

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026 AT 17.30 via TEAMS

Present:

Mr Stuart Harper (Chair)
Mrs Lee Campbell (Principal / Chief Executive)
Dr Thomas Moore (Governing Body Chair)
Mrs Hilary Singleton
Mrs Angela Whiteside
Dr Liz Finnigan
Ms Celine Maria Corhea (Student Governor)

In Attendance:

Ms Libby Shackels, Director of Curriculum
Mrs Elaine Nesbitt (Acting Assistant Director HE and Quality)
Mrs Fiona Bradley (Assistant Director FE and Training)
Mrs Emma Foster, Secretary to the Governing Body

Apologies:

The meeting convened at 17.32

A01. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

A02. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair reminded those present to declare at the commencement of the meeting interests held in any matter to be discussed. No interests were declared.

A03. MINUTES OF THE MEETING 27 JANUARY 2026

The minutes for the Education Committee meeting held on 27 January 2026 were reviewed for accuracy. Subject to minor amendments suggested by Dr Moore, the minutes were approved by Mrs Singleton and seconded by Mrs Whiteside.

A04. MATTERS ARISING

Members noted the actions which are still ongoing.

- 'Development of Artificial Intelligence Policy for the Sector'

Work is currently being undertaken on a sector basis. An internal working group has been set up within the College.

- Curriculum Strategy

The College is currently awaiting confirmation from the Department for the Economy that they will approve the College's Corporate Plan. This has to take place before the Curriculum Strategy can be finalised. The College is currently using the Curriculum Strategy from 2020/25. Once the Corporate Plan is approved, the Curriculum Strategy for 2026–2029 will be developed and aligned with the approved Corporate Plan. This will be brought to the first Education Committee meeting of 26-27.

ACTION BY WHOM

- Performance Data Review

The College is awaiting the Department to complete their review of data across the other five colleges with an expected completion date of June 2026. This will be used to align the College's Quality Improvement Plan and College Development Plan.

A05. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Mr Harper provided an update on the recent SEN feedback meeting held on 24th February 2026 which he attended.

Phase two of this evaluation included meeting with students, parents, staff, observing of teaching sessions and the review of documents such as Learner Support Plans and College policies.

Parents and carers were asked about the College's provision of SEN support; 36 out of 38 reported that they were satisfied with the provision. Parents were asked as part of the evaluation how they felt their children were progressing and reported that they were assured support was available. They noted that lecturers were responsive, communication was strong, and lessons were well planned and appropriately adapted to meet a range of learning needs.

Verbal feedback on observed lessons indicated that the aims of learning support were being met and that a clear reporting structure was in place. It was also noted that the College may wish to consider appointing a linked Governing Body member for its SEN provision. This will be considered by the Governing Body in due course.

The verbal feedback from ETI which was received was overwhelmingly positive. Mr Harper thanked the Principal/Chief Executive, Ms Shackels and her team for all the work undertaken prior to and during this evaluation.

A06. CDP REPORT CARD AND TARGETS 25-26

Ms Shackels informed members that a unique selling point for SRC was the skills competition. Presently the college has eight students competing for qualification Shanghai 2026, the results of which will be announced at the start of April 2026. Currently Southern Regional College makes up 10% of the total of United Kingdom Competitors for WorldSkills.

Peace Plus recruitment has exceeded the target set with 307 students having been enrolled on the cross border programmes.

A recent GCSE maths resit examination had a 42% success rate of the 71 students entered of which 33 were Trainees. Reassurance was provided that through the Data Management meetings attendance, retention etc of students is being monitored robustly. Furthermore, because of the increase of learners requiring additional time, invigilation training for staff is in place for upcoming exams. Reasonable adjustments, such as scribes and readers have been put in place. The College has seen a 40% increase in the request for reasonable adjustments. The College has also allocated additional staff during examinations, allocated exam areas and staff training have also been put in place.

Dr Moore asked

Is additional funding provided to the College to support reasonable adjustments, such as scribes and readers?

Ms Shackels confirmed that this is the case.

A07. WHOLE COLLEGE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- a) Traineeship Action Plan
- b) Traineeship Essential Skills Action Plan

Ms Shackels took members through each action plan. The College is currently on track to meet its Key Performance Indicators. Traineeship targets are being met. The College has plans in place to move some Traineeship traditional skills area programmes such as plumbing, woodwork or professional cookery into a one year condensed programme which will better suit the needs of the learners. This will enable the learner to gain the professional technical qualification and then move into an apprenticeship programme.

The WCQIP was forwarded to the Department on 19 February by the Secretary to the Governing Body on behalf of the Principal and Chief Executive.

The Traineeship Action Plan was submitted to the Department and the Quality Improvement Branch on 19 December 2025, and the Essential skills Action Plan was submitted on 09 January 2026.

The College has received very positive feedback on the quality and contents of both action plans. These plans are monitored at an internal level by the Senior Management Team within the college. External monitoring is also carried out at a sector level with traineeship plans from all six colleges informing the overall sector action plan.

Ms Shackels will provide an update on the sector action plan at the upcoming Governing Body meeting on 14 April 2026.

Ms Shackels

Members were given the opportunity to ask Ms Shackels questions in relation to the Whole College Quality Improvement Plan.

Members noted the reports.

A08. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (A.I) SECTORAL UPDATE

Ms Shackels thanked Ms McGuigan for her work in this area of A.I.

She took members through the report enclosed on 'Ethical, Safe and Responsible use of A.I.

A paper has been drafted by Curriculum Directors and put forward to Principals to set up a working group to draft a sector policy on A.I within colleges.

Ms Shackels answered questions from Mr Harper.

- *In relation to the draft AI strategy – what engagement has there been with staff/lecturers in formulating the policy? Is it intended to do so? I notice we have staff champions.*

A survey has been issued to staff to gauge their use and knowledge currently of AI. Staff and Students will be issued with 10 top tips built around Ethical, Safe and Responsible use of A.I. Staff resources have also been created for them to safely use A.I. A paper has been drafted by Curriculum Directors and put forward to Principals to set up a working group to draft a sector policy on the usage of A.I within colleges.

- *How are local employers using AI — and are we aligned to that trajectory?*

Yes

- *Where is AI explicitly embedded in the curriculum?*

This has been focus firstly on the governance structure and policies have been updated to reflect this. A conference has been arranged at the College for August 2026 to explore the use of AI in greater detail. This will include workshops and an overview of how the technology can be used to benefit both staff and students.

- *Are we redesigning assessment in light of generative AI?*

Yes, and in line with Awarding Organisations and regulations.

- *Do we have a register of AI tools currently in use by staff?*

Yes, these have been College approved and which staff are permitted to use.

- *Are we seeing misconduct cases linked to AI?*

No

The Student Governor stated that students are not advised to use AI to complete assessments or coursework this should only be used for support.

A09. STUDENT ENHANCEMENT-WORLDSKILLS, TEACHING AND LEARNING

Ms Shackels drew members attention to the recent college achievements within the area of WorldSkills. Currently 232 students from the college are competing in WorldSkills across 21 different vocational area. The College will be hosting the regional SkillBuild heats in the Greenbank Campus on 21 May 2026.

Mrs Singleton and Mrs Whiteside sought reassurance that the Skills competitions do not detract from the teaching and learning of pupils who do not participate in the competitions. Ms Shackels reassured members that non participating students teaching and learning is not impacted.

Dr Moore requested student good news stories be added to the next report.

Ms Shackels

A10. CURRICULUM DIRECTORS WORKING GROUP

Ms Shackels give members an update that Curriculum Directors recently met and looked at all curriculum areas. Ms Shackels produces a bimonthly report, and this is sent to the six college's Principals and Chief Executives.

A11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing to note.

A12. REVIEW OF THE MEETING

Members were content with how the meeting was conducted.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

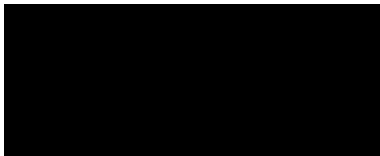
The Chair thanked Members for their attendance.

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 17.30pm via TEAMS

Ms Corhea, Mrs Nesbitt, Mrs Bradley and Dr Finnigan left the meeting at 19.47.

The meeting concluded at 19.47.

CHAIR



16.06.26
DATE

