

## Minutes of the Search Committee 11<sup>th</sup>. March 2008

### Present:

Mr R. Hill (*Chair*)  
Mr PJ Alcock  
Mr JB Coxhead  
Mr R Peacock

### In attendance

Mr JD Perry, (*Clerk*)

1. **Declarations of Interest**                      None
2. **Apologies**                      Mr J Cotter, Canon L. Stoker
3. **Minutes of the Meeting 17<sup>th</sup>. October 2007**

**The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.**

4. **Matters Arising**                      None

### **5. Appointment of a Foundation Governor**

At its previous meeting the Committee had considered the vacancy for a Foundation Governor. Mrs Margaret Buckley who is a co-opted member of the Personnel & Quality Assurance Committee, had been suggested for the vacancy. Mrs Buckley is a member of St Pius's parish in Widnes. She was formally an Assistant Principal at Hulton College, the Coordinator of the 'Excellence in Cities' project in two authorities and had been an adviser on school improvement.

**The Committee resolved to recommend to the Governing Body that it commends Mrs Buckley to the Trustees of the Archdiocese for appointment as a Foundation Governor from 1<sup>st</sup>. April 2008.**

### **6. Report of the Internal Auditor on Corporate Governance**

As part of his annual programme of work, each year the Internal Auditor examines an aspect of corporate governance. In 2007-08, the topic had been governors' decision making in relation to the new build. The Auditor had published a 'clean' report with no recommendations, referring to the Report as giving "good assurance" which demonstrated the robustness of the work of governors in this

area. The Committee also felt that this was a compliment to the professionalism of the College's staff.

**The Committee noted the Report and referred it to the Accommodation Working Party.**

## **7. Skills Audit**

At the Committee's request, governors had completed a questionnaire designed to show the expertise and experience collectively of the Board. Strengths lay in the management and leadership of both private and public institutions. There is no governor with a legal background. Weaknesses lay in the promotion of sport and the arts. The Board is predominantly male and has a disproportion of older members.

**The Committee agreed to keep the Report in mind when seeking to fill future vacancies.**

## **8. Evaluation of the Strategic Planning Day, 19<sup>th</sup>. January 2008.**

The Committee commented on the number of very positive responses to the day and the range of topics covered. There was a general theme that governors would have liked to have spent more time in discussion. In addition to the business of the day, it had been felt that it was very useful to be able to meet other governors informally and this would contribute to improving the process of governing. CMT has already considered the Report.

**The Committee resolved:**

- (i) To note the Report**
- (ii) To recommend to the Corporation that a Strategic Planning Day be held in 2009.**
- (iii) To request a further report on the issues raised in discussion.**

## **9. Vacancies on the Search Committee**

The Committee wished to ensure that it was no longer all male and that also, there is representation from the governors who live outside of St Helens but within the areas served by the College. A discussion was held of a number of

capable and experienced governors who could make a valuable contribution to the Committee.

**The Committee decided:**

**(i) To declare two vacancies; one for Canon Leo and one for Mr Cotter.**

**(ii) To appoint Dr C Tyler and Mr M Nencini to the two vacancies.**

**10. Any Other Business**

None