

Directors	
Isabel Cherrett	Simon Niles
Peter Bethel	Charlotte Power
Nicola Dunford	Fiona Walters
Roy Gillard	
Members	
Douglas Dettmer	Julian Ould
Gillian Golder	
In Attendance:	
Clerk – Sue Howard	

Minutes

<p>Welcome: Chair IJC welcomed all Directors, Members and officers to the meeting</p> <p>Apologies: Apologies were accepted from Cheryl Mathieson, Iain Grafton and Tony Callcut</p> <p>Declaration of Business Interests: There were no interests declared at this point.</p>	
1.	<p>Governance</p> <p>1.1 It was noted that Yvonne Short resigned as a Member and Chair of the Newton & Teign Local Governing Body in May. Mrs Short's appointment as a Member was made under Article 12 (c) (i) A <i>Trustee of the Bearne's Educational Foundation proposed by the Bearne's Educational Foundation and appointed by the Non-Foundation Members.</i></p> <p>The Charity Commission lists two Trustees for the BEF – Mrs Short and the CEO, Nicola Dunford. The Academies Financial Handbook prohibits employees being Members and therefore the CEO was asked to ascertain whether an appropriate alternative Trustee to replace Mrs Short could be found for the BEF. That person could then become the Member of the Link Academy Trust. Action: CEO</p> <p>1.2 Noted – The Members noted the appointments of Mr Peter Bethel and Mrs Cheryl Mathieson as Directors during the year.</p> <p>The Chair reported two expressions of interest for the Director vacancies on the Board had been received. The Chair, CEO and Finance Director (FD) will meet the suitable applicant and if found to complement the Board's skill set will recommend them for appointment firstly to Directors and then Members.</p>
2.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5 July 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair, Isabel Cherrett. These had been made available to the Directors and Members prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising from these minutes.</p>
3.	<p>Finance</p> <p>The Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 August 2017 were provided for the Members and Directors prior to the meeting. The full set of accounts were available on the Trust's website.</p> <p>The FD advised the Members that pupil numbers are of continued concern for the schools in the Trust and also the impact on the Trust's finances of being tied into the National Pay Awards, particularly from September 2019; this would be investigated further. The Directors continue to be vigilant in seeking opportunities to increase income and reduce expenditure.</p> <p>The Members enquired as to how the Trust apply the Apprenticeship Levy. Following the meeting it was confirmed that the Trust do not currently pay into the Levy as our annual pay bill is below the £3million threshold.</p>

4.	<p><u>Proposed changes to Funding Agreements</u></p> <p>The Chair of Directors explained to Members and Directors the proposed changes to the Funding Agreement for Yeoford in relation to change of age range to incorporate Preschool provision (3-11 years).</p>
5.	<p><u>Appointment of Company's auditors</u></p> <p>Following a benchmarking and tendering process for the Trust's external audit service, completed by the Chair of Audit Committee and in accordance with the recommendations by the Committee and the Board of Directors, the Members approved the appointment of Bishop Fleming (BF) as to provide the external auditor service for a duration of five years from 2018-19 to 2023-24, subject to a break clause prior to 2022-23. Subject to confirmation by the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors regarding satisfactory service, the appointment would continue to be approved annually by the Members.</p>
6.	<p><u>Report from the Chair of the Board of Directors</u></p> <p>The Chair had produced a report for the year 2017-18. The key points were summarised at the meeting, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment of one Headteacher to oversee two schools in the Trust • Success for three schools in the recent round of Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bids • Outstanding SIAMS inspection awarded to Landscope • Woodleigh Federation joining the MAT 1 March 2018 • The Trust's compliance with General Data Protection Regulation <p>It was proposed that a Data Sharing Agreement is drafted between the Trust and other schools that the Trust works in partnership with. Action: Trust Data Protection Officer and Clerk to investigate.</p>
7.	<p><u>Regional Schools Commissioner</u></p> <p>The Members noted the Report dated 15 June 2018 of the first annual meeting between the Chair and CEO with Officers from the Regional Schools Commission on 25 April 2018.</p>
8.	<p><u>Election of Chair of the Board of Directors for 2018-19</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that only one nomination for the role of Chair had been submitted. Therefore, Isabel Cherrett is appointed unopposed as Chair. No Nominations were received for the role of Vice-chairman. The Directors and Members agreed in accordance with Article 87 of the Articles of Association "<i>Where in the circumstances referred in Article 86 the vice-chairman is also absent from the meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of vice-chairman, the Directors shall elect one of their number to act as a chairman for the purposes of that meeting, provided that the Director elected shall not be a person who is employed by the Company.</i>"</p>
9.	<p><u>Any other Business that Members wish to discuss</u></p> <p>The Members had no other business they wished to discuss and gave thanks to the Chair for a very comprehensive report provided in advance of the meeting.</p>
10.	<p><u>Date for next Annual General Meeting</u></p> <p>The date for the next Annual General Meeting was confirmed as Monday 22 July 2019.</p>

Meeting Closed 7.05pm