

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD ON TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2026 AT 17.30 via TEAMS

Present:

Mr Stuart Harper (Chair)
 Dr Thomas Moore (Governing Body Chair)
 Mrs L Campbell (Principal/Chief Executive)
 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

The meeting convened at 17.30

ACTION BY WHOM

A01. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Harper welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Nesbitt.

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 21 OCTOBER 2025

The minutes for the Education Committee meeting held on 21 October 2025 were reviewed for accuracy as an accurate record subject to Dr Moore’s amendments and were approved by Dr Finnigan and seconded by Mrs Singleton.

A04. MATTERS ARISING

Ms Shackels took members through each point on the action log and provided an update on each.

- ‘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 and this is Chaired by the Director of Finance.
- Curriculum Strategy
The College is currently awaiting confirmation from the Department for the Economy that they will approve the College’s Strategic 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 Strategic Plan. This will be brought to the first Education Committee meeting of 26-27.
- Performance Data Review

The College is awaiting the Department to complete their review of data across the other five colleges. Once complete this will allow the College the most up to date and accurate performance data. This will be used to align the College's Quality Improvement Plan and College Development Plan.

A05. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Nothing to note

A06. POLICY APPROVAL

- a) Learning Support
- b) Assessment Malpractice (All Staff)
- c) Young Adult Carers Policy
- d) Student Charter
- e) Safeguarding
- f) Prior Learning Procedural Note

Members noted that there were minor amendments to the policies, and these were the standard annual updates. Members approved the policies without change.

These policies were approved by Dr Finnigan and Dr Moore.

A07. COLLEGE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Ms Shackels took members through the plan and answered any questions the members had. A review has been completed to ensure actions from 24-25 were closed or if necessary progressed into 25-26. Areas for Improvement have been included in the plan to reflect current practise and in line with the 25-26 targets.

Mr Harper thanked Ms Shackels and her team for the work undertaken to complete this plan.

The College Quality Improvement Plan was proposed by Dr Moore and seconded by Dr Finnigan.

Members approved the Quality Improvement Plan.

A08. QUALITY ASSURANCE STATEMENT HE/FE 25/26

The Committee approved the Quality Assurance statement.

Mrs Foster will email this statement to all members of the Governing Body informing them this assurance statement has been approved by the Education Committee. A presentation on the cycle of the annual quality assurance statement will be brought to the upcoming Strategy Day being held for Governing Body members on 17

Mrs Foster

February 2026. This will now be signed by the Chair and Principal/CEO and returned to DfE by 23 February 2026.

This assurance statement was proposed by Mr Harper and seconded by Mrs Singleton.

A09. HE PROFILES AND PROJECTIONS

Members noted the report.

Dr Moore requested good news stories be added to the college's social media channels.

A10. ETI UPDATE

Ms Shackels provided an update on the recent SEN Evaluation. A Summary of the Key Findings will be issued to the college. Each of the six colleges will also provide written feedback on each of their evaluations. Ms Shackels will collate this into a sector report for the Principals.

A11. CURRICULUM DIRECTORS WORKING GROUP

Ms Shackels meets fortnightly with the Curriculum Directors working group. Areas of key focus include Essential Skills, 16-18 Provision, Sector Curriculum Framework, Curriculum Hubs and Special Educational Need.

In December 2025 Ms Shackels attended the College Alliance event in Exeter. This event brought together a small number of senior leaders, policy makers, and partners from across the UK and Ireland to explore curriculum and assessment in depth.

A12. STUDENT SURVEY UPDATE

Ms Shackels informed members two surveys had been issued to students in Semester 1, The first of these were the Learner Destination Report which tracks the destinations of 2778 students (97.8% response rate) who left the College in June 2025. The survey found employment was the most common destination at 49.1% whilst 37.6% of students progressed to further or higher education.

The second survey was the College's own Student Survey. This survey presents feedback from 3,486 students across Southern Regional College for the 2025/26 academic year, showing an overall survey response rate of 79%, up from 73% the previous year. Student satisfaction is exceptionally high with 18 out of 20 categories scoring 90% or above. This survey benchmarks the college against other regional and national colleges and highlights that the college is excelling in Marketing, Careers, and Learning Resources, Apprenticeship and Traineeship.

Mrs Campbell

A13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing to note

A14. REVIEW OF THE MEETING

Members were happy with the meeting.

Dr Moore thanked members for attending the meeting.

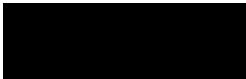
DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked Members for their attendance.

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 17:30 via TEAMS

The meeting concluded at 19:27

CHAIR



DATE 14.04.26

