

BASINGSTOKE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

CORPORATION

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2025

Membership (20):	1.	*	Mike Howe	External Member	Chair
	2.		Caroline Baker	External Member	
	3.		Anthony Bravo	Principal	
	4.	*	Priya Brown	External Member	
	5.		Charles Cardiff	External Member	
	6.	*	Terry Clarke	Staff Member	
	7.	*	Kevin Croombs	External Member	
	8.	*	Steve Fussey	External Member	Vice Chair
	9.		Rosie Haver	Student Member	
	10.	*	Beryl Huntingdon	External Member	
	11.		Nicole Martin	External Member	
	12.	*	Maria Miller	External Member	
	13.		Arun Mummalaneni	External Member	
	14.		Dave Murray	External Member	
	15.	*	Rowena Prenderville	External Member	
	16.		Martin Slatford	External Member	
	17.		Sam Swinstead	External Member	
	18.	*	Colin Willoughby	External Member	
	19.		Pamela Woolgrove	External Member	
	20.		Vacancy (IW)	Staff Member	
Quorum:			8 required	9 present	Meeting quorate
In Attendance:	*		Simon Burrell	Clerk to the Corporation	
	*		Gary Clark	Director of Finance (DoF)	
	*		Lorraine Heath	Deputy Principal (DPCPI)	
	*		David Moir	Deputy Principal (DPFR)	
Present at meeting:	*				

PRE-MEETING DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE AND ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

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

The AP gave a presentation updating the Corporation on safeguarding matters. In particular she outlined those areas that the Corporation should ensure that:

- Appropriate policies and procedures were in place, including filtering and monitoring
- The Safeguarding Policy was reviewed annually, and the Safeguarding Annual Report received and approved
- All other policies reviewed regularly

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), Part 1 and Annex B updated
- Hampshire Annual Audit received and noted
- Action taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare
- Clear processes in place
- All staff complete online training and have safeguarding induction

OfSTED pilot inspection feedback had showed that:

- Leaders and those responsible for governance and/or oversight had established an open culture in which safeguarding was everyone's responsibility
- Learners and apprentices were kept safe and felt safe
- Learners knew how to report safeguarding incidents and trust that leaders would address them
- Leaders had strategic oversight of all aspects of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of learners and apprentices of all ages
- Learners and apprentices were informed of the safeguarding support available
- Teaching learners and apprentices in an age-appropriate way about how they could stay safe and when they might need help was embedded within the curriculum
- Learners and apprentices, parents, employers and other stakeholders knew who to go to for support

In addition, following the OfSTED pilot inspection:

- Leaders, staff and those responsible for governance and/or oversight knew and fulfilled the relevant statutory requirements for safeguarding i.e. annual safeguarding training, Keeping Children Safe in Education and Prevent
- Leaders, staff and those responsible for governance and/or oversight were receptive to challenges and were reflective about their practices. This meant that the impact of safeguarding policies, systems and processes was continually monitored
- Leaders and those responsible for governance and/or oversight ensured that staff were appropriately supervised, supported and monitored. Where the conduct and behaviour of staff was not appropriate, leaders took action

The AP highlighted the key requirements of the Online Safety Act 2023 and the new offences contained in it. In response to a challenge by the Chair she confirmed that the College was able to monitor and block access to prohibited sites/VPNs

Regarding Prevent (the Uks Counter Terrorism Strategy), it was noted that Hampshire had referred 242 individuals in 2024, that 61% of such referrals were aged under 18, and many had no ideology. The College had made 1 referral.

Headlines from 2024/25 highlighted by the AP included:

- Mobile phone policy - a success, each term less students had been sent home
- 1008 students strongly agreed, agreed, neither agreed or disagreed, to feeling safe at BCoT. 37 disagreed, reasons included things being out of the College's control
- Continued with multi agency working over 150 referrals
- 1 referral to Prevent Panel

A Member questioned why the AP had not included any reference to 'organised crime gangs' that were prevalent. The AP advised that these mainly involved those under 16, but there was at least one 'gang' operating in the Basingstoke area.

Reviewing areas for attention in 2025/26:

- Bereavement
- Continuing to see high numbers of students with anxiety and this has impacted on education with lots of missed learning
- This cohort were in year 6 for COVID lockdown
- LAC number has gone down but we are identifying more in kinship which is sometimes more challenging
- Over 200 with EHCPs

Safeguarding Annual Report 2024/25 and Audit Return

The Corporation received and considered the Safeguarding Annual Report 2024/25 and Audit Return.

It was RESOLVED that the Safeguarding Annual Report 2024/25 be agreed, and the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Audit Return be received and noted.

PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

(5.20pm)		ACTION
1447.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Caroline Baker, Anthony Bravo, Charles Cardiff, Arun Mummalaneni, Dave Murray, Martin Slatford, Sam Swinstead, Pamela Woolgrove.</p>	
1448.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <p>The following standing Declarations of Interest were noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arun Mummalaneni was an elected Councillor for Hampshire County Council and for Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. 2. The Principal was the Chair of WBTC Board of Trustees. 	
1449.	<p>NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business notified.</p>	
1450.	<p>MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPORATION</p> <p>1. Retirement of Staff Member (Ian Ward)</p> <p>The retirement of Ian Ward from the Corporation was noted.</p>	
1451.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 July 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.</p>	
1452.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</p> <p>There were no Matters Arising considered that were not due to be discussed elsewhere at the meeting.</p>	
1453. (5.22pm)	<p>STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030</p> <p>The proposed Strategic Plan 2026-2030 was received for consideration. The DPFR advised that the draft Plan had been reviewed and challenged very robustly by the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG), by the Corporation at the Development Day in May 2025, and that the version presented for approval reflected their collective views.</p> <p>The DPFR advised that the Plan was based on five priorities, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanding our curriculum 2. Continuous quality improvement 3. The BCoT Team – workforce development 4. Celebrating our work 5. Increasing our student numbers <p>The DPFR took Members through the Plan and outlined how each element had been developed.</p> <p>With regards to the priority ‘Expanding our curriculum’, a Member highlighted the government’s continuing commitment to high level opportunities especially to getting more women into construction and proposed that this section be strengthened to include reference to this matter.</p>	

<p>1453. (cont)</p>	<p>In response to a question from a Member regarding the next steps in the process, the Chair advised that the Working Group was due to meet again to develop a series of KPIs that would be used by the Corporation to monitor achievement of the Plan.</p> <p>In response to a challenge from a Member related to whether there was a maximum number of students that the College could accommodate vis-à-vis physical resources etc, the DPFR advised that whilst there could be some constraints in some areas related to the amount of suitable accommodation, the College felt that if it did not provide places to all those who had applied and met the appropriate entry criteria, then it was possible that disadvantaged students could 'miss-out'. . In response to a further question, he advised that whilst there was, presently, room for additional students, the current accommodation was not always configured to meet those needs.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Strategic Plan 2026-2030 be agreed</p>	<p>DPFR/ SPWG</p>
<p>1454. (5.46pm)</p>	<p>ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE 2024/25</p> <p>The DPCPI gave a verbal update on achievements for 2024/25 but stressed that the final data would not be available until later in the year when national average data would be published and included.</p> <p>Overall, the DPCPI was pleased to advise that the headline data showed continuing increases in achievements over previous years and that it exceeded the (then) national average data.</p> <p>In particular, the DPCPI advised that apprentice achievement was close to the (then) national average of 58.8% and showed a four-year improving trend. GCSE English had increased by 5%points and GCSE Maths by 1%point. T levels also shown an increase of 5%points. Achievement gap data showed that there were still some areas for further development.</p> <p>In response to a question from a Member the DPCPI confirmed that the final data would be received and considered by the Curriculum & Standards Cttee at its meeting in March 2026.</p> <p>The verbal update was noted.</p>	
<p>1455. (5.53pm)</p>	<p>ENROLMENT UPDATE 2025/26</p> <p>A written report was received for information and noted. The DPFR was pleased to advise that full-time student numbers had increased significantly, and that the College's market share had also increased from 31.6% to 33.7%.</p> <p>Specifically, the DPFR advised that there had been an increase of 174 full-time students, against a target of 72. There had, though, been a slight decline in adult enrolments.</p> <p>In response to a question from a Member regarding the need to expand provision in construction trades, the DPFR advised that this was problematic as it required specialist facilities and skilled staff.</p> <p>In response to a further question from a Member, the DPFR highlighted the continuing growth in high needs students, especially those with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP), and the difficulties and pressure that increase had in the provision of suitable accommodation.</p>	

<p>1455. (cont)</p>	<p>With regards to the financial impact placed on the College because of the increased number of students, the DPFR advised that the College would not be fully funded under the lagged-funding provision for those students until 2026/27. However, the DfE did offer some in-year growth funding where overall growth exceeded 110 full time students. In addition, the College had also submitted funding claims for c£2m for ECHP learners.</p> <p>In response to a challenge from a Member related to the demographic position, the DPFR advised that the number of year 11 leavers would 'peak' in 2028 and then start to decline from 2029.</p> <p>In reviewing adult enrolments and apprentice enrolments it was noted that both were at similar levels as for 2024/25.</p>	
<p>1456. (6.17pm)</p>	<p>OFSTED PILOT INSPECTION UPDATE</p> <p>The DPCPI advised that the pilot inspection process had been a very stressful and challenging process for both the College and for the OfSTED inspection team. It was, though, felt by the College that the overall process was far more stressful than in previous inspections.</p> <p>In response to a question from a Member, the DPCPI advised that the process had been positive, that the College had achieved a lot from it as it was based on a very challenging framework. In addition, the OfSTED team had also learnt a lot about the new framework in order to help them ensure that it worked as envisaged when formal inspections began in November 2025.</p> <p>The DPCPI took the Corporation through the outcomes from the process and clarified a number of matters raised by the Members. Specifically, she outlined the change to the grading, from the 'current' four-point scale to a 'new' five-point scale of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional • Strong • Expected standard • Needs attention • Urgent improvement <p>In addition, OfSTED would no longer be giving an overall college grade.</p> <p>Based on the pilot inspection, the DPCPI advised that the OfSTED team had indicated that the College was 'strong' in most areas, with 'leanings' towards Exceptional in some areas.</p> <p>Overall, the DPCPI advised that there had been a lot of positives highlighted in the process, but a number of areas highlighted where there was additional work required.</p> <p>A Member questioned whether there was a role for the Corporation in highlighting that the overall process was deemed very stressful for all concerned and needed to be reviewed. The Chair advised that he was proposing to raise the matter at the forthcoming AoC national Chair/Vice-Chair meeting scheduled for the following week.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated the DPCPI and the staff of the College for their hard work during the pilot inspection and noted that the College had gained a lot of positives from the process.</p>	

1460.	ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS There were no items of Any Other Business.	
1461.	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS <i>[Meetings commence at 4.30pm unless stated]</i> <div> <div> Thu 13 Nov 2025 Wed 10 Dec 2025 Wed 25 Mar 2026 Wed 6 May 2026 Wed 1 Jul 2026 </div> <div> (3.00pm Development Day) (3.00pm Development Day) </div> </div>	
(7.17pm)	Meeting closed	

NOTES: General acronyms used in the Minutes include:

Ctte: Committee
 DfE: Dept for Education
 EMT: Executive Management Team
 HCC: Hampshire County Council
 KPIs: Key performance indicators

OfSTED: Office for Standards in Education,
 Children's Services and Skills
 MD: Managing Director
 WBTC: West Berkshire Training Consortium