

## **News from the FE Corporation meeting, 28 April 2020**

This was a special meeting, called to consider a bid for funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

### **Energy Centre / European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) bid**

Governors received an update on progress with the Energy Centre project, noting that there were risks with the current boilers and building management system, which were severely outdated. Following a procurement exercise, Honeywell had been identified as the highest scoring tenderer. Honeywell was a global company and procurement checks had identified no issues with financial viability. Governors discussed the project cost, including staffing and consultancy costs and agreed that a contingency budget should be established to cover any unexpected costs. Governors also discussed financing arrangements in respect of the college's contribution and noted that there would be no impact on bank covenants in the 2019-20 year. Governors also discussed the expected savings on energy costs and the project plan, noting that some slippage was built into the plan but that Honeywell did not anticipate any issues with delivery.

Governors approved Honeywell as the preferred bidder and agreed, in principle, to award the project contract to Honeywell, subject to completion of credit checks, review of the funding agreement and clarification of funding options. Governors also accepted the revised project timetable, agreed a maximum project budget, including contingency, accepted the ERDF funding and agreed to fund 40% of project costs in principle, and agreed to hold a further meeting to agree the funding agreement.

Governors commended the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources and college staff for their work obtaining significant funding to support the Energy Centre project.

### **COVID-19 Update**

Governors received an update on college action in response to the government restrictions linked to the COVID-19 global pandemic and thanked staff for their fantastic work to support students to learn online, particularly commending the successful work of the Gurkha team, in spite of the difficulties relating to college closures.

### **Governance Matters**

Governors noted Pat Howarth's decision to step down as a governor and as Corporation Chair with effect from summer 2020. Governors agreed to appoint Emma Wright as Corporation Chair Designate, pending a formal appointment at the summer term meeting.

Best wishes from the Board

Kate Roe, Principal  
Sarah Thompson, Clerk