

THE SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE FOR THE DORSET CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (DCOE)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024

Present: Cllrs Spencer Flower (Chairman), Byron Quayle (Vice-Chairman), Laura Beddow, Jane Somper and Gary Suttle

Apologies: None

Also present: Cllr Stella Jones

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Ian Comfort (Chair of the Dorset Centre of Excellence Board), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Andrew Holder (Managing Director), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive) and Claire Webb (Strategic Commissioner)

35. Minutes

Following a proposed action from the last meeting, the Chairman advised that the Remunerations Policy did not require committee approval. With that being noted, the minutes of 20 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to report.

37. Public Participation

There were no public questions.

38. Councillor Questions

There were no councillor questions.

39. Forward Plan

The forward plan was received and noted.

40. Dorset Council Commissioning Report

The Corporate Director - Commissioning and Partnerships presented the report and gave a summary of the commissioning activity during the last

period. This included the progress made in recruitment and retention, Ofsted and key performance indicators, and pupil growth which was on track.

The Chairman welcomed the steady progress that was currently being made in line with the centre's Business Plan.

The progress made to date was received and noted.

41. **DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board**

The Chairman of the Board of Directors presented the report which provided an update on the current situation at the Dorset Centre of Excellence ("the Company") and the Coombe House School ("The School").

The Managing Director of the Company confirmed that the school continued to work well. Growth targets were on track and the school was approaching its biggest challenge in terms of numbers of staff and pupils in September. The Leadership structure was continuing to develop to ensure that all needs were met and that the school would be ready for the September increase in pupil number.

He continued that the school council was now well established, allowing pupil voice to be more effectively captured and acted upon. Some of this feedback was also set out in the report for members information.

In terms of commercial activity, the community swimming was going from strength to strength with further sessions added. Plans were underway for residential facilities, and this was set out in the exempt appendix "Business Plan".

The Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reported on the progress of the Business Plan including developing greater clarity over certain elements between cost and income base. Good progress had also been made of the lease and commissioning agreement and the Company was performing ahead of its budget and business plan.

The Managing Director also reported on engagement feedback and data. In summarising, the Chairman of the Board took this opportunity to thank officers for the support that they provided to the Company.

Members welcomed the parent and carer feedback and the progress that was being made by the Company.

The contents of the report was received and noted.

42. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items to report.

43. **Exempt Business**

It was proposed by Cllr S Flower seconded by Cllr B Quayle

Decision

That the press and the public be excluded for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

Reason for taking the item in private Paragraph 3 – Information of the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

44. DCoE - Report of the Chair of the Board

The Managing Director of the Company set out the detail of the Business Plan and shared a short video of the school and some of its pupils. The committee asked questions of clarification and context.

Decision

That the 2024 Business Plan be agreed.

Duration of meeting: 10.30 - 10.56 am

Chairman

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