

MEETING OF THE CORPORATION OF MACCLESFIELD COLLEGE

TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025 AT 9:30AM

ALDERLEY EDGE HOTEL

Clerk: Ms S Gardiner

In attendance	C Johns, (Chair), M Wright, G Bristow, R Kay (Principal), D Rutley, E Kennedy, R Milkins, R Charlton, I Cass, I Jones,
Apologies	P Hunter, M Botwe, H Taylor, J Lewis, B Oultram (Student)
Non-governor attendance	L Reed (Deputy Principal) A Farrar (Director of Finance) T Cosgrave (for Item 4 only) M Sheehan-Slade (for Item 5 only)

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
MSS to produce a PR piece to share the exceptional outcome of the staff survey	MSS/Marketing	July 2025

MINUTES

Item Title

1. Regional Update presented by Rebecca Durber, AoC Area Director (NW)

Rebecca Durber, AoC Area Director (North West) was invited to the Corporation Meeting to provide an overview of the sector and update on topics currently affecting the FE sector.

Rebecca Durber attended the Corporation Meeting to share a presentation on behalf of the AoC. A summary of the presentation was as follows:

- New Government 'Missions' evaluation;
- Government strategies impacting post-16;
- Skills review;
- Curriculum and assessment review;
- Ofsted and new framework;
- Devolution of England and Mayoral elections;
- Funding overview for 2025/26 – capital grant announcement
- Implications of funding review;
- AoC priorities and next steps;
- How the AoC and Colleges can influence decisions made by Government;
- Questions.

CHALLENGE: A Member asked how businesses feed into skills England. This is mainly driven by Chamber of Commerce and larger businesses, rather than the SME's and micro businesses.

CHALLENGE: A Member stated that FE is not recognised by the Government, how can we change this. FE feeds into the Government skills plans. The AoC paper in response to the missions clearly shows how FE supports all the missions.

CHALLENGE: How can Boards ensure they remain agile amidst the mayoral election and subsequent appointment. The mayor election is growing in importance and therefore Board's would be minded to produce a local growth plan. A Member added that building relationships with the local MP would also assist the Colleges, especially as part of the spending review.

CHALLENGE: A Member queried whether the curriculum reform could see lines blurred with universities and colleges. It is possible that Universities could review their delivery for apprentices at Level 7. They could also look at whether they can deliver Level 3 and 4 programmes which would have a significant on FE colleges. Universities may look at linking in with Colleges in the future.

CHALLENGE: A Member raised concern over the increasing number of SEN students and rising costs to support them. This needs to be fed back to the Government. It was confirmed that the Government are currently undergoing a full SEN review across the education sector.

2. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies were received from P Hunter, M Botwe, Attendance was excused for H Taylor, J Lewis and B Oultram and this was an off site meeting.

3. Declaration of Members' Interest

There were no declarations of Members' interest.

Papers received had been uploaded to Decisions and were available to Governors one week prior to the meeting.

4. Employer Survey

Tracy Cosgrave, Vice Principal Employer and Commercial Services (TC) attended the meeting to present the outcome of the recent Employer Survey.

TC advised that surveys were sent to 262 employers, of which 70 responded (26.7%). TC confirmed that every question has seen an increase in satisfaction rates compared to last year, in particular the questions around feedback from the College and knowing who to contact within the team should any queries arise. Feedback and subsequent actions were shared with the Board.

CHALLENGE: A Member queried how the survey is shared and how the team follows up with those who haven't responded. TC advised that the survey is shared via email, with a follow up 2 weeks later. Direct phone calls have also been carried out.

5. HR Update

i. Mid Year Report of Staff Survey

Marie Sheehan-Slade, Director of HR (MS), joined the meeting to present the results of the recent staff survey. MS advised the Board that the College conducts their staff surveys through the Happiness Index which measure 4 key areas around how staff think and feel – Instinctive, Emotional, Reflective and Rational. MS confirmed that there has been a slight decline in response rate this year, however was pleased to share that the overall happiness score had risen from 7.8 to 8.2, which is above the world average.

The Board wished to commend MSS for the outstanding results of the survey and championed the hard work of the HR team. The culture, on boarding programme and wellbeing initiatives of the College are having a clear positive impact on the staff. A Member put forward that these results be shared in the public domain, sharing the College's best practice.

ii. Gender Pay Gap Report

MS provided Board with the recent Gender Pay Gap Report, confirming Macclesfield College's pay gap was -3.03% in favour of women.

6. Business

i. To receive the Management Accounts period ending 31 March 2025.

Annika Farrar, Director of Finance (AF) presented the Management Accounts for the period ending 31 March 2025 and noted the following points:

- The financial health score of the College has risen to 200 and remains Good;
- The closing balance for this month has resulted in 5 cash days, however this has risen to 9 in April. The DfE benchmark is 25 days;
- The AEB YTD income is tracking in line with budget and is expected to meet the annual target;
- Catering and transport costs have seen a rise due to increased sales and additional buses required due to the high numbers of enrolments.

AF confirmed that the post-16 budget grant will be received between April and July, however the College will only be receiving a third of what was originally expected. AF confirmed that a reduction on spend has been implemented until the end of the year.

CHALLENGE: A Member asked for confirmation on what full cost tuition fees are? AF confirmed that these are fees paid in full by the student.

CHALLENGE: A Member asked if investment into the new firewall was included in the budget. AF confirmed that this was all included and updates are due to take place over the summer break.

AF advised that the FECCA funding of £592k will be received in June 2025.

7. Teaching and Learning

i. To receive the updated College Improvement Plan

Lucy Reed, Deputy Principal (LR) presented an update on the College Improvement Plan, covering the following points:

- Quality of Education;
- Behaviour and Attitudes;
- Personal Development;
- Leadership and Management.

LR advised the Board on what actions had been implemented for each area and the impact they have made.

CHALLENGE: A Member queried the disciplinary process for vaping. LR explained that a student who is caught vaping outside the designated area is issued with an immediate 48 hour exclusion. This is a separate sanction within the behaviour policy.

LR provided an update on curriculum planning and advised that some areas will be removed from September 2025 including T Levels in Digital and Media, supported internships, science and Access to HE. New curriculum areas will be introduced from September 2025 including T Level Engineering, A Level Business, diploma in nail services plus a range of full cost programmes, Level 4 Higher Level Teaching Assistants and full costs in floristry and a specialist cooking offer.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next Corporation Meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 July 2025 at 9:30am at Macclesfield College.

9. Impact

The Board were in agreement that the main impact of this meeting was the success of the Staff Survey and wished to commend the HR and senior management team on their hard work. The results are outstanding and the Board would like this success to be shared publicly and best practice shared.