WQE & Regent College Group

Open Corporation
Meeting

24th June 2026

17:20 – 19:00

Room G01, G Building, University Road Campus

Members of the Corporation in attendance:
Sarah Thomson (Chair), Phill Ashton, Joyce Black, Mariam Delair, Theo Hillier-Drewett, Iain McKenzie, Adeola Obadan, Alison Stone, Paul Wilson, & Jimmy Zachariah

Other invitees:
Dan Ismail, Andrew Jackson, Rachel Middleton, Sarah Oldfield, Tim Rogers, Donna Trusler, Denise Sweeney (Observer), Seema Thakkar (Observer), Anthony Allard (Observer), Kristina Hacikjana (Observer)

Apologies: Onkar Korotana, Hasan Peerbhai

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**
   Sarah Thomson
   The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, including four Observers being proposed as Staff and External Governors respectively.
   The Corporation noted that this was the final meeting for the two Student Governors, and that it marked the first meeting where Alison Stone had assumed the External Governor role.
   The Chair also noted that this was the last ever governance meeting for Andrew Jackson, as he retires from the College at the end of the academic year.
   Apologies were received from Hasan Peerbhai and Onkar Korotana.

   The Chair thanked all External and Parent Governors for attending the closed Corporation meeting ahead of this open meeting, where they heard recommendations from the Remuneration Committee, which convened on 10 June 2026.

2. **Declarations of Interest**
   Sarah Thomson
   There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

3. **Governor succession planning**
   Sarah Thomson
   Sarah reminded Governors that the Corporation appoints candidates to the role as Teaching and Support Staff Governor following an open nomination process.
   The Corporation is asked to approve the two Staff Governor appointments – Anthony Allard as Teaching Staff Governor, who stood unopposed. A change to the type of governorship for Kristina Hacikjana

was proposed by the Corporation, who had originally appointed as an External Governor, -subsequent to her induction with the Director of Governance, she was successfully appointed as a member of the College's paid staff from August 2026 and is therefore becoming the Support Staff Governor from this point. (There were no nominations for the role as Support Staff Governor when a recruitment campaign was run in Spring/Summer 20206).

The Corporation approved both appointments, noting Anthony's start date was immediate and Kristina's from the 17 August 2026.
The Chair thanked them for stepping forward to become Governors.

Sarah reminded the Corporation that this is the approving and appointing body for External Governor appointments. There are two candidates who have applied and been interviewed.
The candidates are Denise Sweeney and Seema Thakkar.
Each candidate was invited to introduce themselves and then ask them to step out of the room whilst the Corporation deliberated.
The Corporation noted the skills and experience of both candidates and decided to appoint to the role of External Governor.

Sarah reported that discussions have been held with four other interested parties and two of these have confirmed to date that they will be applying shortly to become an External Governor.

Sarah relayed to the Corporation the fact that Iain McKenzie would be leaving the Corporation. Iain explained that new employment would likely be outside of Leicestershire and that ongoing commitment to governorship would be challenging. He decided to stand down and his appointment as a Governor will terminate on 31st August 2026.

The Corporation thanked Iain for his service and his contributions during his time in post.

Iain's departure means that the Corporation will need to open nominations for the role as Vice Chair of the Corporation. Sarah stated that the Director of Governance would cover the logistics of this later in the agenda.

4. Corporation minutes and matters arising
Sarah Thomson

4.1 To approve the minutes of the open Corporation meeting held on 25th March 2026 as a correct record – Paper 001

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

The action list was discussed and the following actions had been completed during the intervening period between meetings:

- Issue invitations to Governors for the new task & finish group
- Issue revised Governor Recruitment Pack to all Governors. All Governors to promote to their own networks
- Amend Management Accounts to show variances as percentages
- Keep Governors apprised of learning opportunities in relation to the new

Ofsted Framework.

STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT

5. **Principal's Update** – presentation
Paul Wilson
Highlights included:
   - An update on growth and the resultant ability to recruit additional staffing to boost staffing and management capacity
   - An update on partnerships and system leadership, including invitations to join in sectoral research as well as be a host for one of the SFCA's leadership development modules
   - Memoranda of Understanding with two key stakeholders
   - Continued engagement with the Local Skills Accountability Board
   - The successful outcome of a Condition Improvement Fund bid
   - An update on the matters considered by the Estates & Capital Planning Task & Finish Group

6. **Accountability Statement 2026-27 –** Paper 002 **-** *For discussion & approval*
Andrew Jackson
Andrew reminded Governors that the Accountability Statement forms part of the College's funding agreement and statutory Local Needs duty.
He confirmed a submission date in July for the 2026-27 statement.

   Governors noted the aims and objectives within the statement and the target outcomes.

   Governors asked questions about the statement format and understood how the Annual Strategic Conversation was informed by the statement.

   The Principal confirmed that at present the Local Skills Improvement Plan was still in development.

   The Corporation approved the Accountability Statement for 2026/27 and the Chair made an arrangement to sign it on behalf of the Corporation.

7. **Transition planning statement** – Paper 003 - *For information & approval*
Andrew Jackson
Andrew confirmed that the Strategic Transition Planning Statement sets out the College's high-level response to the DfE's requirement to provide information on plans to support the transition to reformed 16-19 technical and vocational qualifications. It provides an overview of planned curriculum delivery, institutional readiness and potential risks from 2027/28 onwards.

   The Corporation scrutinised the detail within the statement.

   Governors noted that the digital qualifications currently being offered by the College are not going to be funded under the curriculum changes and would therefore need to transition accordingly.

   Andrew informed Governors that there remain some curriculum areas where the specifics are yet to be determined.
Governors asked about what the DfE intended to do with the transition planning statements.

Governors heard about plans to address student queries and choices in relation to curriculum choices for 2026/27.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE, CURRICULUM & OUTCOMES

8. Executive actions and recommendations from the Student Experience, Curriculum & Outcomes Committee

Phill Ashton

Phill provided a verbal round-up of matters discussed by the SECO Committee including an update on teaching and learning, the number of students reporting an improvement in oracy, positive number of students attending Easter intervention sessions, a PREVENT and safeguarding update.
which convened on 13 May 2026.

8.1 Financial Support for Students Policy – Paper 004 -*For approval*

The Committee recommended the policy and the Corporation approved it.

8.2 Papers from the Committee meeting for Governor reference & learning – Paper 005 - *For Governor reference & learning*

The Corporation noted the above.

8.3 Annual Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Report – Paper 006 – *For approval*

Donna Trusler

Donna thanked Joyce Black for her input reviewing the paper.
Donna reminded Governors that the paper relates to the 2024/25 academic year.
Donna reported that Children Looked After performed better than previously in 2024/25. Donna confirmed that a designated member of staff was now responsible for supporting those CLA who are in publicly funded care.
She stated that she had probed further into the 'other' category of students to see if there was an underlying issue about not fitting in. Students reported that they wanted to state how they self-identified. Governors noted that students within the 'other' category generally do not perform as well as other students, noting that the College had some additional work to do with this cohort.

Donna reported that the trend seen during Covid and post-Covid times of high levels of social and emotional difficulties being reported had decreased a little since this point.

Governors asked for national benchmarking data to be included in EDI reporting moving forwards. **Action DT**

OVERSIGHT OF FINANCE, RESOURCES & ASSETS

9. Executive actions and recommendations from the Finance & Resources Committee

9.1 Financial Regulations – Paper 007 – For approval

The Corporation approved the Financial Regulations.

9.2 College insurance arrangements – Paper 008 – For approval

The Corporation approved the College's insurance arrangements.

9.3 Papers from the Committee meeting for Governor reference & learning – Paper 009

The Corporation noted the above.

9.4 Latest Management accounts – Paper 010– *For information & questions*

Dan Ismail

The Corporation noted the May 2026 management accounts.

9.5 Budget 2026-27 and financial forecasts – Paper 011 – *For approval*

Dan Ismail

The paper presented the latest forecast for 2025/26, alongside the proposed budget for 2026/27 and forward financial projections through to 2030/31, covering a five-year period.

The accompanying narrative will be submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) in support of the College Financial Forecasting Return (CFFR) by 31 July 2026.

The 2026/27 budget forecasts a surplus of £641k and EBITDA of £1,645k, resulting in an 'Outstanding' Financial Health rating.

Governors noted that 71% of costs are related to staffing and that this figure is likely to rise over time.
Governors asked questions about teachers' pensions and demographic decline over time.
Governors queried the forecast for an increasing deficit over time, however the forecast makes assumptions which are long-range and very prudent in nature.

The Corporation approved the 2026/27 budget and the financial objectives. The Corporation also approved the commentary which will be submitted to the DfE.

9.6 Health & Safety Policy (annual refresh) – Paper 012 – *For approval*

Dan Ismail

Dan reminded Governors of the Corporation's responsibility for health and safety. The College reviews and refreshes the policy annually and this year the policy was externally assured, providing an additional level of assurance to the College. The Corporation approved the policy and the Chair made arrangements to sign it.

AUDIT, RISK & EXTERNAL ASSURANCE

10. Executive actions and recommendations from the Audit & Risk Committee

Joyce Black

Joyce confirmed that at the June meeting of the A&R Committee, members were joined by the College's external auditors, RSM UK Ltd. The main areas which were scrutinised by the Committee included the risk register and the reports from external assurance undertaken this academic year, as well as the board assurance framework and areas of focus for external assurance for the 2026/27 academic year. The three-yearly External Review of Governance was added to the programme for 2026/27.
Committee members also reviewed the external auditor's plan and the external auditor KPIs. The Committee was confident to recommend a number of reports to the Corporation.

10.1 Risk Register and significant risks action plan – Paper 013 - *For approval*
The Risk Register was approved.

10.2 Board Assurance Framework incorporating external assurance proposals 2026-27 – Paper 014 - *For approval*
This was approved.

10.3 External audit plan for 2025-26 accounts – Paper 015 - *For approval*
This was approved.

10.4 Papers from the Committee for Governor reference & learning- Paper 016
The Corporation noted the above.

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

11. Executive actions and recommendations from the Governance & Search Committee
Iain McKenzie
Iain reported that Governors had enjoyed insight visits and found that these had boosted their own learning.
Iain summarised the areas which had been considered at the Committee.

11.1 How we Govern – Paper 017 – *For approval*
Joyce informed the Corporation that the Governance & Search Committee had reviewed the substantive tracked changes in the latest iteration of How we Govern and recommended the document for approval, to take immediate effect. The Corporation approved the clean copy of the document.

11.2 Approval of Committee Chairs 2026-27
This agenda item was deferred to the September meeting of the Corporation in order to gain clarity on the new Corporation Vice Chair who also chairs the Governance & Search Committee.

11.3 Arrangements for nomination of Corporation Vice Chair
Rachel Middleton

Rachel reminded Governors that any External or Parent Governor is eligible to stand as Vice Chair or Co-Vice Chairs, in accordance with the Corporation's Standing Orders, which includes those Governors in the first year of their Governor tenure.

- The Director of Governance will circulate the role profile to eligible Governors on 26 June.
- There will be a 4- week period in which Governors can express an interest in the role to the Director of Governance. Both parties will have a discussion about the role. If the candidate then wishes to progress to a nomination, they will then have a discussion with the Chair who will confirm how to submit a nomination.
- All nominations will need to be received over the summer and the aim is to approve the candidate in the short formal meeting of the Corporation which will take place on 16 September 2026, the same date as the Governor kickstart meeting.
- Any election, should there be multiple candidates wishing to stand as Vice Chair (as opposed to two candidates wishing to share Co-Vice Chair roles), will take place prior to 16 September 2026.

Action RM

11.4 Annual governance meeting planner 2026-27 – Paper 018– For approval

Rachel Middleton

The Corporation approved its governance meeting planner for 2026-27. Governors were asked to note the date and time for the Governor Kickstart meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS *(For noting)*

12.1 SPH Capability Policy & Procedure – Paper 019

12.2 SPH Disciplinary Policy & Procedure – Paper 020

12.3 SPH Grievance Policy & Procedure – Paper 021

The three SPH policies were approved by Parent and External Governors in attendance at the closed Corporation meeting immediately prior to this open meeting, based on a recommendation from the Remuneration Committee which convened on 10 June 2026.

12.4 Update – Treasury Management and Reserves Policies

Dan confirmed that both policies had been approved earlier in the financial year and will be reviewed again when the budget has been updated.

ROUND-UP

13. AoB

The annual self-review of governance will be conducted over the summer. Governors will receive a link to an online questionnaire and all members are asked to complete this. Reference to the judgements within the questionnaire are made in the Annual Report and the questionnaire outcomes will also be shared with the External Governance Reviewers when they undertake the ERG in the summer term of 2027.

Action: all Governors

14. Confidentiality

Subject to discussions, the Corporation considered the following papers should remain confidential:

- PREVENT Risk Register
- Risk Register
- All financial papers

The meeting closed at 7:05pm.

Presentations were subsequently made to outgoing Governors and Andrew Jackson.

Action List

Actions from the Corporation meeting on 24th June 2026	Who is responsible?	Date for completion
Launch nominations for Vice Chair of Corporation	RM	ASAP
Complete annual self-review of governance arrangements questionnaire	All Governors	By end of July 2026

Standing item	Who is responsible?	Date for completion
To refer any matter which could be externally assured to the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee	All Governors	
To include national benchmarking data in EDI reporting moving forwards.	DT	

Signature: …………………………………………………….
Corporation Chair

Date: …………………………………………………………..