

Special Search and Governance Committee Minutes

Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 5 pm, via Teams

Governors: Fabienne Bailey (Committee Chair), Stuart Blackett (FE Corporation Chair), Grant Glendinning (Chief Executive and Group Principal) and Dot Smith (Chair of Standards Improvement Committee)

Apologies: None

Officials: Sarah Thompson (Clerk to the Corporation)

S23/13 Agenda Item 1 – Welcome, apologies, declarations of interest, notification of items of other business

The Chair welcomed governors to the meeting and noted that there were no apologies for absence. There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda and no additional items of business notified for consideration.

S23/14 Agenda Item 2 – Governing Body and committee membership

A report had been circulated presenting applications for governorship from Amanda Olvanhill and Hamish Rutherford and for co-opted membership of the Audit and Standards Improvement Committees respectively from Gary Bowdler and Bernice Wood. Members of the Search and Governance Committee reported on their meetings with candidates and it was noted that the various and differing skills of all applicants were in line with the identified recruitment priorities. Members also noted the commitment and aspiration expressed by all candidates during discussions. It was recognised that some applicants had less experience of governorship / Board membership and could require some additional support to be fully successful in the role. However, there were no concerns regarding this; indeed, this was recognised as a positive opportunity to ensure fresh ideas and a new perspective within the Corporation.

Governors **noted** the membership update and **agreed** to recommend to the FE Corporation:

- i) the appointments of Amanda Olvanhill and Hamish Rutherford as governors for a term of office of four years, subject to satisfactory pre-appointment checks; and their appointments to the Finance and Employment Committee;
- ii) the appointment of Gary Bowdler as co-opted member of the Audit Committee for a term of office of four years, subject to satisfactory pre-appointment checks;
- iii) the appointment of Bernice Wood as co-opted member of the Standards Improvement Committee for a term of office of four years, subject to satisfactory pre-appointment checks.

S23/15 Agenda Item 3 – Governor recruitment

Members noted the circulated report providing an update in relation to the governor recruitment process being led by Peridot, recruitment consultants, under the Department for Education 'Governor Recruitment Service'. It was noted that the deadline for applications had been set as Wednesday 14th June, with shortlisting to take place on Friday 23 June and interviews on Friday 30 June. Unfortunately, Fabienne Bailey, Search and Governance Committee Chair, was no longer available for the interview date and members were therefore asked to review interview panel membership in light of this. Governors supported the inclusion of Subhash Chaudhary (Audit Committee Chair) within the interview panel, subject to his availability.

Governors **agreed** that:

- i) the shortlisting panel for the governor interviews scheduled for 30 June 2023 should comprise Stu Blackett (Corporation Chair), Dot Smith (Corporation Vice Chair), Grant Glendinning (Chief Executive) and Sarah Thompson (Clerk to the Corporation); with the interview panel potentially also to include Subhash Chaudhary;
- ii) the governor interviews scheduled for 30 June 2023 should be held online but candidates could be offered an opportunity to visit the sites in advance of interviews.

S23/16 Agenda Item 4 – Any Other Business

There were no items of other business.

S23/17 Agenda Item 5 – Approval of Documents for Public Inspection

It was **agreed** that the agenda and supporting documents should be made available for public inspection, with the exception of the governor application forms and CVs presented under Item 2, which were deemed confidential as they included personal information. Minutes would be published following committee approval.

S23/18 Agenda Item 6 – Date, time and venue of next meeting

Thursday 25 May 2023, 1.30 pm via Teams (subsequently re-scheduled to Thursday 22 June, 5.30 pm, via Teams)

Approved at a meeting held on 22 June 2023