

LTE Group Board

Minutes of the meeting of the LTE Group Board held on Tuesday 17 December 2019 in OP116, Openshaw

Present: Amina Bhodania, Jenifer Burden, Paula Cole, John Hacking, Philip Johnson, Phil Lanigan, Barry Lynch, Sue Murphy CBE (Chair), Paul Pritchard, Beth Rockey, Tim Sargeant, Malcolm Sugden, John Thornhill (CEO), Pauline Waterhouse OBE and Adam White.

Apology: Katrina Michel

In Attendance: Peter Cox (MD Novus), Rob Cressey (Group Finance Director), Linda Dean (MD Total People Ltd), Katy Ellams (Assistant Company Secretary & Legal Officer), Jennifer Foote MBE (Company Secretary & General Counsel), Gary Hughes (Group Marketing and External Relations Director), Lisa O' Loughlin (Principal, The Manchester College), Kate MacKenzie (Deputy Company Secretary & Solicitor) and Paul Taylor (Chief Operating Officer).

Part A

60/19	<p>Part A Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2019.</p> <p>Subject to the inclusion of Paula Cole in the list of those present, the part A minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2019 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>
61/19	<p>Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 18 November were presented and considered.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Annual Report of the Audit & Risk Committee be approved (A&R Minute No. 24/19 refers)</p>
62/19	<p>Financial Statements 2018/19</p> <p>With reference to the recommendation contained in Audit & Risk Committee Minute No. 25/19, the Board received the Financial Statements for the year 2018/19, the Regularity Audit and the External Auditors report. The Regularity report provided an unqualified opinion that in all material aspects the statutory corporation had complied with regularity audit requirements.</p> <p>Having received the information pertinent to the performance of the statutory corporation for the year, the Board considered the issue of going concern. The Board was informed that the external auditors, PwC, were not minded to sign-off the financial statements on a going concern basis until the facility agreements and associated inter-creditor agreement required for the next stage of the estates strategy had been signed. The Board was mindful that the next stage of the estates strategy was predicated on the successful completion of the financial agreements with the institutions providing grant funding or loan facilities and had requested a financial model for the next twelve months to illustrate how the institution remained</p>

	<p>a going concern should the completed finance agreements not materialise. The assumptions in the financial model were tested and the Board agreed that sufficient assurance existed that the model was valid and capable of being relied on. The Board directed that no decision would be made to continue the implementation phase of the estates strategy until such time that sufficient finance was in place to support that implementation. Therefore, either with the finance expected in place, or with a business as usual model and with the estates strategy paused, the Board was content that the corporation would operate on a sound financial base for the coming year.</p> <p>RESOLVED that, having confirmed that so far as each individual member is or is able to be aware, all the steps that he or she ought to have taken to know of any relevant audit information and to inform the college auditors of such have been taken and that assurance being in place to evidence the operation of the institution as a going concern for the coming year, the Chair be authorised to sign the financial statements on behalf of the Board.</p>
<p>63/19</p>	<p>Group SAR 2018/19</p> <p>The Board received the consolidated summary self-assessment report for 2018/19 for LTE Group. It was explained that the self-assessment process for Group Operations was currently under review to ensure that the metrics used were both relevant to that area and sufficiently robust to create a valid end assessment.</p> <p>Detailed analysis of the SAR by unit had been undertaken at divisional and subsidiary board level. The Board referred to the SAR of Total People and the recent IQR undertaken. The LTE Board recognised that the Board of Total People had been both self-critical and self-aware in its assessment of the quality of the company and that this had been undertaken against a backdrop of a national decline in the outcome of inspections for Independent Training Providers.</p> <p>The retention of a rigorous quality assessment process, supported by a robust QIP was acknowledged as the sensible way forward in order to both retain the current ‘good’ assessment standard and act as a foundation towards achieving excellence.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the LTE Group consolidated SAR for 2018/19 be approved.</p>
<p>64/19</p>	<p>Analysis of Ofsted Inspection Outcomes under EIF</p> <p>The Board received the presentation of the Principal on the changes as part of the new Education Inspection Framework and the impact of those changes for the institution. The Board understood that the new framework would not be so reliant on data but would instead seek to interact more directly with learners as part of a ‘deep dive’ curriculum review methodology. In response to a query, it was confirmed that Prison Governors would own the inspection grade for each establishment under the new framework and a separate grade would not be given to the education provider as under the previous Common Inspection Framework.</p> <p>Governors discussed the implications of the new framework and recognised that some fundamental challenges existed. However, the Board considered that sufficient assurance had been received that the issues identified were being addressed and cited the introduction of Advanced Teacher roles together with the adoption of mastery of subject at middle tier as a strategic objective, as evidence</p>

	<p>to support this. However, the Board remained aware that the curriculum 'deep dive' process would present a particular challenge for a very large institution.</p>
<p>65/19</p>	<p>TMC/UCEN Manchester Divisional Board Updates and Part A Minutes</p> <p>Part A minutes of the following Divisional Boards and Committees were presented for consideration:</p> <p>TMC Divisional Board held on 9 November 2018 UCEN Manchester Divisional Board 30 November 2018</p> <p>The Board noted the delay in receipt of the issue of the quality assurance report by the OfS following the recent review and agreed that the Academic Governance Structure needed to encompass the oversight of the relevant parts of MOL provision.</p>
	<p>RESOLVED that as the items to be considered are deemed commercially sensitive, the Board move into confidential session.</p>
	<p>Chair</p> <p>Date</p>

The meeting closed at 3:00pm