

**CORPORATION**

**Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 5 October 2022 at 3.00pm**

<b>Present physically:</b>	A Duffety E D'Souza, Chair K Chapman	N Savvas, CEO S Daley, Vice Chair S Howard
<b>Present virtually:</b>	C Chua C Higgins, Vice Chair	H Colthorpe, Staff Governor (part) J Wakelam
<b>In Attendance:</b>	C Shaw, Principal Sixth Form Provision J Raffel, CFO M Chatt, Deputy CFO R Stevenson, Group Operations Director S Gales, Governance Professional S Graham, Chief People Officer	
<b>Apologies:</b>	D Harvey J Gazzard L Blackaby, HE Student Governor S Shaddock, FE Student Governor	

**Action**

- Declaration of Interests and Apologies for absence**  
C Higgins, E D'Souza, J Wakelam, N Savvas, and S Daley declared their roles as Trustees of Suffolk Academies Trust. No other conflicts of interest in relation to the items of the agenda were declared.

Apologies were received from D Harvey, J Gazzard, L Blackaby, and S Shaddock.

- ECG Strategic Plan 2022-25**  
Governors received and considered the strategic plan which was developed following the series of strategic discussions last academic year which led into our Strategic Conference on 8 May 2022, and then the steer given from Governors at the Strategic Conference.

The strategic plan was further refined to incorporate additional feedback from the Executive and Governors following the sharing of the draft version and workshop with Governors and SAT Trustees in September.

The CEO reflected on our local context in which we set the strategy, noting the uncertainty in the economy and the issues facing our communities. The CEO reconfirmed that we are here for the community, so we need to deliver the most impact and positive benefit within our limited resources, which is why we are working as a Group and sharing best practice and resources so we can invest in the wrap around support services our students and community need.

*H Colthorpe joined the meeting at 3.20pm*

The CEO outlined the core elements of the Strategic Plan. Our vision is:  
*To deliver a world-class, inspirational life-long learning journey that drives prosperity and wellbeing for all in our communities.*

The CEO noted that progression remains at the heart of everything we do, so we can continue to support students to the next stages of their lives by focusing on qualifications, connections, and personal development.

The CEO confirmed that the curriculum offer of the Group is considered by phase of education (pre-16, sixth form, university and professional development, and love of learning) and the strategy focuses on our four overarching strategic priorities (students, people, communities, and infrastructure).

Governors commended the strategic plan as a good balance of inspirational forward-thinking strategy and a document with attention to detail and measurable deliverables.

Governors thanked the Executive for the opportunity to feedback on the draft strategy and for the subsequent integration of the amendments.

Governors discussed the use of 'love of learning' and queried whether there should be more explicit references to 'life-long learning' and asked the CEO to consider.

CEO

Governors discussed whether specific stakeholders might want a local strategy for each institution. Governors noted that the Group's overarching strategy is appropriate and that we could develop a local sub-strategy for each institution which could be published on their website.

Governors **unanimously approved** the version of the ECG Strategic Plan 2022-25 presented, subject to amendments on page 10 to update the map, page 17 to remove duplication between 'our technology' and 'our data, systems, and processes', and on page 21 to update the timeline, and consideration of the 'life-long learning' item above. Governors agreed to feedback any further amendments by 12 October 2022 to the Governance Professional.

CEO  
Governors

The Chair outlined the plans for the Strategic Conferences in 2022/23, noting the conference in January 2023 will explore growth opportunities and the conference in May 2023 will reflect on progress against the Strategic Plan.

3. **Appointment of CFO**

Governors received and considered the paper provided that noted that John Raffel our current CFO is leaving at the end of December 2022 and following the conclusion of a national search campaign led by Peridot recruitment, and involving the Chair, CEO, Chief People Officer and members of the senior executive and finance teams, we have found a very experienced candidate.

Governors **appointed** Anthony McGarel as CFO with effect from 19 December 2022, in accordance with the DfE's governance guide for FE and sixth-form college corporations and the Corporation's Scheme of Delegation.

4. **Appointment of Finance Committee Chair**

Governors received and considered the paper provided that noted that Martin Chatt has resigned from his governance role, and as such we need to appoint a new Chair for the Finance Committee.

Governors noted their desire to continue to operate with a common Chair across the Finance Committees of West Suffolk College and Suffolk Academies Trust, and therefore **appointed** Chris Higgins as Chair, with Alexandra Duffety remaining as the Vice Chair (who is also a Governor independent of Suffolk Academies Trust).

5. **Any Other Business**

None.

The meeting closed at 4.04pm