

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 8 December 2021 at 4.00pm

Present physically: N Savvas, CEO

Present virtually: C Higgins, Vice Chair
E D'Souza

S Clarke, Chair

In Attendance: J Raffel, CFO
R Stevenson, Group Operations Director
S Gales, Governance Professional

Apologies: None

Action

1 Declaration of Interests and Apologies for absence

CHiggins, ED'Souza, NSavvas and SClarke declared their roles as Trustees of Suffolk Academies Trust. No other conflicts of interest in relation to the items of the agenda were declared.

There were no apologies.

2 Capital Projects Update

The Committee considered the paper provided which outlined the T Level bids and the Office for Student grant.

SClarke noted that the capital budget for 2021/22 is £2.2m. The Committee noted that the £4.6m capital spend outlined in the paper refer to the amounts approved as part of the 3-year plan, as for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

JRaffel noted that the approved £4.6m capital budget comprised of:

- £ 950k operation planning equipment requests
- £ 245k generic capital budget managed centrally
- £1,000k estates capital budget
- £1,050k built environment roof (assumed will no longer take place)
- £ 888k T-Level match funding auto engineering (assumed cash outflow post year-end)
- £ 464k T-Level match funding health science (assumed cash outflow post year-end)

JRaffel noted that the T-Level funding will be spent at the end of the 2021/22 academic year and may well spill over into the 2022/23 academic year.

The Committee discussed whether to approve the first 3 items above as 'in budget' capital spend for this academic year; and approve the latter 2 items above as 'non-budgeted' capital spend expenditure.

JRaffel noted that as the built environment roof is not proceeding this will release circa £1m.

The Committee discussed that approval of the bids would affect the 2021/22 cash position of the College however would not change the overall effect on the 3-year cash position of the College as discussed and approved at previous Finance Committee meetings.

The Committee discussed cash balance as stated in the paper's Introduction is inaccurate; and asked JRaffel to update and recirculate the report for the record.

JRaffel

The Committee discussed each T-Level, and RStevenson noted that:

- the match funding element of the Digital T-Level bid is £106k
- the match funding element of the Health Science T-Level bid is £464k

- the match funding element of the Construction T-Level bid is £212k
The Committee **approved**, subject to clarification of the unbudgeted capital expenditure approval requirements in the Financial Regulations by the CFO, the match funding element of these bids and for the procurement process for these bids to begin.

The Committee discussed that, despite the College no longer pursuing the Auto Engineering T-Level bid, there is still a need to develop this curriculum area in readiness for T-Levels and growing cohorts. The Committee discussed that the original approved budget allowed a spend of £888k and, less the non-budgeted match funding of the Digital and Construction T-Levels, there is sufficient remaining capital spend budget to develop this area. The Committee **approved** the Executive to, outside of the T-Level bid parameters, utilise up to £300k to develop the Auto Engineering facilities.

The Committee discussed the Office for Students project and noted that as this has no match funding element, in accordance with our Financial Regulations, the expenditure of the grant funding can be authorised by the Chair of the Corporation and the Chief Executive Officer. The Chair of the Corporation and the Chief Executive Officer **approved** the expenditure of the grant funding.

3 **Any Other Business**

None.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm