p>The Committee considered other barriers to accessing HE, identifying that there were not any places locally for people to study at HE level on a part time or on block learning basis and that feedback from employers had been that the College could better support them with an improved offer in this area.</p> <p>The VPC advised that the HNC and HND Flex offer would allow employers to pick elements of the qualification at a time to suit their business.</p> <p>When asked for his advice on the financial aspects of providing HE at the College, the VPF&CS explained his support for the approach to ensuring a sustainable college through positioning the college in the market where it is able to provide a unique offer and avoid duplication of local provision. Governors agreed that the College should be working in cooperation and partnership rather than competing with others.</p> <p>In thinking about the delivery of an outstanding student experience, it was acknowledged that there would need to be further investment.</p>	
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2.3	<p>The CEO recommended that the College continues with the current strategic plans that will deliver a re-purposed curriculum, that will deliver a higher quality student experience, that is valued by students and employers and builds the college's reputation and reach, resulting in increased student recruitment.</p> <p><i>L/HS</i></p> <p><u>The Chair summarised the Committee's position in relation to HE for incorporation and reflection in the strategic action plans going forward:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Q&S Committee are committed to the HE offer. • There is a need to change what the College has been doing in the past and evolve the curriculum by talking to students, employers and potential students. • The College needs to create a unique selling point with no duplication and should be excellent at the markets it chooses to be in. • Delivery needs to be flexible and agile. • There is a need to consider local demographic needs as well as societal, fiscal and economic drivers. • An outstanding student experience needs to be underpinned by scrutiny and development of quality and standards at every level, which will be reflected in the pass rates, retention, progression, qualifications and employment. 	
Any other business		
3.	Items for report to the Corporation	
3.1	Strategic Objective action plans to be updated to reflect discussions and included for approval at July 2022 Corporation.	Exec
4.	Any other business	
4.1	There was no other business.	
4.2	The Chair closed the meeting at 18.04	
5.	Meeting evaluation	Assistant Clerk
5.1	Meeting evaluation form to be circulated via email.	

Approved by the Committee:

B. Khokhar
Signed by the Chair

01.07.2022
Date

Agreed actions

No	Minute	Action	Who?
1	3.1	Strategic Objective action plans to be updated to reflect discussions and included for approval at July 2022 Corporation	Exec
2			
3			
4			
5			