BASINGSTOKE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

CORPORATION

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026

Membership (20):	1.	*	Mike Howe	External Member	Chair
	2.	i	Blaise Bissett	Student Member	
	3.	*	Priya Brown	External Member	
	4.	*	Charles Cardiff	External Member	
	5.	*	Terry Clarke	Staff Member	
	6.	*	Steve Fussey	External Member	
	7.	*	Lorraine Heath	Principal	
	8.	*	Beryl Huntingdon	External Member	
	9.	*	Nicole Martin	External Member	
	10.	*	Maria Miller	External Member	
	11.	ii	Arun Mummalaneni	External Member	
	12.		Rowena Prenderville	External Member	
	13.	*	Martin Slatford	External Member	
	14.	*	Sam Swinstead	External Member	
	15.	*	Colin Willoughby	External Member	
	16.	*	Pamela Woolgrove	External Member	
	17.		Vacancy (DM)	External Member	
	18.		Vacancy (CB)	External Member	
	19.		Vacancy (THA)	Staff Member	
	20.		Vacancy (KC)	External Member	
Quorum:			8 required	13 present	Meeting quorate
In Attendance:		*	Simon Burrell	Clerk to the Corporation	
		*	Gary Clark	Deputy Principal F&R (DPFR)	
		*	Greg Devereux-Cooke	AP Corporate Services (AP)	
		*	Claire Scott	Deputy Principal C&Q (DPCQ)	
Present at meeting:		*			
From Minute 1522:		i			
From Minute yyyy:		ii			

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SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

[Alexis Smith, Assistant Principal (APF) Foundation Learning and Student Voice]

The APF gave the Corporation an update on changes to safeguarding practices. In particular:

- Those activities that governing bodies should ensure were undertaken
- Feedback from the Ofsted pilot inspection undertaken in September 2025
- An outline of the current picture related to
    - Ofsted focus on inclusion
    - Children missing in education
    - Misogyny and sexism
    - Transgender guidance
- The significant changes to safeguarding for 2026/27, including new guidance on AI, updated mental health guidance, filtering and monitoring, violence against women and girls, LGB and gender-questioning, along with safer recruitment

The APF also updated the Corporation on matters related to PREVENT, the UK's counter terrorism strategy, and the current position in the Basingstoke area. With regards to specific college-related matters:

- 96.2% of students overall said they "Felt Safe at BCoT," representing a 17.0% increase compared to 2024/25
- 94.1% of students agreed that BCoT had created a "safe, disciplined and positive environment, a 17.8% increase compared to 2024/25
- Part-time students reported the highest levels of safety at 98.7%
- 94.4% of students overall felt they were "treated fairly by BCoT's staff," a 12.6% increase compared to 2024/25. Part-Time students reported the highest satisfaction in this area at 99.0%
- There had been1 referral to the Prevent Panel
- There had been 85 multi-agency meetings

The APF also outlined the role of the Family Help service offered by HCC.

Looking to the 'picture' for BCoT, the APF advised that:

- Financial Pressures: Finances would continue to have an impact on many of the students and their families, particularly the impact of the cost of living
- Refugees & Asylum Seekers: Concerns following recent riots and false news updates. Growing number of protests around their accommodation
- Parent Attitudes: Attitudes to education have seen a change after COVID
- Looked After Children: The College had seen an increasing numbers of such students
- Legislative Updates: Awaiting Government legislation on guidance for supporting transgender students in education

Safeguarding Annual Report 2025/26 and Audit Return

The Corporation received and considered the Safeguarding Annual Report 2025/26 and Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Audit Tool.

It was RESOLVED that the Safeguarding Annual Report 2025/26 and the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Audit Tool be agreed.

[A copy of the presentation has been added to the agenda papers on Trust Governor]

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PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

(5.10pm)		ACTION
1518.	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Arun Mummalaneni (late arrival), Rowena Prenderville, Sam Swinstead.	
1519.	**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** The following Declarations of Interest were noted: 1. Arun Mummalaneni was an elected Member of Basingstoke & Dene Borough Council. 2. The Principal was the Chair of WBTC Board of Trustees.	
1520.	**NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS** There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business notified.	
1521.	**MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATION** **1. Resignation of Tia Harris-Austen (Staff Member)** The resignation of Tia Harris-Austen was noted. **2. Resignation of Kevin Croombs (External Member)** The resignation of Kevin Croombs was noted. **3. Appointment of Blaise Bissett (Student Member)** It was noted that Blaise Bissett had been nominated to serve as the Student Member. **It was RESOLVED that Blaise Bissett be appointed as the Student Member for a term of office expiring on 31 July 2027.** **4. Appointment of Sarah Marston and Ben Rudd as External Members** The Chair of the Search Ctte advised that it had undertaken a robust and comprehensive interview process with Sarah Marston and Ben Rudd and had recommended that they both be appointment as External Members of the Corporation. Copies of their CVs were attached to the agenda papers. **It was RESOLVED that Sarah Marston and Ben Rudd be appointed as External Members.**	
1522.	**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 July 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.	
1523.	**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** There were no Matters Arising considered that were not due to be discussed elsewhere at the meeting.	

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	ITEMS FOR APPROVAL	
1524. (5.15pm)	**ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE 2025/26** The DPCQ gave a verbal update on the achievements to date. She stressed that they had still to be finalised (due 19 Oct 2026) and an update would be made to the Curriculum & Quality Ctte at its meeting in November 2026. However, the current headline achievement data was: • E&T: Down by 0.1%point to 86.7% • 16-18: Up by 0.8%point to 86% • 19+: Down 0.6%point • Apprenticeship: Out-turn of 58.8%, down by 0.4%point • GCSE English: 95% pass rate, up by 0.3%point (high grades at 18.2% - 0.7%point above the national average of 17.5%) • GCSE Maths: 95.5% pass rate, up by 0.9%poimt (high grades at 24.5% - 11.1%points above the national average of 11.4%) • T Levels: 100% pass rates for both year 1 and year 2 - year 1 high grades (A*-C) = 25%, year 2 high grades (Distinctions and Merits) = 68.8%, up 10% In response to questions from the Corporation, the DPCQ confirmed that GCSE results had shown positive progression from the grades that students had joined the College with. Overall, the Corporation was pleased to note the positive improvements continuing to be made regarding achievements.	**C&Q Ctte**
1525. (5.25pm)	**ENROLMENT REPORT 2026/27** A written report was received for information and noted. The AP advised that (as of 28 Sep 2026) 2059 full-time students had been enrolled, an overall increase of 111. However, the additional increase was 44 students lower than planned when the budget for 2026/27 had been agreed. The AP advised further that, following an initial review of the enrolment data, whilst the local demographics had continued to increase, the College's share of year 11 leavers (from the Basingstoke feeder schools) had reduced from 34.1% (2025/26) to 30.1% (2026/27). In response to a question from a Member the AP advised that, based on data received from HCC, there were c500 year 11 leavers that had progressed to other providers outside of the Basingstoke area. (Arun Mummalaneni joined the meeting) With regards to levels of study, the AP advised that Level 3 numbers continued to decline but that Level 1 and Level 2 enrolments continued to increase. The AP advised further that following the increase in full-time enrolments there had also been an increase in the number of re-sit students for English (+2.8% at 1068) and maths (+3.5% at 1112). The DPCQ also advised that there had been a corresponding increase in high-needs learners, and that had brought about bigger challenges for the College. There were 314 students with EHCPs, of which the College was claiming high needs funding for 228 of them, up 46 on 2025/26.	

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1525. (cont)	The AP highlighted the departmental breakdown of enrolments vis-à-vis individual departmental increases/decreases. In response to a question from a Member related to T Levels operating in 2026/27, the DPCQ advised that three courses (Business, Early Years, Engineering) were running but the T Level in Animal Management was not running. With regards to funding, Members were advised that the College would not be fully funded for the increase in 16-19 learner number until 2027/28 because of the lagged-funding. However, the DfE had committed to meeting growth in its entirety and was not subject to affordability as it had been in 2025/26. Growth funding would contribute towards the additional costs incurred this year to teach the higher number of students. It was stressed that the growth calculation was dependent on the numbers in the R04 ILR return, which was not due until December. After applying retention factors to these enrolment figures, and assuming similar in-year trends as in previous years, the full-year funding value of this growth was estimated at £2,110k. The College had also submitted funding claims with a total anticipated value of £2.8m for its EHCP high needs learners. The budget had assumed income at £2.5m, and that if the claims were approved the College would receive an additional £300k of income. However, there would be additional costs incurred to deliver the level of support these learners need. Looking at future expectations, the AP highlighted that as year 11 school pupil numbers continued to rise through to 2028, the College expected that its 16-19 enrolments would continue to increase. Projections, based on a static market share and rate of internal progression, have been made and those showed the possibility of full-time enrolments exceeding 2000 in each of the next three years. Adult (19+) full-time numbers were similar to 2025/26. More students had enrolled onto the Access to Higher Education course, and that the majority of the adult students studying in the curriculum areas tended to be under 25 years of age. Enrolment onto part-time courses was also similar to last year. Apprentice enrolments had seen a lower number of enrolments, with approx. 40 less new starts than 2025/26. The AP highlighted a range of actions to be undertaken based on: • Review of the College's schools' liaison function to ensure it was providing best experience • Looking into incoming school grades, and what affect this has had on enrolments • Careers advisors lunch, who attends and do they get a good experience of BCoT and understanding of progression routes • Review of the College's taster days, particularly correlation between schools that did/did not attend and subsequent enrolments • Further analysis of market share by feeder school, including those outside of the Basingstoke and Deane area, and by level At the conclusion of the report, the Corporation raised several challenges, especially regarding the downturn in the College's market-share of year 11 leavers, and whether increased achievement rates of those leavers affected their choice of post 16 provider.	

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	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION	
1526. (6.06pm)	**STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-30: KPIs** A written report was received for information and noted. The AP took the Corporation through the report and highlighted that: • Short term staff sickness had increased slightly but long term had declined slightly • Staff satisfaction survey results had declined slightly, and a full report would be made to the F&R Ctte at its meeting in November 2026 • Student survey for 2025/26 showed an overall improvement over 2024/25 and would be considered in detail at the C&Q Ctte meeting in November 2026 • Lesson observations undertaken so far in 2026/27 showed 100% (7) of observation recorded at 'Advanced Practitioner' or 'Progressing Practitioner' • Student applications for 2027/28 were ahead of the same period in 2026/27 • 2025/26 in-year retention for 16–19-year-olds continued to improve year-on-year but 19+ had reduced by 0.8%point	**F&R Ctte** **C&Q Ctte**
1527.	**PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE (INCL WBTC)** The Principal advised that: • Local government reorganisation in Hampshire had been paused • Devolution was still progressing with mayoral elections still planned for 2028 • 16-19 funding still proposed to be devolved to elected mayors • Southampton Solent University was looking at opportunities for delivering HE in Basingstoke, with BDBC and BCoT both involved in discussions • Inclusion Strategy for Basingstoke (BCoT/QMC/BDBC/Hampshire Chamber) looking at options to streamline the process • Ofsted inspection expected during the current year (2026/27), working with an external consultant to help and prepare for it. Appropriate training for the Corporation in due course • Students from the College were part of the BBC DIY SOS program shown on television the previous evening	
1528.	**WEST BERKS TRAINING CONSORTIUM** The Principal advised that: • The current financial position for WBTC looked fairly positive and that their end of year (2026/27) prediction was likely to generate a surplus • There were still concerns regarding revenue for 2027/28 following DfE changes to apprenticeship funding • The WBTC Board had established a Risk & Finance Ctte to review a range of issues related to future operations	
1529.	**CHAIR'S UPDATE** • The Development Day on 12 Nov 2026 would concentrate on the College SAR validation, the national curriculum review, and adult provision/devolution • The Chair and Beryl Huntington would be attending the forthcoming Duty to Review meeting and would update the Corporation at the next meeting • ETF had updated their training materials for Corporation Members. The Clerk would circulate the appropriate link to all Members and the Chair requested all Members to review	**Chair** **Clerk**

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1530.	**ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS** There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business discussed.	
1531.	**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS** *[Meetings commence at 4.30pm unless stated]* Thu 12 Nov 2026 (3.00pm Development Day) Wed 9 Dec 2026 Wed 24 March 2027	
1532.	**EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS AND/OR NON-MEMBERS** No Members or Non-Members were excluded from the meeting.	
1533.	**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** The Confidential Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 July 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.	
1534.	**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES** **1. Newbury College** (Minute CC131) It was noted that the FEC had recommended that Newbury College would merge with Activate College.	
(6.45pm)	Meeting closed	

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NOTES:
General acronyms used in the Minutes include:

AI	Artificial Intelligence	ETF	Education & Training Foundation	NEETs	Not in employment, education or training
BDBC	B'stoke & Deane Borough Council	FEC	FE Commissioner	OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education
DFE	Dept for Education	HCC	Hampshire County Council	MD	Managing Director
EHCP	Educ & Health Care Plans	KPIs	Key performance indicators	QIP	Quality Improvement Plan
EMT	Executive Management Team	LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer	WBTC	West Berkshire Training Consortium

Confirmed as a correct record		9 Dec 2026