**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Search and Governance Committee held on**

**Monday 2 March 2026 at 5pm via Microsoft Teams**

**PRESENT**

Mr Mark Taylor (Chair)
Mr John Bradford
Ms Louise Fall
Mr Phil Loach

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs Alison Buick, Head of Governance

**10/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 1)**

No apologies were received. Mike Hastings was not in attendance.

Mark Taylor made his usual declaration of loyalty as an employee of Wolverhampton City Council. He had not identified any conflicts from papers provided for this meeting but was willing to step out of the meeting for any discussions at the request of other governors.

In the absence of Mike Hastings, it was agreed that Mark Taylor would chair the meeting.

**11/26 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING (ITEM 2)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2025 were approved.

Governors considered the previously agreed actions and it was confirmed that all were now complete.

**12/26 GOVERNANCE REPORT (ITEM 3)**

The Head of Governance referred to her written report and the contents were discussed.

Board Membership, Vacancies and Terms of Office

There were currently no Governor vacancies. The December 2025 Board meeting had approved the committee's recommendations to reduce the overall number of Governors to 16, to appoint five new Governors and to re-appoint Dionne Barrett for a further four-year term of office.

It was understood that some discussions about succession planning for the role of Chair had taken place but no details were available for consideration at the meeting. Governors noted that the date for the current Chair's term of office to end was 31 July 2026 so some action was now needed. After a brief discussion it was agreed that all Governors would be reminded of the upcoming opportunity and asked if they wished to express interest in the role. Action: Head of Governance.

Since the resignation of Amanda Tomlinson, the Board had operated with just one Vice Chair. It was noted that this had been the case several years ago and that there was no specific formal requirement for two Vice Chairs. At this time, it was agreed that the Board should continue to have just one Vice Chair, although some succession planning for this role was also needed as Mark Taylor's term of office was due to end in July 2027.

Skills Audit
It was agreed that the skills audit would be re-issued for completion. Action: Head of Governance.

Link Governors and Reports
The reports received had been added to the Board portal so that they were accessible to all.

Current Link Governors were noted. All agreed roles had now been filled.

EDI Update
Only six responses to the survey had been received which was disappointingly low again. The college used the information received to complete the mandatory DfE workforce return, which included Governors, as well as to consider Board recruitment and succession planning.

A further attempt would be made to collect the information.

Declaration of Interests Summary
This had been provided for information and was noted.

Governor Training
Information in the written report was noted. Attendance by Governors to Strategy and Development sessions was generally good. Governors valued the opportunity to network, particularly with peers from other colleges. Although AOC events were useful, they tended to be content heavy with less chances for networking. Consideration would be given to how some networking opportunities with other local colleges might be facilitated.

A curriculum and quality induction for new Governors had been suggested and would be arranged. Action: Head of Governance.

There was much current focus on Ofsted preparation and this also extended to Governors. Governors commented that the new 'Ofsted Essentials' fortnightly update from the Principal was extremely helpful.

**13/26 GOVERNANCE SAR AND QIP UPDATE (ITEM 4)**

The Head of Governance had provided a RAG rated update to the approved QIP. No items were red. Governors commented on the following:

- Attendance, including year to date for all meetings held. The impact of poor attendance of Governors who had now left continued to be seen in the rolling 12-month data.
- Quality of papers. The consistent use of cover sheets and a move to more summarised papers had been welcomed. Accessibility had been improved with the introduction of the portal.
- The early submission of questions on papers. It was confirmed that these should be emailed to the Head of Governance at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- Presenting styles, which naturally varied from person to person. It was generally agreed that presentations were focusing on key highlights of reports.

- The importance of striking the right balance of information between committees and Board.
- Length of meetings, which varied depending on the time of year, number of agenda items and level of discussion that took place. It was agreed as important not to consciously reduce discussion to enable meetings to complete within two hours.

**14/26 GOVERNANCE UPDATES**

The Head of Governance referred to her written report, which covered the following:

- Updates to the AOC's Senior Postholder Remuneration Code. A consultation had been launched at the end of February. An update would be brought to the next meeting.
- SEND reform. The White Paper had been published on 23 February 2026. Key aspects of this were noted.
- Post 16 Education and Skills White Paper. This had been published in October 2025. There were three key objectives, all of which needed to be underpinned by strong governance
- The AOC Governance Summit in June 2026.

Governors noted the updates provided.

**15/26 CONFIDENTIALITY**

No items discussed were agreed as confidential.

**16/26 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 15 June 2026 on Teams.

The meeting ended at 5.55pm.