

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 JUNE 2023

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

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

Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), Diane Grannell (Chair of Finance - DCoE), Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Andrew Holder (Managing Director - DCoE), Stuart Jones (Chair of Commercial & Community Sub-Committee - DCoE), Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services 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)

Officers present (remotely)

James Boxer (Programme Director – Children’s Social Care Review)

1. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

The Chairman advised that in his capacity of Leader of the Council, he had appointed Cllr Byron Quayle to be Vice-Chairman of the Shareholder Committee.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Participation

No public participation requests had been received.

5. Councillor Questions

No councillor questions had been received.

6. **Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference were noted.

7. **Dorset Council Commissioning Report**

The Corporate Director for Commissioning, Quality and Partnerships introduced the report which set out an updated position for the school since the previous update in March.

In the absence of any questions from Committee Members for the Corporate Director, the Chairman thanked her for the report and commended all involved for the work that had been undertaken by commissioners and the school.

Noted

8. **DCOE - Report of Independent Chair of Board of Directors**

The Chairman of the Board for Dorset Centre of Excellence introduced the report, which set out the operational progress made and the successes of the school since the previous update in March 2023.

Officers responded to Members' comments and requests for clarification, details included:

- There was huge promise for the leisure offering and many approaches were now being made to the school, particularly from two of the local swimming schools, both of whom were looking to commence using the swimming pool on-site from June onwards.
- The open day recruitment event that had recently been held was focussed towards recruiting a range of staff members across the board, which had proved to be very successful and had resulted in several teaching assistants, as well as teachers, being recruited. As this event had been successful, it would be repeated together with looking at additional marketing opportunities for recruitment.

The Chairman thanked the DCoE team for their comprehensive report which drew out the issues and set out the progress that had been made.

Noted

9. **Forward Plan**

The Forward Plan was noted.

10. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items

11. **Exempt Business**

It was proposed by Cllr B Quayle and seconded by Cllr L Beddow:

Decision

That the press and the public be excluded for the following 2 items 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).

12. **Business Plan**

The Managing Director for Dorset Centre of Excellence introduced a report which set out the need to adopt the Business Plan that was appended. A brief slideshow was displayed to highlight the key themes to be included within the plan, which were as follows:

- Vision
- A Strong Investment
- Security from Uncertainty
- Recovery and Growth
- Prudence vs. Ambition
- Strength and Depth
- Core/Additional

The plan was designed to be quality-led and robust to ensure that Coombe House School was both stable and successful in terms of its offering to its pupils and assisting the Council in delivering its objectives.

Officers responded to Members' comments and requests for clarification, detail included:

- Flexibility was a key part of the business plan as it would allow the school to grow and develop to meet its pupils needs, together with those commissioning needs of the Council as and when they evolved.
- The Board had been balanced in setting its required leadership structure within the school, which was designed to be efficient and fit for purpose.
- The Board remained committed to developing a training centre for teaching staff as the business grew.

RESOLVED

That the Shareholder Committee approves the proposed business plan and continues its support for the Company, particularly with regard to the priority of provision of pupil places for September 2024, and further approval is subject to further reassurance as set out below:

The business plan is based on a number of assumptions for other areas of delivery beyond the September 2024 pupil places, which as the plan states are finely balanced and need careful monitoring and mitigation. The business plan states that the Company intends to test and explore these in further

detail to firm up the assumptions over time. The Shareholder Panel looks forward to receiving further the outcomes of this work, for its approval, including the master planning, survey information, cost and market information that is planned.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 10.41 am

Chairman

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