

## **Notes of the Corporation Development Event held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 at 11:00 hours at the CAT Centre, Brierley Hill**

Members Present: Julius Adams  
Liam Butler  
Sally Cornfield  
Wendy Davies (items 1 – 6)  
Ana Ferreira  
Paul Hartridge  
Diana Martin (Chief Executive & Principal) (CEP)  
Paul Noon (Chair)  
Jack Stokes  
Sarah Wood

In Attendance: Rachel Corns (Vice Principal)  
Gill Darwood (Director of Corporate Governance) (DCG)  
Susanne Davies (Director of IoT and Partnerships)  
Debbie Goode (Executive Director Public Affairs and Marketing)  
Steve Johnson (Executive Director of Estates & Capital Projects)  
Louise Jones (Chief Finance Officer)  
Claire Millard (Vice Principal)  
Samantha Jocelyn-Spears (Assistant Principal)

### **1 Confirmation of quorum**

1.1 The DCG confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

2.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Ian Austin, Nirmal Gupta, Mpathisi Ncube, Jason Parker, Liz Sithole, Tom Westley and Kathryn Jones.

### **3 Declarations of interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda.

### **4 Tour of CAT Centre**

4.1 Members undertook a tour of the CAT Centre where they were able to meet curriculum staff and students and view facilities.

### **5 Green Skills Road Map**

5.1 Lowell Williams on behalf of Colleges West Midlands joined the meeting to provide a presentation which covered the Green Skills Road Map which he had developed in collaboration with CWM colleagues.

- Green Skills Road Map project funded by Learning and Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) – to look at how the region could do more to deliver green skills.
- This work was about skills young people and adults needed to work in an economy which would have to change to deal with the climate change. (Another strand of work around carbon footprint was funded via WMCA).
- Demonstration provided of the Roadmap which contained links to resources.

- Green Jobs Barometer from PWC – website showed jobs mapped out in each regional economy (a tool of particular value for Curriculum Managers) to look by sector to see what was forecasted in their areas, highlighting ‘sunset jobs’ v. ‘green jobs’. Noting position of West Midlands was not very favourable for new job creation.
- Some concern as to whether the new WMCA Mayor had yet picked up the opportunity for jobs in this area - green industrial revolution was championed by previous Mayor.
- Green jobs needed green skills, ie. need colleges to deliver/adapt their curriculum to do this.
- Defining green skills – 4 definitions – technical green skills, community empowerment skills, green custodianship skills for young people, sustainability leadership skills (SMEs needed support in this area). Needed to sit at the heart of college strategy.
- Green skills curriculum – current levels of participation for adults, young people and apprentices. An interactive dashboard showed levels of participation in qualifications which were green or precursor to green. This showed a significant imbalance of gender and ethnicity towards white male in all green technology areas.
- Green jobs came in at a higher level than the jobs being replaced – more skilled, level 3 or above.
- Courses for young people were not ‘green courses’ per se but pipeline of courses in electrical, engineering, science, technology.
- Science bucks the trend with higher female participation (due to participation in health and social care programmes?).

5.2 It was noted that the data would be updated with 2024 data the following week.

5.3 The presentation noted that there was no coherent regional plan for technical skills. The challenge was for colleges to plan more strategically and collaboratively. A number of areas of opportunity were highlighted:

- Within the area of community empowerment skills for adults – upskilling adults in the community opportunities such as reducing energy bills. There was an opportunity to design a compelling plan which could be funded via WMCA.
- Sustainability leadership skills for employers – needed development for small businesses.
- Checklist of 36 things colleges could do now to set the direction of travel – signposts.

5.4 The Chair noted that this work should ideally be linked to investment zones in the region but L Williams noted this was not currently done in a coherent way and there was an opportunity for stronger civic leadership.

5.5 D Goode noted the need for a uniform classification of green curriculum.

5.6 P Hartridge noted the importance of buy-in from awarding bodies to recognise qualifications.

- 5.7 The CEP suggested that it would be helpful for L Williams to provide a similar presentation to the College's Wider Management Group or Curriculum Managers, which he would be happy to do.
- 5.8 A potential item for a future development day agenda would be to invite the College's sustainability manager to present what the College was doing in this area.
- 5.9 Members thanked Lowell Williams for his informative presentation and he then left the meeting.
- 5.10 **It was resolved** to note the presentation on the Green Skills Road Map.

## 6 **Confidential - Estates Strategy review**

This matter is the subject of a separate and confidential note.

*Wendy Davies left the meeting.*

*The following staff members, who had attended a previous presentation, left the meeting: Rachel Corns, Susanne Davies, Debbie Goode, Steve Johnson, Claire Millard, Samantha Jocelyn-Spears.*

## 7 **Prevent and community safety update**

- 7.1 The CEP welcomed Mark Wilson, Community Safety Officer for DMBC to the meeting, who provided a confidential briefing to members on the current activities and issues of concern within the borough in relation to Prevent and community safety.
- 7.2 Following the presentation, members discussed the implications of the matters raised for the College and the local community, and considered any additional actions the College could take to support cohesion and partnership working.
- 7.3 In response to a suggestion from the CEP, M Wilson confirmed that he would be able to support training for students on misogyny, and suggested other topics for consideration from other organisations such as Bystander Intervention Training and other awareness raising topics. **The CEP would follow up with M Wilson on this outside of the meeting.**
- 7.4 **It was resolved** to note the Prevent and community safety update.
- 7.5 Members thanked Mark Wilson for his attendance and he then left the meeting.
- ## 8 **Any Other Business**
- 8.1 There were no items of other business.
- ## 9 **Chair's Closing Remarks**
- 9.1 The Chair thanked members for their attendance and contributions to discussions.
- ## 10 **Date of next meeting**
- 10.1 The next meeting of the Corporation would be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at 16.30 hours.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.

*Approved by Corporation Members at the meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025.*