REASEHEATH COLLEGE BOARD
CURRICULUM SKILLS AND STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2025 2pm
Committee Room, Reaseheath College

Present:	Sean Houlston (independent, chair)
	Jane Artess (independent)
	Charlotte Brooks (student)
	Jane Cowell (independent)
	Jan Chillery (independent)
	Marcus Clinton (principal)
In attendance:	James Eagney (assistant principal performance and progress)
	John Kendal (assistant principal student experience and support)
	Jane Nickisson (assistant principal and dean of higher education)
	Paul Spearritt (vice principal curriculum and quality)
	Sharon Yates (assistant principal skills and partnerships)
	Jackie Schillinger (head of governance)

PART A unless stated

item	Content
1.	**Opening items**
1.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Mike Gorton.
1.2	RESOLVED: Sean Houlston was appointed as chair of the committee for the 2025-26 year.
1.3	RESOLVED: Charlotte Brooks was appointed as a member of the committee.
1.4	RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2025 were approved as a correct record.
1.5	Matters arising: • Work with Landex on commissioning piece of work on economic value of the sector is ongoing, with an update expected at the forthcoming Landex meeting. • Mixed feedback on the timetable change back to three days. Some aspects to address such as the squeeze in time at the start and end of the day for those further away such as equine. • Devolution now moved forward, with agreed action to ask for a speaker to contribute to the January strategy day. A member of the committee is on the business advisory board.
1.6	RESOLVED: The cycle of business 2025-26 was approved, with the following comments incorporated: • Focus on high needs item in spring term to be widened to inclusion with reference to the new Ofsted framework.
2.	**TOR 2 Source Information/evidence for Curriculum Intent**
2.1	To review latest skills policy developments including Education and Skills White Paper and Devolution and discuss impacts on curriculum planning. Key themes from the discussion were: Key themes:

	• Reform to post-16 pathways, including new level 2 routes, reformed English and maths provision, and the introduction of V Levels as the main vocational pathway at level 3 alongside A Levels and T Levels. • V level consultation raises some questions and challenges for the college • Increased focus on inclusion, progression, and preventing learners from falling out of education, employment, or training. Ofsted – inclusion and NEET focus requires the college to ensure these are coming through in its offer • Funding of adult skills - unclear. Potentially more back to work schemes and bootcamps. Government ambition that two thirds of young people will progress into higher-level learning by age 25, with a specific focus on increasing participation at levels 4 and 5. • Greater specialisation and collaboration across providers, including the development of technical excellence colleges and clearer expectations on institutional roles within local and regional systems.
2.2	Governors' questions and challenge focused on the following areas: • Feedback from employers on their response on the impact the changes will have on the take up of apprenticeships. Suggested there may be a national dip in apprenticeships starts with the change as employers will use the bitesize courses (needs to be a unit of an apprenticeship), but then an uptake again. Due to the specialised areas of provision at Reaseheath these fluctuations in demand tend to have less impact. • Consideration of risk to the college if schools move into V levels, if the college offers a two-year level 2 offer. At a disadvantage, as it would not be viable to deliver combined with A levels. Look at the risks next time/at appropriate time. Agreed to look in more depth at the risk and opportunities at an appropriate time at the committee, will wait for the V levels consultation document, assurance provided that the college will respond to this. • There are opportunities for SEND provision, but the college needs to consider and be clear about the provision it can provide. Currently awaiting the national paper which covers schools and FE. • Landex and the work on promotion of the sector around food security. Confirmation the college and Landex have done the piece to government and working on the wider piece, promoting to schools for example. The next Landex board meeting is looking taking this promotional work further with a national campaign. • Curriculum planning – heritage skills sector within the construction sector is an area the college is looking at with some possibilities to develop.
3.	**TOR 1 Curriculum Intent and Impact of College's Curriculum**
3.1	To review Skills Measure and Destination Data targets/KPI 2024-25 and targets for 2025-26: The Committee considered performance over the year and took assurance of good performance against benchmarks. The Skills Measure and destination data targets and KPIs for 2025-26 were considered. The context of employer engagement was discussed, with the aim to achieve a high response accepted such that the 90% was an appropriate stretch target to aim for.
3.2	RESOLVED: Skills measure and destination data KPI for 2025-26 recommended for approval.
3.3	To understand and advise the Board on intent of curriculum plan including changes implemented in 2025-26: The VP curriculum and quality summarised progress on curriculum development planned for the current year: • T levels. Foundation phase 1 offer well received, Ofsted progress report positive, and governor link visits provide positive triangulation.

	• Apprenticeships development, some positives, some not progressed as well, due to staffing. Some lack of employer interest. • Adult skills, access to HE programmes. Increased. Vet science and animal science added to portfolio. Better linked to industrial strategy, so now we are looking at the existing land-based offer to develop this into more science based. Good progression to UCR programmes. • Ran 1 skills bootcamp pilot, and positive outcome with a demand there but some funding timescale issues, submitted again for funding. We need to be more agile at getting in place as they are well funded. • Explanation of rationale behind removal of elective home education offer unless linked to a school this change will provide more capacity for post 16 NEET provision as a priority going forwards as part of the core offer for post 16 learners. • UCR curriculum development with current core curriculum up to date and strong. 8% increase this year on new entrants into HE. Better internal progression 58% improvement (about 40 students) • Plans to add new programmes have been delayed due to validation factors, however these are now moving in a positive direction with the refreshed arrangements with the validation partner. • Collaboration between HE and FE as a focus of the White Paper is an opportunity for UCR. Positive relationship moving to an associate college arrangement, with benefits such as a linked tutor. • Student governor commented that there are more HE student around this year and engaging in student life and student union activities. She suggested HE students come and talk to FE students, as the student-to-student link is most effective in decision-making. Welcome suggestion that will be progressed as part of the student engagement strategy.
3.4	RESOLVED: The Committee was satisfied that the executive team is well sighted on skills policy developments and that the College is actively engaging with consultation processes and sector bodies. Governors have emphasised the importance of ensuring progression routes are clearly articulated internally and externally, and that information, advice and guidance keeps pace with the changing qualification landscape.
4.	**TOR 3 Stakeholder engagement strategies**
4.1	To review development of the College Industry Engagement Strategy 2026-2030: the assistant principal, skills and partnerships presented the initial draft of the strategy, aligned to the government skills strategy. She explained the key message one of Reaseheath as a stable trusted partner. In summary, the main points discussed were: • Alignment with National Priorities: The strategy supports the UK Industrial Strategy, LSIPs, Net Zero ambitions, and technical education reforms. It responds to priorities around clean growth, food security, digital transformation, and rural productivity. • Key Outcomes: Sector-specific Industry Skills Boards across all curriculum areas; Significant growth in work-based learning and employer-designed provision; 100% staff participation in industry CPD; National profile through major events and media features; 90%+ graduate progression into sector roles • Focus on quality of employer relationships and the infrastructure, people and systems to really build those relationships. Smaller employers more challenging to engage with so we are working with their sector organisations. Need to grow the employer voice. • Incorporate the use of student alumni groups to reach smaller employers.

4.2	RESOLVED: The Committee feedback recognised the aims were ambitious but appropriate and a positive direction of travel. The committee will review the final draft of the strategy at its next meeting.
4.3	To review Board level stakeholder engagement and identify any gaps/actions: A summary of current board level engagement was reviewed across internal and external stakeholders. External board level engagement with industry sectors and government policy had increased which had been a deliberate aim of governor succession planning. There was a range of activity and appetite within board membership to support the college in its wider stakeholder engagement strategies. It was agreed that a small working group be convened to work with the executive lead for the Excite strategic priority to map and align board level engagement with college strategy in order to add value where most needed from the current experience and skills mix on the Board. ACTION
4.4	RESOLVED: The Committee will follow development of the Industry Engagement Strategy, review the quality and impact of employer involvement in curriculum design, and support the development of a more structured and purposeful Board-level approach to stakeholder engagement that adds value without cutting across operational relationships.
5.	**TOR 5 Risk Review**
5.1	RESOLVED: The Committee confirms it takes reasonable assurance on the management of the strategic risk of meeting skills and stakeholder needs due to the policy enviornment and current Ofsted 'reasonable contribution' judgement.
6.	**Governance**
6.1	RESOLVED: The Committee considered it had met its remit set out in its terms of reference and cycle of business for this term's meeting.
7.	**Closing items**
7.1	There was no other business reported to the meeting.
7.2	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Friday 6 March 2026 2pm – 4.30pm. Committee members were invited to attend all or part of the presentations on curriculum planning on 12 December 2025.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm

Approved as a correct record 6 March 2026 Sean Houlston, Chair