

Minutes SEG Corporation Meeting (training 4.30pm, meeting at 5pm)

Governance

Date	17/12/2024
Time	16:30 - 19:00 (closing at 19.30)
Location	Southport College (Mornington Road, Southport, Merseyside, PR9 0TT)
Members Present:	Paul Walker (Corporation Chair) Laura Bell (Independent Governor) Michelle Brabner (Principal) Margaret Boneham (Independent Governor) Kevin Burke (Independent Governor) Catherine Durr (Staff Governor) (up to item 8.1) Rob Firth (Independent Governor) Alex Gamil (Independent Governor) *Roderic Gillespie (Independent Governor) (attending via videoconference facilities) Diane Hutchinson (Independent Governor) *Kashfa Kalim (Independent Governor) (attending via videoconference facilities) Claire Moffat-Lonsdale (Independent Governor) *David Mutori (Independent Governor) (attending via videoconference facilities) Susannah Porter (Independent Governor) Tom Rowe (Staff Governor) Elaine Small (Independent Governor) *Tracey Wood (Independent Governor) (attending via videoconference facilities)
Members Apologies:	Mo Kundi (Independent Governor) Alex Barton (Independent Governor)
Members Absent:	Rebecca Matchett (Independent Governor)
In Attendance:	Paris Bonwick (Vice Principal Business Services) Mark Burrows (Deputy Principal) Claire Dalrymple (Wylie and Bisset) (up to and including item 6) Lisa Farnhill (Dir. Governance and Compliance) Stephen Musa (Vice Principal Curriculum and Support) Paula Smith (Dir. Finance)

Agenda

1 - Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Item Lead: Corporation Chair

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from the Corporation Chair, who acknowledged the presence of attendees both in person and online.

Apologies for absence were noted and accepted, noting some members had joined remotely due to travel or other commitments. The Chair emphasised the importance of maintaining communication and participation despite the hybrid meeting format, confirming those online could hear and be heard.

Item 1: Apologies for absence were approved.

2 - Declaration of Interests

Item Lead: Corporation Chair

The chair invited members to declare any interests related to the items on the agenda. No declarations of interest were made by the members present, with the Dir. Governance and Compliance confirming she was also the DPO.

Members noted those being reappointed would not be able to participate in discussions and votes pertaining to their own positions.

Item 2: Noted.

3 - Minutes

Item Lead: Corporation Chair

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th October 2024 were reviewed. Members were invited to raise any questions or concerns about the minutes. No objections or amendments were noted, and the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Item 3: Approved

4 - Matters Arising, Actions Summary and Confidentiality

Item Lead: Corporation Chair

The Dir Governance and Compliance drew attention to the report providing an update on actions against matters arising from the previous meeting, noting there were no significant issues that required further discussion.

The Chair then addressed the confidentiality of items within the minutes and the current agenda, noting that some information had been redacted for staff due to its sensitive nature, particularly concerning staff and commercial matters. It was agreed that staff would withdraw for the staff pay award discussions, due to the open and ongoing negotiations with Unions.

Item 4: Approved

5 - Reports and Recommendations of the Audit Committee

Item Lead: Audit Committee Chair (Presented by Dir. Governance and Compliance)

On behalf of the Chair of the Audit Committee, the Dir. Governance and Compliance provided an overview of the work undertaken by the committee on 19th September and 3rd December 2024. Key highlights included the review of financial statements, work to review risk management processes, inviting of key management to present updates on health and safety, critical incident management and IT, and oversight of work on strengthening internal controls relating to policies.

5.1 - Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/2024

Item Lead: Dir. Finance - Paula Smith

The Annual Internal Audit Report for 2023/2024 was presented for information. Members noted the report provided assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls and risk management processes within the organisation. The findings were positive, indicating a strong control environment with no significant issues identified.

A member asked if the Committee had seen improvements in accessing the additional support, training and services provided by the auditors. The Corporation were assured that the value-added benefits were now being accessed, confirming that a session had been undertaken on risk management, with examples of alternative formats for the risk register now being explored, including heat maps. Other ideas being considered as a result of the session included a reduction of the number of strategic risks. In line with sector norms.

Item 5.1: Noted

5.2 - Health & Safety Annual Report

Item Lead: VP Business Services - Paris Bonwick

The Corporation were advised the Committee had considered the annual Health & Safety Annual Report, with members of the Committee adding how beneficial they had found having the Head of Facilities in attendance at their most recent meeting. Members informed the Corporation this offered additional insight and explanations for changes in data trends, enhancing the reassurance offered by the written report. The Corporation noted improvements in reporting of accidents, incidents and access to first aid, supported by training and process improvements.

The Corporation were advised that the annual report summarised data and progress made throughout 2023/2024, as reviewed in detail on a termly basis by the Committee, with improvements in health and safety practices documented, alongside evidence of compliance with regulations. The Corporation thanked the Committee and Vice Principal Business Services for the update.

Item 5.2: Noted- The Corporation noted the assurances of the organisation's commitment to maintaining a safe working environment as overseen by the Audit Committee.

5.3 - Annual Assurance of Website Compliance

Item Lead: VP Business Services - Paris Bonwick, Dir. Governance and Compliance – Lisa Farnhill

The Audit Committee confirmed they had received regular reports on the compliance of the College website, with the annual report providing a summary of the information reviewed throughout 2023/2024. The report confirmed that the website met all necessary compliance standards, with ongoing efforts to address any minor issues identified during the reviews, noting that this would now be undertaken by the Dir. Governance and Compliance, having previously been overseen by the Vice Principal Business Services.

Item 5.3: Noted – The Corporation noted the assurances provided by the report.

5.4 - OfS Update

Item Lead: Paris Bonwick

The Corporation was informed that the voluntary deregistration from OfS regulation had concluded. The Vice Principal Business Services added that although the withdrawal had concluded, the OfS continued to send contradictory communications regarding the need to complete returns, with internal confusion within the OfS regarding what was required post de-registration, with further clarity needed regarding the implications for future compliance requirements.

Item 5.3: Noted – The Corporation acknowledged the deregistration had completed, with clarity to be provided on the status of further returns.

Action: Confirm if the College is required to complete the recommendations and submit any further returns.

5.5 - Fraud & Irregularity Report 2023/2024

Item Lead: Dir. Finance - Paula Smith

A report on fraud and irregularity considerations for 2023/2024 was presented, providing assurance that the financial statements were free of material misstatement, with members reassured by updated processes and reporting.

Members were given an overview of the updated process and reporting, which included revisions to strengthen controls and oversight, highlighting and logging attempted fraud, to raise awareness and support with the prevention of occurrences of fraud and irregularity, with these updates to be embedded into the policy when next due for review by the Corporation.

Item 5.4: Resolved. The Corporation resolved to accept the assurances provided by the reporting.

5.6 - Whistle Blowing Report 2023/2024 and Policy update

Item Lead: Dir. Finance - Paula Smith

The Whistle Blowing Report for 2023/2024 was presented, along with a policy update for approval. The report assured the Corporation that there had not been any whistleblowing incidents. Members noted the policy aimed to enhance protections for whistleblowers and ensure transparency in handling such reports, with only minor revisions made following a full review.

Item 5.5: Approved. The Corporation approved the updated Whistle Blowing Policy.

5.7 - Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2023/2024

Item Lead: Committee Chair (delivered by Dir. Governance and Compliance)

The Corporation was reminded that the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2023/2024 was presented for information and assurance. Members noted the report summarised the Committee's activities and findings over the year, providing assurance to the Board regarding the effectiveness of internal controls and governance processes. The Corporation was asked to approve the submission and publication of the report.

Item 5.5: Approved. The Corporation approved the submission of the report.

6 - Financial Statements 2023/2024

Item Lead: Dir. Finance - Paula Smith

The financial statements for 2023/2024, including the letter of representation and statement of regularity, were presented for approval. Members were advised that the statements and all supporting information had been reviewed and interrogated by the Resources and Audit Committee's and were presented for approval following a number of minor amendments, with a recommendation for the SLT to consider personalising the commentary, to include relevant recent events.

6.1 - Regularity Assurance and Self-Assessment Checklist 2023/2024

Item Lead: Dir. Finance - Paula Smith

A report on Regularity Assurance and Self-Assessment for 2023/2024 was presented. The Corporation noted that the report provided assurance that the College had complied with all relevant regulations and standards, with the document highlighting details of evidence of compliance. The self-assessment checklist was reviewed and approved by the board.

Item 6.1: Approved. The Corporation approved the signing of the checklist.

6.2 - Audit Completion Report 2023/2024

Item Lead: WBD (Audit) Ltd - Claire Dalrymple

The audit findings report for 2023/2024 was presented by WBG (Audit) Ltd, summarising the results of the regularity and financial statements audits. WBG (Audit) Ltd commended the quality and timeliness of the information provided by the finance team, confirming there had been no issues or concerns throughout the process.

The report was summarised, confirming that the financial statements were free of material misstatements, and the audit opinion was unqualified. Attention was drawn to key aspects of the report, including one recommendation, which was already in progress, guidance on the presentation of the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme, which was to be brought to nil and not carried as an asset, actions against previous recommendations and the conclusion of how key risks outlined in the memorandum were addressed.

The Board approved the signing of the letters of representation and regularity, noting the minor adjustments as endorsed by the Audit Committee, thanking the finance team for their work.

Item 6.2: Approved. The Corporation approved the signing of the management letter.

6.3 - Financial Statements 2023/2024

Item Lead: Paula Smith

The Corporation was asked to approve the signing of the Financial Statements 2023/24, including the letter of representation and statement of regularity. Members were advised of the review by the Resources Committee and Audit Committee's with the accounts as presented almost final, with one additional line to be added as instructed by WBG (Audit) Ltd, with details provided of the updated required.

The Dir. Finance confirmed the accounts had been put through the CFFR, which confirmed the financial health grading was good. The Board approved the signing of the final version, noting the printed version included the final update.

Item 6.3: Approved. The Corporation approved the signing of the accounts, including the letter of representation and management letter.

7 - Committee Reports from the Resources Committee

Item Lead: Committee Chair

A verbal update from the Resources Committee was provided, covering information items from their meeting on 1st October and items for approval and information from 20th November 2024. The Committee advised that they were the first to trial an AI-generated 'minute summary' for the November meeting, and members were invited to comment on its effectiveness compared to the traditional impact summary created by the Director of Governance and Compliance.

The Committee Chair highlighted their discussions relating to risk management, concerns over pace in implementation of the IT strategy, discussions and challenges around sickness absence rates and their progress to date relating to staff pay, confirming they had endorsed an opening position for negotiations with the Unions.

7.1 - Capital Projects and Estates Updates

Item Lead: Vice Principal Business Services- Paris Bonwick

The Corporation was updated on large-scale capital projects and the condition of the estate. The progress report included details of the opening of the new areas and settling of final accounts for the T Level Grant Projects following the resolution of the remaining snags.

The Corporation was advised that the Committee had endorsed an application for grant funding, which, if successful, would require a college contribution. The Chair highlighted the scale of the potential project and College contribution, asking for the Corporation to be given additional details. The Vice Principal Business Services provided a full outline of the grant, application, and contribution options. Members asked about the cost of making the application, confirming there remained the option to withdraw, with the Committee confirming this had been considered along with the long term cash flow projections ahead of endorsing the application, which had a cost of £6500.

The Corporation resolved to ratify and support the endorsement of the application, subject to additional research by the SLT for alternative funding options, to be presented to the Resources Committee for consideration.

The Corporation confirmed final approval would be provided by the full Corporation if the application was successful.

Item 7.1: Resolved – The Corporation resolved to ratify the submission of the application or the decarbonisation grant, subject to final approval of the College contribution being provided by the Corporation, on the recommendation of the Resources Committee should the application be successful.

7.2 - Annual HR Report

Item Lead: Principal - Michelle Brabner

The Annual HR Report was presented, providing assurance through the data trends, which had been analysed and reviewed by the Committee, considering sickness absence data and noting improvements in staff turnover data. Members asked about benchmarking of the data, which indicated that this was an area of strength, however, acknowledged the data provided by the AOC was historic, with anecdotal evidence indicating the sector wide position would have deteriorated due to issues with pay and recruitment, with it expected that a more current set of data would result in an even more positive benchmarked position.

The Corporation were informed the College's diversity remained consistent with previous years, with the staff workforce representative of the community and student body. The Corporation noted the clear commitment to improving diversity and broadening the definition of diversity, to ensure students were prepared for life in diverse communities.

The Corporation was advised that the statutory publication of the Gender Pay Gap data had been made, with the data highlighting that although there was a gender pay gap consistent with previous years, this was not as a result of different pay for the same role, but higher numbers of female staff in lower paid part time roles.

The item concluded with the Corporation being advised of how the report also emphasised the importance of maintaining a supportive and inclusive workplace culture.

Item 7.2: Noted: The Corporation acknowledged the report, endorsing the commitment to equality in line with the College's strategic intentions, for both being at the heart of the community and being a place where people want to work and are supported in their careers. The improvements in staff turnover were commended, acknowledging the need for up to date benchmarking data.

8 - Committee reports from the Standards Committee

Item Lead: Committee Chair – Roderick Gillespie

The Chair of the Standards Committee provided a comprehensive update on the work undertaken on 25th September and 26th November 2024, referring to the Deputy Principal's presentation during the pre-meeting training, assuring the Corporation the strengths and areas for improvement, had been accurately reflected in reporting throughout the year.

The Committee Chair drew attention to key data from their most recent Quality of Education report, with improved outcomes overall, highlighting the positive data for 'non reportable' outcomes, advising the Corporation of how this positively impacted the local community, supporting the fulfilment of the strategic intention to be at the heart of the community.

The Corporation were advised of the Committee's efforts to ensure the quality of reports and updates improved, resulting in accurate and evidence-based assessments of the organisation's performance. Members were reminded of the updated approach to risk management, with risks reviewed at the start of each meeting, which had been rolled out to all Committee's with a focus on ensuring the cyclical nature of quality risks is reflected in the reporting.

The Corporation was assured by elements of the reports that demonstrated an emphasis on supporting disadvantaged students, particularly those with care experience and special educational needs, with data indicating a positive impact by new initiatives, with attention drawn to the annual EDI report, highlighting the progress made against the ambitious targets set.

The Chair assured the Corporation of an awareness of broader policy agenda issues as a result of the changing government, noting the uncertainty surrounding Skills England and potential changes in apprenticeship policies. The Chair indicated the hoped for a reform of the GCSE resit policy was an evidence-based need when considered against sector-wide feedback and data, however, acknowledged that there is no evidence of imminent reform.

The Committee Chair advised of a continued focus on student perspectives, highlighting how this was threaded throughout reporting to the Committee, linking this to improvements in employer communications, with evidence these perspectives and interactions were positively improving as a result of new policies and processes. The Corporation were advised expectations are clear for employers and students on apprenticeship programmes, with onsite inductions mandatory for employers, with plans to extend this to employers providing T Level Placements as a result of Committee feedback.

Attendance improvements, along with the contextualised data and local challenges were outlined.

Members offered their support of the College-wide trauma informed approaches to tackling behaviour, asking if the complaints data had been analysed for trends, with assurances provided, along with details of how the complaint logging process had been updated and improved.

8.1 - Equality and Diversity

Item Lead: Vice Principal Curriculum and Support - Stephen Musa

The Standards Committee provided an update on the annual progress report for Equality and Diversity (EDI). The report highlighted the increasing number of disadvantaged students, including those with care experience and special educational needs. A governor asked about the support provided to these students and the committee confirmed they had seen evidence of effective practice with the Vice Principal Curriculum and Support confirming all policies emphasise the importance of ensuring every student has access to quality education and opportunities for success.

The Corporation was assured by the Committee's review of the EDI annual targets, confirming these were in line with progress required to meet the long-term objectives, with a focus for 2024/25 on embedding

improvements to ensure progress was consistent. The Corporation commended the college's efforts in promoting equality and diversity and ensuring that all students have the support they need to succeed. Members noted limited changes in the Policy, endorsing the Committee's recommendation to approve the policy.

Item 8.1: Approved – The Corporation approved the policy updates and endorsed the annual EDI targets.

8.2 – Annual Safeguarding Report

Item Lead: Vice Principal Curriculum and Support - Stephen Musa

The Corporation were reminded that the report had formed the basis for the annual Governor Safeguarding Training in September, with this included for information and assurance. Members noted the increased number of interventions and were assured by the continued focus on improving support, through onsite services, signposting to external providers as well as comprehensive programme of enrichment.

Item 8.2: Resolved - The Corporation resolved to accept the assurances provided by the report.

8.3 - Annual Complaints Report

Item Lead: Vice Principal Curriculum and Support - Stephen Musa

The Annual Complaints Report was presented, summarising key information on the resolution of complaints throughout 2023/2024. Members were advised the report is part of the college's commitment to timely and effective complaint resolution, requiring Governor oversight in line with the Governance Code.

The Corporation noted that the number of formal complaints has remained stable, and the college has been effective in addressing and resolving issues. They emphasised the importance of maintaining open communication with students and ensuring that complaints are handled professionally and promptly, providing assurance in response to questions about complaints about quality of delivery, themes and trend analysis.

Item 8.3: Noted – The Corporation noted the details of the complaints report.

8.4 - Self-Assessment Report 2023/24 And Strategic Improvement Plan For 2024/25

Item Lead: Deputy Principal - Mark Burrows

Following a presentation by the Deputy Principal during the training slot, the Corporation was asked to approve the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) and the Strategic Improvement Plan for 2024/25. During the training, members asked about updates to T Level offerings, querying the impact of withdrawn courses, as well as asking if subcontracting could support in areas where there were staff shortages or could be supported by professionals with specialist knowledge, noting the need to be mindful of the statutory guidance around subcontracting. Members commended the progress and comprehensive improvement plan, with the Committee reiterating how the final outcomes had aligned with predictions and reporting of strengths and weaknesses throughout the year, emphasising the transparency and ease of understanding of reporting throughout the year.

Ahead of being asked to approve the SAR and SIP, the Corporation was reminded that SAR provided a comprehensive evaluation of the college's performance, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement. A member asked about the importance of using the SAR to guide future actions and ensure continuous improvement in education quality and student support, with an overview of actions provided. Members were reminded that the SIP replaced what was formally named the QDP, now closely linked to the College's Strategic Plan, outlining the college's high level strategic priorities and actions for the upcoming year, noting that for quality, this included improving attendance, supporting disadvantaged students, and enhancing the overall quality of education through staff training and support.

Item 8.3: Approved – The Corporation commended improvements to outcomes, accepting the Standards Committee's recommendation to approve the SAR and SIP.

9 - REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Item Lead: Paul Walker - Corporation Chair

The Chair of the Governance Committee provided an update from the meeting held on 25th September 2024.

The Governance Committee's update highlighted their commitment to maintaining a strong and effective board, with a focus on continuous improvement and meaningful engagement with the college community. The Committee Chair advised the Committee had continued to emphasise and focus on the importance of maintaining a diverse and effective board, with members who bring a wide range of skills and perspectives, with this being a key part of their succession planning.

Key business reviewed included the appointment and reappointment of Board members including Committee placements. Members approaching the end of their term or current role were thanked for their time and support, noting that this was Alex Gamil's last meeting as a Governor, as her term was ending, and she was not seeking reappointment. Members were reminded Rob Firth's second term would be coming to an end at the end of December, therefore he would be stepping down as an Independent Governor and Resources Committee Chair, seeking approval for appointment as an Associate Governor.

The Corporation was advised the Committee is working on developing a new Governor Engagement Strategy to replace the current link governor scheme, with members thanked for their responses to the self-selection of key roles, which would be finalised at the next meeting in February. Members noted how the strategy aims to be more comprehensive, providing summaries of opportunities for governors to engage with staff, employers, and students, and to ensure that all engagement activities are captured and reported.

The Committee Chair emphasised the value and importance of engaging with the College between meetings, highlighting how beneficial the Learning Walk Days had been, with it being an expectation that members attended at least one a year, with feedback from the Committee having led to there now being an evening option available to facilitate more opportunities for governors that could not attend during the day.

9.1 - Appointment/reappointment (incl. Committee placement):

The Governance Committee recommended the appointment of Colin Davies as an independent member of the Board for a term of four years, assigned to the Resources Committee. The Committee also recommended the reappointment of Susannah Porter and Diane Hutchinson as independent members for a further four-year term, with Rob Firth being recommended for a role as an associate member of the Resources Committee, with a standard associate term of two years.

Members asked about the experience of the recommended new appointment, with Panel Members advising of broad experience in industry and education, with strengths in capital projects, as well as extensive experience in education governance.

Members noted there had been no expressions of interests for any roles within the Governor annual review forms, or within the annual Governor Review Meetings, therefore there were no other changes to Committee or Board positions, except the previously approved appointment of Margaret Boneham as Resources Committee Chair. It was therefore noted that all other posts would continue with role holders reappointed for a further term, including that of Corporation Chair and Vice Chair.

Item 9.1- Approved – The Corporation endorsed the recommendation of the Governance Committee, appointing Colin Davies as an independent Governor and reappointing Diane Hutchinson and Susannah Porter as Independent Governors, with these all being standard 4-year terms.

The Corporation approved the appointment of Rob Firth as an Associate Member of the Resources Committee, with this being for a standard associate term of two-years.

The Board noted that the current role holders for Board positions, remained unchanged, with current role holders for the positions of Committee Chair, Board Chair and Vice Chair reappointed for a further term, with succession to be reviewed annually during member annual review meetings.

10 - Governance Matters

10.1 - Chair's Report

Item Lead: Corporation Chair

The Chair provided a verbal update on the work undertaken since the last meeting of the Corporation. The update included key activities and initiatives led by the Chair, emphasising the ongoing efforts to support the organisation's strategic goals. He advised he had undertaken regular meetings with the Principal and Director of Governance and Compliance, completed their appraisals, and had one to one meetings with most members of the Board.

The Chair highlighted the importance of transparency and openness in Board operations, suggesting that the strong relationships built through regular interactions had supported this, thanking the senior team for ensuring governors were made aware of information and invited to events between meetings.

The Chair commended the progress made in improving communication and streamlining administrative processes, suggesting this had enhanced the overall effectiveness of the board.

The Chair outlined his experience of the recent Learning Walk, encouraging members to participate to ensure culture and staff and student interaction could be experienced first-hand, providing the opportunity for information from reporting to be triangulated, with the Deputy Principal providing examples of actions taken as a result of feedback from governors during the Learning Walk days.

Item 10.1 – Noted

10.2 - Self-Assessment of Governance

The Corporation was advised that following the Governance Committee's review of strengths and areas for improvement (AFI) and finalisation of the report, there was thought to be benefit in drafting a high-level summary in the format of a Public Report, with this now presented for approval. The Board was advised that the summary was not a requirement, however considered to be a useful, digestible summary of the Board's progress, with the format aligned with the College Self-Assessment Report for consistency.

Members were reminded of the findings and recommendations to enhance governance practices within the organisation, with the review confirming that the Board is effective.

In response to a question about areas for improvement, members noted recent areas of focus had been communication, streamlining and modernising administrative processes and succession. Members acknowledged significant improvements in these areas, highlighting the Board was now more diverse, cohesive and effective, thanking the Dir. Governance and Compliance for her role in coordinating and driving the changes.

A member asked if it was to be graded using Ofsted terminology, what grading would be given. The Principal reminded governors that Governance formed part of the Leadership and Management judgement, therefore did not receive a standalone judgement. In responding to the question as to how it may be graded if it was looked at in isolation, the Dir. Governance and Compliance summarised evidence to support how it may be judged, with discussions focusing on feedback from external sources, including comments within the inspection, two external reviews of governance and feedback within FEC DA's, all which when considered alongside their self-assessment and improvements, indicated governance was not just effective, but exemplary, with many aspects of good practice highlighted within the reports, and all areas for improvement addressed, supporting an 'Outstanding' grade.

The Corporation discussed progress and emphasised the importance of continuous improvement and maintaining high standards of governance, acknowledging the distance travelled, including the Dir. Governance and Compliance's role in driving and supporting the improvements, with a longstanding member highlighting how consistency in the role, having had turbulence within the role previously had further supported the pace of progress.

Item 10.2 – Approved: The Corporation approved the format and content of the summarised self-assessment of governance.

11 - Principal's Report

Item Lead: Michelle Brabner

The Principal provided an update on various initiatives and achievements, whilst providing the Corporation with an overview of central policy updates including funding and curriculum reform, summarising their likely impact on the College.

Local activity by Ofsted, along with reforms to the inspection framework were outlined, with the potential timeline for monitoring visits and re-inspection discussed.

Following a summary of celebrations and events, the Corporation was reminded they could access SegWay to receive regular updates written directly by staff, ensuring consistent and timely communications.

Members received an update on staff wellbeing initiatives, as well as further details relating to a tragic motor vehicle accident which had resulted in a student losing their life, with the Corporation commending the College response, which had been considered supportive and comprehensive, having adapted the approach to group counselling as being opt out rather than opt in.

In concluding, the Corporation reviewed and endorsed the updated Strategic Improvement Plan, being reminded that the recommended actions within the draft were being implemented ahead of formal approval to ensure timely improvements, however, had remained draft available for edits ahead of approval alongside the College Self-Assessment Report, which had been approved under item 8. Key highlights included improvements in grade areas, pastoral support, personal development, and safeguarding. The Principal emphasised the importance of continuous improvement and the organisation's commitment to achieving high standards in education and governance. The Principal also outlined the progress made in developing key performance indicators (KPIs) and the implementation of new policies and strategies.

In concluding, the Principal emphasised the importance of aligning the plan with the college's strategic goals and ensuring that all actions are focused on achieving positive outcomes for students.

Item 11 – Approved: The Corporation resolved to note the update and approved the SIP.

12 - Date of Next Meeting and Closing Comments (Part A)

Item Lead: Corporation Chair

The Corporation members and attendees were reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 1st April 2025, with the Strategy and Governor Development Day to be held on Thursday, 15th May 2025, from 09:00 to 17:00. The Chair provided closing comments, thanking all members for their contributions and emphasising the importance of the upcoming meetings and strategic planning activities.

Item 12: Noted.

All staff, including staff Governors (except for the Principal, the Dir. Finance and Dir Governance and Compliance) withdrew.

PART B - REDACTED