

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs Laura Beddow, Spencer Flower, Andrew Parry, Gary Suttle and Peter Wharf

**Also present:** Cllr Byron Quayle

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

Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive) and Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships); Dr Sharina Klaasens (Acting Headteacher).

**12. Apologies**

An apology was received from Ian Comfort, Chair of Dorset Centre of Excellence Ltd.

**13. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**15. Public Participation**

There was no public participation to report.

**16. Councillor Questions**

There were no councillor questions.

**17. Forward Plan**

The draft Forward Plan was received and noted.

**18. Appointment of Dorset Centre of Excellence Directors**

The Corporate Director for Commissioning & Partnerships advised that there had been two new director appointments to the Board: Frances Nicholson and Stuart Jones, which the committee noted. There was also a recruitment process taking place to appoint an additional director who would be selected by 31 October 2022.

#### 19. **Dorset Council Commissioner's Report**

The Executive Director for People (Children) introduced the report by giving members an update on the current position of the Dorset Centre of Excellence (DCOE) and Coombe House School. The school opened for the autumn term on 13 September 2022 with a phased approach of 36 children on the current school roll.

The growth of the school roll has slowed, with fewer children attending in September than was initially forecast in the original business plan.

The Corporate Director for Commissioning and Partnerships set out the detail of the report highlighting the areas of enhanced co-operation between the Dorset Centre of Excellence Board and the council. This was to ensure that both sides worked more closely together within the terms of the commissioning agreement to support the progress of the DCOE recovery plan.

The committee was further advised that a programme of works relating to the school had been completed; the details of which were listed within the report. There had been an increased on-site presence of Dorset Council officers and there was a lot of work being carried out in terms of recruitment activity.

She confirmed that new placements for children not returning to Coombe House had also been secured. It was confirmed that the business plan was being reviewed and any further development of services on the site had been paused to enable the company to focus on re-opening the school.

Following an opportunity to ask questions the report was received and noted.

#### 20. **Report from Chair of Board**

Dr Sharina Klaasens advised that the Board had addressed the issues that impacted on the successful opening of the school. She confirmed that the Board welcomed the support from the officers of the council and a comprehensive programme of professional development was in place to ensure that teachers and support staff had the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to provide a safe and effective learning experience.

The children on the school roll were content, settled and learning.

The Chairman welcomed the report and as there were no further questions the report was received and noted.

#### 21. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items to report.

**22. Exempt Business**

It was proposed by Cllr P Wharf and seconded by Cllr A Parry

**Decision**

That the press and the public be excluded for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt business information within the meaning of paragraph 1 & 2 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**23. Dorset Council Commissioner's Report - Appendix**

The committee received an update on human resources and pupil related information in respect of the Coombe House School.

**Duration of meeting:** 5.30 - 5.50 pm

**Chairman**

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