

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

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

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

Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151)
Grace Evans (Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Diane Grannell (Director – Dorset Centre of Excellence)
Chris Harrod (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
Andrew Holder (Managing Director - Dorset Centre of Excellence)
Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children)
Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic and Monitoring Officer)
Lesley Mellor (Director – Dorset Centre of Excellence)
Frances Nicholson (Director – Dorset Centre of Excellence)
Matt Prosser (Chief Executive),
Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning & Partnerships)
Elaine Tibble (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

13. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr G Suttle

14. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed and confirmed as a correct record.

15. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

16. Public Participation

No public participation requests had been received

17. Councillor Questions

No councillor questions had been received

18. Forward Plan

The forward plan was noted.

19. **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 June 2023.

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

- There was an ambition to develop the facilities on site for curriculum enhancement activities and development of life skills. Focus was currently centred around the walled garden, which would be opened up and used as allotments for growth of food, although a full range of opportunities were being explored.

NOTED

20. **Report of the 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 June 2023.

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

- The "Schools within schools" principle was not a new concept. The aim was to divide the school up to three within one campus into manageable units, which in turn would provide the optimal support for children that are on site. It was a method that allowed groups of children with particular needs or those of particular age groups to be focussed upon, whilst delivering a curriculum that worked for them, without any compromise to the quality of teaching as the school increased in size.
- The school was currently operating on a hybrid two schools arrangement as it wasn't yet at capacity, but there was a very clear pathway to the three schools model as capital investment came and classrooms were handed over.

The Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care, Health and Housing and Children, Education, Skills and Early Help thanked the school, its directors and indeed commissioning officers of the council for the work that had been undertaken in working with the local community to open up facilities for community use. This was echoed by the Chairman of the Committee.

NOTED

21. **Urgent Items**

There was no urgent business.

22. Exempt Business

It was proposed by Cllr B Quayle and seconded by Cllr J Somper:

DECISION

That In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in item No 11 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

23. Remuneration Policy

The item was deferred at the request of the Chairman of the Board of Directors to allow further work to be undertaken prior to consideration by the Shareholder Committee.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 10.38 am

Chairman

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