



**TRAFFORD &  
STOCKPORT  
COLLEGE GROUP**

# **Instrument & Articles of Government**

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## **1 Interpretation of the Terms Used**

- i) In this Instrument of Government:
  - a. any reference to 'the Principal' will include a person acting as Principal and CEO;
  - b. 'the Corporation' means the Governing Body of Trafford & Stockport College Group;
  - c. "electronic form" means a document that is sent or supplied by electronic means (including e-mail) or by any other means within an electronic form (for example, sending a disc by post). A document that is sent or supplied by electronic form must be sent by or supplied in a form, and by a means, that the sender or supplier reasonably considers will enable the recipient to read it and retain a copy of it;
  - d. 'the Institutions' means the Institution which the Corporation is established to conduct and any Institution for the time being conducted by the Corporation in exercise of its powers under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992;
  - e. 'this Instrument' means this Instrument of Government;
  - f. 'meeting' includes a meeting at which the members attending are present in more than one room, provided that by the use of video-conferencing facilities or tele-conference facilities it is possible for every person present at the meeting to communicate with each other.
  - g. 'necessary skills' means skills and experience, other than professional qualifications, specified by the Corporation as appropriate for members to have;
  - h. 'Secretary of State' means the Secretary of State for Education or their successor from time to time;
  - i. staff member and student member have the meanings given to them in clause 2;
  - j. 'staff matters' means the remuneration, conditions of service, promotion, conduct, suspension, dismissal or retirement of staff.
  - k. "the Students' Union" means any association of students formed to further the educational purposes of the Institution and the interests of students, as students.
  - l. any reference to "in writing" or "written" includes hard or electronic form.

## **2 Composition of the Corporation**

- i) The Corporation will consist of:
  - a. up to 19 members who appear to the Corporation to have the necessary skills to ensure that the Corporation carries out its functions under article 3 of the Articles of Government including;
  - b. the Principal and CEO of the Institution, unless the Principal and CEO chooses not to be a member;

- c. one member, who is a member of the Institution staff and has a contract of employment with the Institution and who have been nominated and elected as set out in paragraphs 2 ii (“staff member”); and
  - d. two members enrolled as students of the Institution and who have been nominated and elected by their fellow students, or if the Corporation so decides, by a recognised association representing such students (“student members”).
- ii) The staff member may be a member of the academic staff or the enabling team staff and shall be nominated and elected by all staff.
    - a. The Corporation may at any time vary the determination referred to in paragraph 2.1 and any subsequent determination under the paragraph provided that the numbers of members of the Corporation shall not be less than 12 or more than 19.

### **3 Appointment of the Members of the Corporation**

- i) The Corporation is the Appointing Authority in relation to the appointment of its members.
- ii) If the number of members falls below the number needed for a quorum, the Secretary of State is the Appointing Authority in relation to the appointment of those members needed for a quorum.
- iii) Where the office of any member becomes vacant the Appointing Authority as soon as practicable take all necessary steps to appoint a new member to fill the vacancy.

### **4 Appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Corporation**

- i) Members of the Corporation should appoint a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from amongst themselves.
- ii) Neither the Principal and CEO nor any staff or student member will be eligible to be appointed as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson or to act as Chairperson in their absence.
- iii) Arrangements for the appointments of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Corporation will be contained in the Group’s standing orders.

### **5 Appointment of the Corporation Secretary to the Corporation**

- i) The Corporation shall appoint a person to serve as its Corporation Secretary, but the Principal and CEO may not be appointed as Corporation Secretary.
- ii) In the temporary absence of the Corporation Secretary, the Corporation shall appoint a person to serve as a temporary Corporation Secretary, but the Principal and CEO may not be appointed as temporary Corporation Secretary.
- iii) Any reference in this Instrument to the Corporation Secretary shall include a temporary Corporation Secretary appointed under paragraph 5 ii).
- iv) The Corporation Secretary shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Corporation and any of its committees but shall withdraw for that part of any meeting of the Corporation, or any of its committees, at which the Corporation Secretary’s remuneration, conditions of service, conduct, suspension, dismissal or retirement are to be considered.
- v) The Corporation Secretary may also be a member of staff at the Institution.

## **6 Persons who are ineligible to be members**

- i) The following persons are ineligible to be appointed as a member of the Corporation:
  - a. anyone under the age of 18 years, except as a student member;
  - b. the Corporation Secretary;
  - c. a person who is a member of staff of the Institution, except as a staff member or in the capacity of Principal and CEO.
- ii) A person who is disqualified from being a trustee of a charity in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (as amended from time to time) . The relevant provisions of the Charities Act 2011 are available on request from the Corporation Secretary.
- iii) Any person who is unable to satisfactorily complete a Disclosure and Barring Service check where this is required by law and/or by the College shall not be appointed or remain as a member.

## **7 Termination of membership**

- i) A member may resign from office at any time by giving notice to the Corporation Secretary.
- ii) If at any time the Corporation is satisfied that:
  - a. any member is unfit or unable to discharge the functions of a member,
  - b. it is not in the best interest of the Corporation for the member to continue to hold office,
  - c. any member has been absent from meetings of the Corporation for a period longer than six consecutive months without permission of the Corporation,

the Corporation may by notice in writing to that member remove the member from office and the office shall then be vacant.
- iii) Any person who is a member of the Corporation by virtue of being a member of the staff at the Institution, including the Principal and CEO, shall cease to hold office upon ceasing to be a member of the staff and the office shall then be vacant.
- iv) A student member shall cease to hold office:
  - a. at the end of the student's final academic year, or at such other time in the year after ceasing to be a student as the Corporation may decide; or
  - b. if expelled from the Institution, and the office shall then be vacant.
- v) Where the Corporation has reason to believe that paragraph 7 ii applies to any member, but it is not immediately possible to determine whether a member remains suitable for their role, the Corporation may by notice in writing to that member, suspend the member from office until such a time as the Corporation can satisfy itself of the member's continued suitability.

## **8 Members not to hold interest in matters relating to the Institution**

- i) A member to whom paragraph 8 ii) applies will:
  - a. disclose to the Corporation the nature and extent of the interest; and
  - b. if present at a meeting of the Corporation, or any of its committees, at which such supply, contract or other matter as is mentioned in paragraph 8 ii) is to be considered, not take part in the consideration or vote on any question with respect to it and not be counted in the quorum present at the meeting in relation to a resolution on which that member is not entitled to vote; and
  - c. withdraw if present at a meeting of the Corporation or any of its committees, at which supply, contract or other matter as is mentioned in paragraph 8 ii) is to be considered, where required to do so by a majority of the members of the Corporation or committee present at the meeting.
- ii) This paragraph applies to a member who:
  - a. has any financial interest in:
    - the supply of work to the Institution or the supply of goods for the purposes of the Institution;
    - any contract or proposed contract concerning the Institution; or
    - any other matter relating to the Institution; or
  - b. has any other interest of a type specified by the Corporation in any matter relating to the institution.
- iii) This clause shall not prevent the members considering and voting upon proposals for the Corporation to insure them against liabilities incurred by them arising out of their office or the Corporation obtaining such insurance and paying the premium.
- iv) The Corporation Secretary shall maintain a register of the interests of the members which has been disclosed and the register shall be made available during normal office hours to any person wishing to inspect it.

## **9 Meetings**

- i) The Corporation shall meet at least once in every term and shall hold such other meetings as may be necessary.
- ii) Subject to clauses 9 iii, iv and v all meetings shall be called by the Corporation Secretary, who shall, at least seven calendar days before the meeting, send to the members of the Corporation notice of the meeting and a copy of the proposed agenda.
- iii) If it is proposed to consider at any meeting the remuneration, conditions of service, conduct, suspension, dismissal or retirement of the Corporation Secretary, the Chairperson shall at least seven calendar days before the date of the meeting, send to the members a copy of the agenda item concerned, together with any relevant papers.

- iv) A meeting of the Corporation may be called at any time by the Chairperson or at the request in writing to the Corporation Secretary by any four members.
- v) Where the Chairperson or in the Chairperson's absence the Vice Chairperson, decides that there are matters that require urgent consideration, the written notice convening the meeting and a copy of the proposed agenda may be given within less than seven calendar days.
- vi) Every member shall act in the best interests of the Corporation and shall not be bound to speak or vote by mandates given by any other body or person.
- vii) A resolution in writing agreed by a simple majority of the members who would have been entitled to vote upon it had it been proposed at a meeting shall be effective provided that:
  - a. a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every eligible member;
  - b. a simple majority of the members have signified agreement to the resolution; and
  - c. it is contained in a document authenticated by the Corporation Secretary which has been received at the address specified by the College for the receipt of documents within the period of 7 days beginning with the circulation date.
- viii) A resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members have signified their agreement.
- ix) A written resolution will lapse if it is not passed before the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the circulation date.
- x) For the purposes of clause 9 ix "circulation date" is the day on which copies of the written resolution are sent or submitted to members or, if copies are sent or submitted on different days, to the first of those days.

## **10 Copies of the Instrument of Government**

A copy of these Instrument of Government, and of any rules and bye-laws, shall be given free of charge to every member of the Corporation and at a charge not exceeding the cost of copying or free of charge, to any other person who requests a copy and shall be available for inspection at the Institution upon request, during normal office hours.

## **11 Change of name of the Corporation**

The Corporation may change its name with approval of the Secretary of State.

## **12 Application of the Seal**

- i) The application of the Seal of the Corporation shall be authenticated by:
  - a. the signature of either the Chairperson or some other member authorised either generally or specially by the Corporation to act for that purpose; and
  - b. the signature of any other member.

## **Articles of Government**

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## **1 Interpretation of the terms used**

- i) In these Articles of Government:
  - a. any reference to “the Principal” shall include a person acting as Principal and CEO;
  - b. “the Articles” means these Articles of Government;
  - c. “Chairperson” and “Vice-Chairperson” mean respectively the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Corporation appointed under clause 4 of the Instrument of Government;
  - d. “the Corporation” has the same meaning as in the Instrument of Government;
  - e. “staff member” and “student member” have the same meanings as in the Instrument of Government;
  - f. “the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State for Education or their successor from time to time;
  - g. “senior post” means the post of Principal and CEO and such other senior posts as the Corporation may decide for the purposes of these Articles;
  - h. Chief Executive of The Education and Skills Funding Agency means the same or any successor body from time to time;
  - i. “the staff” means all the staff who have a contract of employment with the institution;
  - j. “the students’ union” has the same meaning as in the Instrument of Government.

## **2 Conduct of the Institution**

The Institution shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Instrument of Government, these Articles, any rules or byelaws made under these Articles and any trust deed regulating the Institution.

## **3 Responsibilities of the Corporation, the Principal and CEO and the Corporation Secretary**

- i) The Corporation shall be responsible for the following functions:
  - a. the determination and periodic review of the educational character and mission of the Institution and the oversight of its activities;
  - b. publishing arrangements for obtaining the views of staff and students on the determination and periodic review of the education character and mission of the Institution and the oversight of its activities;
  - c. the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the Institution and the Corporation and safeguarding of assets;
  - d. approving annual estimates of income and expenditure;
  - e. the appointment, grading, suspension, dismissal and determination of the pay and conditions of service of the holders of senior posts and the Corporation Secretary, including, where the Corporation Secretary is, or is to be appointed as, a member of staff,

- the Corporation Secretary's appointment, grading, suspension, dismissal and determination of pay in the capacity of a member of staff.
- f. setting the policy by which the tuition and other fees payable to it are determined, subject to any terms and conditions attached to grants, loans or other payments paid or made by the Chief Executive of The Education and Skills Funding Agency.
- ii) Subject to the responsibilities of the Corporation, the Principal and CEO shall be the Chief Executive of the Institution and responsible for the following functions:
- a. making proposals to the Corporation about the educational character and mission of the Institution and implementing the decisions of the Corporation;
- b. the determination of the Institution's academic and other activities;
- c. preparing annual estimates of income and expenditure for consideration and approval by the Corporation, and the management of budget and resources within the estimates approved by the Corporation;
- d. the organisation, direction and management of the Institution and leadership of the staff;
- e. the appointment, assignment, grading, appraisal, suspension, dismissal and determination, of the pay and conditions of service of staff, other than the holders of senior posts or the Corporation Secretary, where the Corporation Secretary is also a member of the staff; and
- f. maintaining student discipline and, suspending or expelling students on disciplinary grounds or expelling students for academic reasons.
- iii) The Corporation Secretary shall be responsible for the following functions:
- a. advising the Corporation with regard to the operation of its powers;
- b. advising the Corporation with regard to procedural matters;
- c. advising the Corporation with regard to the conduct of its business; and
- d. advising the Corporation with regard to matters of governance practice.

#### **4 The establishment of committees and delegation of functions generally**

- i) The Corporation may establish committees for any purpose or function, other than those assigned in these Articles to the Principal and CEO or Corporation Secretary and may delegate powers to:
- a. such committees;
- b. the Chairperson, or in the Chairperson's absence, the Vice-Chairperson; or
- c. the Principal and CEO.

- ii) The number of members of a committee and the terms on which they are to hold and to vacate office, shall be decided by the Corporation.

## **5 The Search Committee**

- i) The Corporation shall establish a Committee, to be known as the “Search Committee”, to advise on:
  - a. the appointment of members (other than as a staff or student member); and
  - b. such other matters relating to membership and appointments as the Corporation may ask it to.
- ii) The Corporation shall not appoint any person as a member (other than as, staff or student member) without first consulting and considering the advice of the Search Committee.

## **6 The Audit Committee**

- i) The Corporation shall establish a committee, to be known as the “Audit Committee”, to advise on matters relating to the Corporation’s audit arrangements and systems of internal control.
- ii) The Audit Committee shall consist of at least three persons and may include members of staff at the Institution with the exception of those in senior posts and shall operate in accordance with any requirements of the Chief Executive of the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

## **7 Delegable and non-delegable functions**

- i) The Corporation shall not delegate the following functions:
  - a. the determination of the educational character and mission of the Institution;
  - b. the approval of the annual estimates of income and expenditure;
  - c. the responsibility for ensuring the solvency of the Institution and the Corporation and for safeguarding their assets;
  - d. the appointment of the Principal and CEO or holder of a senior post;
  - e. the appointment of the Corporation Secretary, (including where the Corporation Secretary is, or is to be, appointed as a member of staff the Corporation Secretary’s appointment in the capacity of a member of staff) and;
  - f. the modification or revocation of these Articles.
- ii) The Corporation may not delegate:
  - a. the consideration of the case for dismissal, and
  - b. the power to determine an appeal in connection with the dismissal of the Principal, the Corporation Secretary or the holder of a senior post, other than to a committee of members of the Corporation.

- iii) The Corporation shall make rules specifying the way in which a committee having functions under paragraph 7i) shall be established and conducted.
- iv) The Principal and CEO may delegate functions to the holder of any other senior post other than:
  - a. the management of budget and resources; and
  - b. any functions that have been delegated to the Principal and CEO by the Corporation.

## **8 Appointment and promotion of staff**

- i) The Corporation shall appoint the Principal and CEO, Senior Post Holders and the Corporation Secretary in accordance with any applicable procedure as amended from time to time;
- ii) The Principal and CEO shall have responsibility for the appointment of all members of staff other than Senior Post Holders and the Corporation Secretary;

## **9 Internal Audit**

- i) The Corporation shall, at such times as it considers appropriate, examine and evaluate its systems of internal financial and other control to ensure that they contribute to the proper, economic, efficient and effective use of the Corporation's resources.
- ii) The Corporation may arrange for the examination and evaluation mentioned in paragraph 9 i to be carried out on its behalf by internal auditors.
- iii) The Corporation shall not appoint persons as internal auditors to carry out the activities in paragraph 9 i if those persons are already appointed as external auditors.

## **10 Accounts and audit of accounts**

- i) The Corporation shall:
  - a. proper accounts and proper records in relation to the accounts; and
  - b. prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year of the Corporation.
- ii) The Statement shall:
  - a. give a true and fair account of the state of the Corporation's affairs at the end of the financial year and of its income and expenditure in the financial year; and
  - b. comply with any directions given by the Education and Skills Funding Agency as to the information to be contained in it, the manner in which the information is to be presented, the methods and principles according to which it is to be prepared and the time and manner of publication.
- iii) The accounts and the statement of accounts shall be audited by external auditors appointed by the Corporation in respect of each financial year.
- iv) The Corporation shall not appoint persons as external auditors in respect of any financial year if those persons are already appointed as internal auditors under article 9.
- v) Auditors shall be appointed, and audit work conducted in accordance with any requirements of the Chief Executive of The Education and Skills Funding Agency.

- vi) The “financial year” means the first financial year and, except as provided for in paragraph vii each successive period of twelve months”.
- vii) The “first financial year” means the period from the date the Corporation was established up to the second 31 July following the date, or up to some other date which has been chosen by the Corporation with the approval of the Chief Executive of The Education and Skills Funding Agency..
- viii) If the Corporation is dissolved:
  - a. the last financial year shall end on the date of dissolution; and
  - b. the Corporation may decide, with the Education and Skills Funding Agency approval, that what would otherwise be the last two financial years, shall be a single financial year for the purposes of this article.

## **11 Student Union**

In the event that there is a Students’ Union at the Group, the Corporation shall comply with its responsibilities under the Education Act 1994, including but not limited to the requirement that the Corporation take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that any students’ union for students at the establishment operates in a clear and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances.

## **12 Rules and byelaws**

The Corporation shall have the power to make rules and byelaws relating to the Government and conduct of the Institution and these rules and bye-laws shall be subject to the provisions of the Instrument of Government and these Articles.

## **13 Copies of Articles of Government and rules and bye-laws**

A copy of these Articles, and of any rules and bye-laws, shall be given free of charge to every member of the Corporation and at a charge not exceeding the cost of copying or free of charge, to any other person who requests a copy and shall be available for inspection at the Institution upon request, during normal office hours.

## **14 Modification or replacement of the Instrument and Articles of Government**

- i) The Corporation may by resolution of the members modify or replace its Instrument and Articles of Government, after consultation with any other persons who, in the Corporation’s view, are likely to be affected by the proposed changes.
- ii) The Corporation shall not make any changes to the Instrument and Articles of Government that would result in the Body ceasing to be a Charity.

## **15 Academic Freedom**

The Corporation shall have regard to the need to ensure that academic staff of the Group have freedom within the law to question and test recorded wisdom and to put forward new ideas

and controversial or unpopular opinions without putting themselves at risk of losing their jobs or any privileges that they may enjoy at the Group.

## **16 Dissolution of the Corporation**

- i) The Corporation may by resolution dissolve itself and provide for the transfer of its property rights and liabilities.
- ii) The Corporation shall ensure that a copy of the draft resolution to dissolve the Corporation on a specified date shall be published at least one month before the proposed date of such resolution.