



Minutes of the Search and Governance Committee Meeting

held 25 June 2009

Present: Phil Osborne (Vice Chair), Keith Bate, Andrew Hanson, David Prain, Gloria Smith

In attendance: Jennifer Sunter (*Clerk*)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Alison Perks and Pam Thomas.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of Meeting held 23 April 2009 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held 23 April 2009 were approved as a true record.

4 Governor Appointments

Members discussed the appropriate skills and background in Human Resources of Alison Shipway which met with skills identified in succession planning. Following her application to be considered for the position as a member of the Corporation Alison had met with the Principal and the Chair and had also met informally with members of the Search and Governance Committee.

Keith Bate reported on the response of other applicants and members agreed that it was appropriate that these remain in a pool.

Keith Bate further reported on progress in promoting governor vacancies to accountancy and legal professionals. Members discussed further companies who could be approached and agreed to consider the position at the next meeting.

Action: Keith Bate

The Search and Governance Committee resolved to recommend to the Corporation the appointment of Alison Shipway to Halesowen College Corporation for a period of four years commencing October 2009 subject to set eligibility clearance.

5 Corporation Self Assessment

The Clerk outlined the basis of the current self assessment process before asking members to consider options for revision of the process.

Members agreed that self assessment was most effective when it was a meaningful

activity and discussed at length the need to engage in a reflective process but in comparison with other models of practice.

Keith Bate noted that a different mind set was required going into a period of significant change in the sector and Andrew Hanson suggested that models of self assessment outside the Further Education sector could be considered.

Keith Bate explained that the whole College self assessment process remained necessarily tied to the Common Inspection Framework but that other mechanisms could be looked at in relation to strategic leadership and governance.

Members agreed that in light of the external view received from the recent Ofsted inspection it was sensible for the Search and Governance Committee to co-ordinate the self assessment process for 2009/10 and that further research into other models of governance be undertaken. Members agreed to discuss other models at the next meeting of the Committee.

Action: Clerk

6 Any other business

Criminal Records Bureau Checks

The Clerk reported that following further research and discussion members should consider the position regarding CRB checks. Gloria Smith noted that in the current age of awareness to safeguard that all members should be checked.

Keith Bate noted that additionally identity, address and qualification checks should be undertaken on appointment in line with procedures for appointing staff.

Members felt that the Corporation should lead by example.

The Search and Governance Committee resolved to recommend to Corporation that all governors be CRB checked, and further to this should provide evidence of identity and qualifications.

7 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8 October 2009.

Closed: 8pm