

Chichester College

Minutes of the Meeting of the Buildings & Estates Committee held on Thursday 7 May 2009

Present:

Mr Patrick Green (Chairman)
Mrs Angie Hobson (Vice Chairman)
Mr John Goble Dr Richard Parker
Miss Frances Russell

In Attendance:

Mr John Bates, Deputy Principal
Mrs Wendy Goacher, Head of Estates and Facilities
Mrs Shelagh Legrave, Chief Financial Officer
Mr David Smith, Clerk to the Governing Body
Miss Catherine Vinall, Senior Administrator

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

105. Apologies for absence were received from David Hett and Nick O'Brien.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

106. The Chairman drew the attention of the Governors and those in attendance at the meeting to the requirement to declare any interests they might have in any of the items on the agenda, as detailed in the agenda sheet.

MINUTES

107. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Building & Estates Committee held on 5 February 2009 were taken as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 1 to the Minute Book copy)

LSC CAPITAL FUNDING POSITION

a) General Situation

108. The Committee received for information a report by the Vice Principal (Corporate Services) on the LSC capital funding position.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 2 to the Minute Book copy)

109. David Smith stated that, following the review of capital projects by Sir Andrew Foster, the LSC confirmed that a limited amount of funding would be available to Colleges for smaller projects ready to begin in September. Colleges were required to submit a two part project readiness verification questionnaire to the LSC. The LSC would then assess all questionnaires submitted and invite college to make a full bid for funding which would be assessed against five categories. The LSC would inform Colleges of their decision in early June.

b) College Response

110. The Committee received for consideration a report by the Vice Principal (Corporate Services) on the College Response to the LSC capital funding position.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 3 to the Minute Book copy)

111. David stated that the decision to continue to develop proposals for Brinsbury to Stage E had allowed the College to respond positively to the questionnaire. David confirmed the questionnaire had also requested information about how much the College had invested in the capital project so far. The College had spent a total of £5.8 million on the capital project and had separated costs on a proportionate basis for Brinsbury. There was an expectation that the College should be able to recoup those costs and the College would need to consider where that money could be best spent. Richard Parker stated that the move by the LSC to consider smaller projects which would be 'shovel ready' for September had justified the Colleges action in developing proposals to Stage E at Brinsbury. David stated that very little back-up information had been provided by the LSC, including the level of contribution that colleges which submitted successful bids would have to make. The College's response had indicated our expectation that the contribution would be the same as that suggested in the full project. This had been evaluated at 15 per cent but he felt it unlikely that the College would only be asked to contribute at that level. John Goble suggested that if the contribution was so large that it prevented the College

from undertaking any development at Chichester Campus the Governing Body might wish to reconsider its priorities. After a brief discussion it was

Resolved

That the Committee supported the action taken to submit a bid for funding to the LSC for a smaller project at Brinsbury to begin development in September 2009.

COLLEGE CAPITAL STRATEGY

112. The Committee received for consideration a report by the Vice Principal (Corporate Services) on the future College capital strategy.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 4 to the Minute Book copy)

113. David Smith stated that in the light of the LSC's failure to manage the capital funding situation the College would need to consider a new accommodation strategy. David confirmed that plans for the new strategy would need to be confirmed once the College had received a response from the LSC to the application for the redevelopment of the Brinsbury campus. David said that the review would consider the need to provide additional capacity and replace and refurbish existing accommodation, as well as consider ongoing maintenance requirements. Wendy Goacher, Head of Estates and Facilities and Kevin White, Premises Manager, had been asked to look at maintenance requirements at both campuses. Shelagh Legrave confirmed that the Accommodation Working Group would be looking at maintenance work required over the summer break. There were a number of bids already in the pipeline and a budget had been agreed. Following a brief discussion it was

Resolved

That consideration should be given to developing a new accommodation strategy once the College has received a response from the LSC regarding the redevelopment of the Brinsbury campus.

GREEN TRAVEL GROUP UPDATE

114. The Committee received for information a report by Wendy Goacher, Head of Estates and Facilities providing an update from the Green Travel Group.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 5 to the Minute Book copy)

115. Wendy stated that the car parking charges introduced in September 2008 had eased the pressure on the car park considerably. A number of initiatives had been discussed including working with the University to establish pounds for fold-up cycles for local journeys around the city. In reply to a question from Angie Hobson, Wendy said that there were indications that some people had stopped driving to College, particularly in good weather. There were a number of travel benefits for students which needed to be publicised more widely. David Smith said that there had not been any complaints regarding parking from neighbours. Richard Parker reported that the College had responded generously to parking fine appeals and that there had not been any significant complaints from staff or students regarding the parking charges. Wendy said that the income generated from parking charges had enabled the construction of a new secure cycle park outside the Sports Centre. Plans were in place to introduce a solar powered ticket machine in the car park and extra CCTV cameras.

FOCUS GROUPS

116. David Smith said that there was nothing of significance to report from the Chichester Hospitality Focus Group meeting. There had been very positive feedback from the Brinsbury Hospitality Focus Group meeting regarding the food available on campus and the introduction of the quiet area.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2010

117. David Smith stated that meetings of the Building and Estates Committee had been arranged to take place termly although more meetings could be arranged if necessary. It was

Resolved:

That the following calendar of meetings for the Building & Estates Committee for 2010 be adopted:

Thursday 14 January 2010, 4.00 pm

Thursday 20 May 2010, 4.00 pm

Thursday 14 October 2010, 4.00 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

118. It was:

Resolved:

That the next meeting of the Building and Estates Committee take place on Monday 8 June 2009, at 10.00 am.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

119. It was:

Resolved

That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be dealt with the Minutes for the remainder of the Meeting be recorded on a confidential basis and remain so unless and until they become public in the ordinary course of the Corporation's business.