

**MINUTES OF THE 109th FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
OF ASHCROFT TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY ON
TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 16.30**

Present: Dick Whitcutt (DW) - Chair, Richard Perry (RJP), Douglas Mitchell (DMI), Angela Entwistle (AEE), Stewart Harris (SH), Kevin Chamberlain (KC)

In Attendance: Jane Kiddell (JKD) (Minutes)

Start Time: 16:15

1. Apologies for absence

The only absentee was Tony Bothwell (TB)

2. Declaration of interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of Last meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2022

DW asked about Page 2 of the previous minutes regarding ATA receiving School Led Tutoring funding of £52K within the funding allocation for last year. A document was submitted to show how the funding had been fully utilised although the DfE restrict the hourly funding rates leading to an actual underspend of this amount. RJP explained to colleagues that the Academy appealed this and resubmitted the claim enabling ATA to retain a higher proportion of these ring-fenced funds. The funding was primarily utilised for the after school study opportunities and Easter revision sessions for Year 11.

DW asked about the Revenue funding and RJP confirmed this would be covered in his report.

The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 14 December were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

There were no further matters arising other than those coming up via the agenda.

5. Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022 - Academy

RJP updated colleagues with regards to the submission of the Annual Accounts. The accounts were submitted on time along with the Responsible Officer report from SH and the Post Audit Management Report received from the external auditors, Buzzacott.

RJP spoke about the Post Audit Management Report and confirmed that ATA was given a clean bill of health as far as audit issues were concerned.

RJP then took colleagues through the benchmarking comparisons that form part of this report and the Committee discussed the financial ratios, annual funding levels and existing reserves as well as pension liabilities.

6. Annual Accounts Return 2022

The separately required Annual Accounts Returns document was submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in January. This document reformat and, in places, provides a more detailed version of the accounting numbers within the year-end Financial Statements which assists the EFSA with their own audit requirements. RJP produced the document, which was then approved by DMI as the Accounting Officer and this was then subsequently audited by Buzzacott prior to submission.

7. Capital Developments

RJP explained to colleagues that the operation of Openview is working well. RJP talked about the upgrade of facilities on site at ATA. RJP and the Curriculum Manager for PE along with the Building Services Manager had a meeting with S&C Slater, the company who quoted previously (and were responsible for the installation of the Astro turf facility at Openview) had undertaken a reassessment. RJP said he has gone back to them regarding the pricing to check on a couple of aspects, the company confirmed the works will be cheaper without digging up the existing macadam surface. The costs overall are to be confirmed by S&C Slater with two additional updated quotes being sought. RJP will update colleagues on the figures once he receives them. The view is to upgrade one playing surface this year and the other one can be completed next year.

The quotes are approx. £220k to complete both areas and the company will confirm this back to us. RJP confirmed that ATA will still continue to use Openview for some fixtures and sports days.

8. Revenue Funding 2022-23 Update

RJP took colleagues through the updated variance sheet comparing the annual funding position to date with the same stage the previous year. Going forward, he will organise a similar style of document, which will focus entirely on the staffing costs. He added that the biggest change in comparing the two years - as at the end of January - was that the January payroll figures in 2022 were not part of the comparison figures at the same stage last year. This was owing to the new payroll set-up and the fact that the coding for January 2022 did not go through until the February figures.

DW commented that the September expenditure figures were large compared to other months, he noted a lot of spending on subscriptions and consumables, which RJP confirmed as being quite usual with orders placed over the summer. Technology costs were also high, but for similar reasons.

RJP informed the committee that the majority of the indicative funding for next year was received today and there is an approximate 6.5% increase on the current year. RJP shared a quick comparison on how that income level compared slightly more favourably to that within the five-year forecast produced last autumn. RJP said he will update colleagues further at the next meeting.

9. Trading Company

RJP informed the FRC that the accounts have been prepared and audited ready for sign off and submission and RJP will share these with colleagues at the next meeting.

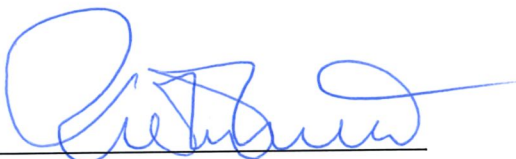
10. Administration and Staffing Matters

DMI advised colleagues of areas where ATA has identified further savings within the staffing structure. The reorganisation plans were discussed.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

DW thanked the FRC for their continued support.

Signed: 
Richard Whitcutt
Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee

Date 3 / 5 / 2023