

# STRATFORD-UPON-AVON COLLEGE CORPORATION

## DRAFT MINUTES OF STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP MEETING FRIDAY 8 JANUARY 2010

<b>Present:</b>	Alan Richardson	Chair
	Mike Atkins	Governor
	Tony Jefferson	Governor
	Martin Penny	Principal
<b>In attendance</b>	Charles Anderson	Deputy Principal
	David Jackson	Clerk to the Corporation

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare any interest in business to be discussed at the meeting, following which Alan Richardson reminded the meeting that he was Chair of Governors at Coventry University.

### 3. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

It was resolved **THAT:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2009 be regarded as correct and signed by the Chair.

### 4. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda as substantive items.

### 5. **GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT DAY**

The Principal drew members' attention to the Governor Development Day scheduled for 22 January 2010 and, in particular, that matters of equality and safeguarding, which would have particular focus in Ofsted Inspections, would be dealt with at future meetings of the Corporation.

### 6. **STRATEGIC DISCUSSION**

Following a number of briefings attended by either the Principal or Deputy Principal before Christmas, the Principal outlined to the Group the national economic landscape for the College at the present time. Whilst many areas were still uncertain, given the economic climate, what was clear was that College funding would be reduced with an expectation in most cases that the College will deliver more for less funding. In addition, in the majority of areas there would be no additional money for growth.

The Principal went on to quote some possible scenarios of funding changes. He drew attention to a change in Government priorities where funds would be targeted towards perceived growth sectors which, in the main, were not areas of work in which Stratford-upon-Avon College was currently engaged.

He reported that indications were that the College would hit its funding targets for 2009/10 which, if successful, was good news as any cuts would be made on the base figures and any college under-achieving would likely to be subject to claw-back.

Governors concluded that the outlook was not good in terms of funding. They recognised, however, that Developing Destinies was still valid but the College would have to review how it was implemented.

Discussion then turned to training for businesses in terms of costs associated with the provision and the perceived need in the marketplace, both now and in the future. In terms of full-cost work, in the main it was felt that this should be restricted to those areas that are associated with statutory functions, such as First Aid training. The need to review College provision was recognised, as was the need for this to commence immediately to arrive at a prioritisation/implementation plan. It was recognised that the College needed to consolidate and position itself to move forward when the time was right.

Turning to the College estate, the Vice Principal – Resources outlined the considerations currently taking place in the Accommodation Working Group which was looking strategically at the College estate with a view to prioritising projects to take forward. The need for this to be carried out in conjunction with the long-term strategic goals was recognised and understood.

The Group explored a number of positive opportunities that the College has recently encountered, such as:

- Its participation in the National Skills Academy;
- The Creative Apprenticeship programme;
- Good staff;
- Good standards.

The Group then went on to discuss some of its competitors and the problems they are facing both in terms of colleges and other training providers.

Governors considered that the future lay in high quality provision that was economically viable and which could be communicated effectively to funders.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was resolved **THAT:**

The Strategic Planning Group meet again on **Friday 16 April 2010 at 8.30am.**