

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION OF
BARROW-IN-FURNESS SIXTH FORM COLLEGE HELD ON
TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2008**

Present:

Members: Derek Lyon (Chair), John Barker, Jen Billingham, John Calvert, Grant Cronin, Lee Dacre, John Goddard, Dave Kelly (Principal), Liz Kershaw, Greg Peers, Mike Phipps, Eugene Tumelty

In attendance: Jan Fielding (Vice-Principal)

Clerk: Ed Elvish.

Apologies: Hazel Charlesworth, Gill de Bourcier

1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Clerk took the chair for this item. Nominations were sought for the role of Chair of the Corporation. Derek Lyon was nominated by John Goddard and seconded by John Calvert. There were no further nominations and Derek Lyon was therefore elected.

Hazel Charlesworth was nominated for the role of Vice Chair by Derek Lyon and seconded by Mike Phipps. There were no further nominations and Hazel was therefore elected.

Derek Lyon took the chair and welcomed the two student representatives to the meeting

2 Conflict of Interest

Members confirmed that they had no conflict of interest with the business of the meeting as detailed in the Agenda.

3 Minutes

Documents received;

- Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2008 were accepted

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising other than those covered by the agenda.

5 Reports from Committees

5.1 Quality Improvement and Standards Committee

John Goddard presented the report of the Quality Improvement and Standards Committee meeting on Tuesday 23rd September 2008

Documents received

- Strategic Summary
- Annual Plan
- Examination Results 2008
- Enrolment September 2008
- Quality Manual
- Validation Handbook

The Principal reported that, following a re-mark, the AS sociology results were much improved. Overall Value Added ALIS results for all sixth form colleges have now been published and the College comes out well.

In response to a question about the consequences of higher than target enrolment figures the Principal reported that increased funding for this year is unlikely but revision of allocations for the following year is expected.

The Corporation accepted the minutes of the Quality Improvement and Standards Committee meeting of 23rd September 2008

6 Building Project Report

The Principal reported that the College's submission to the LSC Capital Committee was due in December. An additional meeting of the Corporation will be required on October 30th to receive a presentation from the property consultants and to sign off the bid. The Chair emphasised the need for full attendance at this meeting. The Corporation needs to commit to borrowing of £ 2 ½ million which will produce a brief period of risk through December ahead of final confirmation of the project. BREEAM very good has been achieved. The possibility of achieving BREEAM excellent is under discussion.

7 Academy Development Update

The Principal updated the meeting on the work which had been carried out by the consultants since his last report. This had continued to be overseen by the steering group chaired by Anne Attwood, Principal of Furness College another of the joint sponsors. There is also representation from, amongst others, the Local Authority and the DCSF.

The Project Steering Group had met at the beginning of the Autumn Term and subsequently the Local Authority has decided to continue with a second phase of consultation under the terms of the original expression of interest. The Principal pointed out that he felt it important that at this stage the College did not take up a position on the options being explored.

There has been pressure from the DCSF for a single sponsor but this has been resisted. Similarly a desire from Brian Scowcroft for a single chief executive for all Cumbrian academies has been opposed.

There was considerable discussion on the options outlined in the consultation document but it was again emphasised that, in view of its sponsorship role, the College must continue to reserve its position

8 Ofsted Inspection

As previously discussed, a full inspection is expected this year. This will be briefer than previous inspections but governors will still be involved and needed to be aware of the potential for availability. There will also be an LSC audit at the same time which will include governance issues.

9 Health and Safety Committee

The minutes of the Health and Safety Committee meeting of 2nd July 2008 were noted. There were no major issues requiring Corporation attention.

10 FE Sector Priorities

Documents received:

- Letter from Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills

The letter was received and the Principal said that other papers relating to the contents were available to any governor wishing to see them.

7 College News

Presented by Jan Fielding

The Sixth Form College has ensured a high profile in the recently introduced Evening Mail monthly Learning Supplement and recent contributions had included substantial reports on the introduction of diplomas and the College visit to Morocco.

A highly successful presentation entitled 'Superstrings' had been given in college the previous week by a visiting lecturer, Professor Brian Foster of Oxford University. This had been very well received by college students and visitors.

Rod White had requested governor assistance with the work of the College Equality and Diversity Committee and John Goddard and Derek Lyon volunteered to help with this.

8 Confidentiality

No items were judged to be confidential