

## **Minutes of the Estates Committee held on Wednesday, 1st October 2008**

Present: Mrs M Hopwood (Chair)  
Mr P Brown  
Mr B Dugdale  
Mr M Dixon  
Mrs M Damant  
Mrs J McAllister

In Attendance: Mr I Durham (Head of Estates and Facilities)  
Mr S Hooton (Assistant Principal Learners and Learning)  
Mrs S Jones (Assistant Principal Quality and Operations)  
Mrs M Robson (Assistant Principal ER and CR)  
Mrs S Shaw (Deputy Clerk)  
Mr J Stott (Clerk)

Apologies: None

Meeting commenced: 18:02

Meeting closed: 19:25

### **12/08 Disclosure of financial and/or personal interest**

There were no declarations of financial or personal interest.

### **13/08 To agree agenda and order of business as circulated**

The agenda and order of business were agreed as circulated.

### **14/08 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June were approved as a true record.

### **15/08 Matters Arising**

(a) The Chair asked for an update about the proposed composting project. The Head of Estates and Facilities explained that the equipment had been identified and that funding was currently being sought.

(b) Members noted that the Fair Trade Policy had been approved by Corporation.

### **18:06 The Principal and Assistant Principal for Learners and Learning joined the meeting.**

## 16/08 To consider an update on the Property Strategy

The Principal explained that the progress report had been put together for the Estates Committee since she considered that it was important for the Committee to understand the stage that had been reached and that the project continued to progress. She explained that a verbal update had already been received by Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The Principal took Members through the report in detail making the following points:

- (a) The Application in Principle would not be ready for the December Corporation.
- (b) Bradford Council's Strategic Director for Regeneration was now fully informed of the College's plans and had indicated support for them.
- (c) Topographical surveys of potential sites owned by the Council in central Shipley were now being arranged. Topographical work was also being arranged for a site in the Gaisby Lane area. Further preparation work was continuing in respect of the Mill Building and proposed refurbishment to the Salt and Exhibition buildings.
- (d) Initial Schedules of Accommodation had been drawn up in consultation with the various Sectors.
- (e) Initial design concept drawings for the new builds in Central Shipley and at Gaisby Lane and enhancements to the Mill Building had been drawn up. These were circulated to Members for information.

The Principal invited questions from Members.

A lengthy discussion followed during which the following issues were raised by Members:

- (i) Concern to re-visit the fundamental growth assumptions on which the project was founded. This was necessary in any event and particularly so in light of the current economic circumstances and wider economic, demographic and educational developments in the district.
- (ii) New buildings were likely to serve as an incentive to growth. Members were aware that a key weakness identified in the College's Self Assessment Report was lack of sports accommodation and that this had been acknowledged by Ofsted.

- (iii) The need to consider the possibility of site sharing and sponsorship arrangements with other organisations.
- (iv) The strategic importance of the College hub being based in the World Heritage site and the uniqueness of the setting.

The Principal confirmed that a review of the growth assumptions would be considered by F&GP and Estates Committee and the full Corporation in the process of finalising the detail of the investment appraisal.

The Principal commented that another key area for Corporation consideration would be the affordability of servicing loan repayments.

The Principal reminded Members that the LSC Capital programme was part of a Government commitment to improving the FE Estate by 2012. Members were reminded that additional revenue funding was not part of the package, hence the risks associated with the assumption of growth for all colleges with capital projects.

The Principal and Assistant Principals explained that there was potential for growth in all Sectors but that the current size of accommodation was a limiting factor. The Senior Management Team considered that the planned capital developments in the property strategy presented an essential risk that the College needed to take. A key strategic objective would be to ensure that the College's modest plans were included in the LSC's "Legacy Document" as forming part of the District's planned priority strategic investment in its FE Estate.

Members received the report.

## **17/08 Any other business**

The Head of Estates and Facilities presented the Energy Assessment Certificates that had been awarded to College buildings. It was noted that these compared favourably with buildings of this size, age and usage.

Dates of meetings: to be advised.

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 19:25pm