

**MINUTES
CORPORATION BOARD**

Date: Wednesday 26 March 2025

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: NewVlc, D02

Chair	Paul Jackson
Corporation Members	Danny Ridgeway, Derwent Jaconelli, Femi Olatidoye, Geoffrey Makstutis, Irfan Umarji, Jamie Purser (Principal), John McMahon, Lalage Clay, Michael Magbagbeola, Mubin Ahmed, Sarah Thomas, Tom Flynn
In Attendance	Chief Finance & Operating Officer: Judith Abbott Deputy Principal, Student Experience, Safeguarding & NewVlc Curriculum: James Gould (JG) Interim Deputy Principal: Sara Woodward (SW)
Director of Governance	Judith Nelson

Item No	Item of business
PRELIMINARY PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
1.	Chair's Welcome & Opening Remarks The Chair welcomed all in attendance and in particular, Deputy Principal's James Gould and Sara Woodward.
2.	Chair's action & Sub-committee actions since the December Corporation Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair had the opportunity to meet the College Leadership team and joined them for dinner at their leadership programme away day in Essex. In February, the Chair attended NewVlc campus for an Ofsted monitoring visit, joined by governor, Jane Lofthouse. On 14 March the Chair attended East Ham campus to meet the Rt. Sir Stephen Timms MP along with the Principal. The Chair and Principal are scheduled to meet with James Asser MP on 24 March. The Chair and Principal are exploring collaboration opportunities with UEL and Barking & Dagenham College The College is in the process of renewing its mobile phone lease. On 26 February the College seal was applied on the deed of surrender (lease) for Telefonica UK Limited, signed by the Chair and Principal. Director of Governance working closely with the Search Committee on a recruitment campaign to fill the current governor vacancies.
3.	Apologies for Absence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irfan Umarji Lalage Clay
4.	Declaration of Interests None.
5.	<p>a. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 11 December 2024 <i>RESOLVED: The minutes were Approved as a true and accurate record.</i></p> <p>b. Matters Arising and Action Points from the Meeting All matters were covered during the meeting</p>

Item No	Item of business
6.	<p>Principal's Report</p> <p>The headline points on the Principal's reports were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student Achievement ▪ Staff Survey / Culture ▪ Restructure & Realignment to improve efficiency ▪ External Stakeholders ▪ Newvic – Bug Buildings ▪ Pay Award <p>Noteworthy points and recommendations from Governors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The governance around the pay award was absent and understood this was implicit in the budget paper, however going forward this needs to be presented to the Remuneration Committee, for review, consideration and recommendation to the Corporation Board. ▪ The board strongly endorsed the work currently being undertaken by the Executive on the restructure / realignment to improve efficiency. As part of good governance, the board requested that they undertake a high-level review of the realignment consultation and rationale prior to finalising. <p>It was RESOLVED to agree formal delegation to committee chairs and HR professional governors to convene a meeting with Executive.</p>
7.	<p>Draft Corporation Board Strategy Day Agenda 15 May 2025</p> <p>Governors reviewed and agreed on the final board strategy day agenda.</p>
8.	<p>Post Merger Integration Update</p> <p>Governors reviewed the post-merger integration position, updating governors on progress, approaches, and how different aspects of the College's functions are being brought together post-merger. A further iteration will be presented to the strategic board away day.</p>
<p align="center">THE DETERMINATION AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE EDUCATIONAL CHARACTER AND MISSION OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE OVERSIGHT OF ITS ACTIVITIES (INTENT / IMPLEMENTATION / IMPACT)</p>	
9.	<p>College Key Performance Indicators</p> <p>The Board reviewed strategic targets noting the key adverse deltas relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance. A range of strategies have been implemented to rapidly improve attendance across the college. ▪ Predicted achievement rates for English, maths, T levels and apprenticeship. A range of strategies are in progress to urgently review and improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. Also marked inconsistencies in the quality of teaching and learning and students' progress and experience, particularly in study programme provision. ▪ Industry placements and work experience are currently in the portfolio of work led by the Director of Employability, Skills and Apprenticeships. There is recognition for the need to review these responsibilities in the context of developing the college's apprenticeship strategy. ▪ The finance targets have been revised to reflect the merged college financial position.
<p align="center">CURRICULUM & QUALITY COMMITTEE</p>	
10.	<p>Deputy Principals' Horizon Scan & Priorities Quality & Newham Curriculum</p> <p>Noteworthy points and recommendations from Governors:</p> <p>a. Quality & Newham Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An excellent and honest report on a journey managing a large portfolio. ▪ It would be helpful for governors', to receive the key priorities, summarising the actions being taken with achievable dates. This will enable governors to provide the right level of challenge and support. ▪ It was pleasing to note that steps were being taken to raise the standards of attainment, and a review of quality standards were underway.
11.	<p>b. NewVic Sixth Form Centre, Student Experience & Safeguarding Cross-College</p> <p>Governors reviewed the update, an excellent and honest deep dive report. Governors congratulated the team on the excellent Ofsted monitoring visit outcome.</p>

Item No	Item of business
THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES, THE SOLVENCY OF THE INSTITUTION & SAFEGUARDING THEIR ASSETS	
AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE	
12.	<p>a. NewVlc Draft Financial Statement and Audit Findings for three months ended 31 October 2024 Governors RESOLVED to approve the Financial Statement and Audit Findings for three months ended 31 October 2024.</p> <p>b. NewVlc Estate Valuation Governors were made aware that the College has been advised by its financial statement auditors RSM, that NewVlc's land and buildings need to be transferred onto the Newham College balance sheet at fair value, on a continuing use basis, as of 1 November 2024 (the merger date), rather than at the net book value from NewVlc's closing accounts. Governors RESOLVED to approve NewVlc estate valuation report.</p> <p>c. Risk Management Update Governors reviewed and noted the risk management update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ of the 21 key risks identified, 11 have reduced in severity compared with their status at the start of the year and 4 (Risks 7, 8, 9 and 11) have reduced in severity since December. ▪ risk 6, failure to maintain estate, facilities and IT and ensure satisfactory compliance, has increased in severity since December, following discovery that insulation below the render on C Block at Stratford is not fire retardant and needs urgent removal. <p>d. Safeguarding Policy Addendum Governors RESOLVED approve the safeguarding policy addendum</p>
FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE	
13.	<p>a. College Management Accounts Governors reviewed and noted the following pertinent points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The first full set of management accounts together with a full year forecast for the merged college. The accounts were for a full 12 months, with prior year comparators restated to include NewVlc, to monitor overall performance versus annual budgets. An adjustment will be made at year end for statutory accounting purposes, to remove the 3 months of NewVlc pre-merger outturn. ▪ YTD EBITDA surplus of £3.1m which is 10% of income; £1.1m better than YTD budget and £1.1m better than prior year. ▪ Operating income YTD is £31.1m, which is £1.8m better than budget and £3.7m better than prior year. ▪ Staff costs to date do not include any cost-of-living increase however – the AoC recommendation for the sector is 2.5% and the London Living Wage rate (to be implemented by April 2025) has increased by 5.3% to £13.85/hour. The College has offered a pay increase of 2.5% backdated to 1 November which was rejected by the unions. An updated offer of 3% back- dated to November 2024 has been accepted by UCU. ▪ The cash forecast is under review and governors will receive an accurate forecast at the March board meeting. ▪ The financial risks and opportunities to the forecast currently show a weighted net opportunity of £499k. ▪ Cash balance at end January is £30.5m and 193 cash days, however this includes £5.5m that we believe was paid in error and there are various potential future claw backs of circa £3.5m to be borne in mind. There are also extensive capital investment requirements, including circa £6m committed to A block that will reduce the cash balance over the next 12 months. Cash flow implications are under review. <p>b. 2025 Budget Setting Governors RESOLVED approving the budget in principle, delegating authority to the Board Chair and Chair, Finance & Resources Committee relating to further iterations to cost increase.</p> <p>c. Estates Capital Improvements Progress Update Governors RESOLVED to approve the costs for urgently required to take place at Stratford campus C Block, relating to render and window replacement.</p>

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14.	<p>Meeting Schedule for 2024-2026 @ 6:00pm</p> <p>Governors noted the board meeting schedule as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 May 2025 – Board Strategy Day 9:30am-6pm (Followed by dinner) - Venue: DLA Piper LLP Global Law Firm in London DLA Piper • 09 July 2025 – IoT • 22 October 2025 – East Ham • 10 December 2025 - Stratford • 25 March 2026 - NewVlc • 14 May 2026 – TBC (Board Strategy Day) • 08 July 2026 – East Ham