

IEG CORPORATION BOARD MEETING

July 3, 2025

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Boardroom, Peterborough College

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

David Cashmore
David Pennell (Chair)
Gemma Roger
Les Ebdon
Marley Sheridan
Martin Ballard
Pamela Jane Kilbey
Rachel Nicholls
Tony Keeling
Tony Warner
Suneel Appan

IN ATTENDANCE

Kate Knight (agenda item 2 only)
Allison Long
Edward Thomas
Jane Spurgin (Governance Director)
Julia Bates
Louise Perry
Sarah Young

ABSENT

Vincent Brittain
Marco Cereste
Nicholas Crippa
Angela Morris
David O'Garr
Steve Saffhill
Kris Varslavs Da Silva

1. WELCOME, THANKS AND APOLOGIES

Welcome: The Chair welcomed Allison Long, (Interim Executive Director of People Services), and Kate Knight (Group Manager – Marketing and Communications), to the meeting.

Thanks: The Chair took the opportunity to thank Martin Ballard, attending his last meeting as a member of the Board, for his nine years of dedicated service for which the Board has been most grateful. He thanked Martin for his support, passion, interest, time and commitment, particularly in his role as Chair of the Audit Committee. Martin responded to say that serving on the Board has been an immensely rewarding experience and that he highly recommends volunteering, as it offers invaluable professional and personal growth.

- a. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Vincent Brittain, Marco Cereste, Nicholas Crippa, Angela Morris, Steve Saffhill and Kris Varslavs Da Silva
- b. **Confirmation of eligibility, quoracy and declarations of interest:** No notice had been received of any Member becoming ineligible to hold office, the meeting was quorate, and no interests were declared. It was noted that Vincent Brittain has a previously declared interest in Item 14 but is not present at the meeting.
- c. **Requests for urgent business:** None received

2. MARKETING (DEEP DIVE) SESSION

Kate Knight, IEG Group Manager of Marketing & Communications, gave a presentation on **marketing** covering:

- Team structure – introduction to the team
- Branding
- Measure responses – allowing flexibility of approach
- The importance and impact of Open events
- Data and Reporting
- Market Segmentation
- 'How We Engage'
- PR

Following discussion on key points raised by members, the following actions were agreed:

- presentation slides to be made available to governors **(ACTION 1)**;
- Marketing to send links to all IEG brands to governors, enabling them to support by reposting on social media **(ACTION 2)**;
- Marketing to meet with the Burghley House marketing team to share good practice **(ACTION 3)**.

Members thanked Kate for her excellent presentation and the remarkable work that she and her team deliver for the Group.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING(S)

- Approve the Minutes of the last meeting (25.03.25) for signature – approved **(ACTION 4)**
- Approve the Minutes of the meeting (08.05.25) for signature – approved **(ACTION 5)**
- **Matters arising from the minutes:** None
- **Actions from the minutes (Board tracker):** Members received a report and verbal updates on the progress made to completing previous action points raised

4. COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD APPROVAL

Board members **received and noted** the contents of the following (draft) minutes from its Committees, which had been approved by the respective committee Chairs:

- QRS Board – 12th June 2025
- Search Committee – 12th June 2025
- Finance & Resources Committee (12.06.25 – draft)
- IEG Audit Committee (18.06.25 – draft)

Having received full details, the following committee recommendations were **approved** by the Board:

Search, Governance & Remuneration Committee – 12.06.25

- Search & Governance Committee Terms of Reference - revised
- Remuneration Committee Terms of Reference - new
- IEG Instrument & Articles & Standing Orders - revised
- SPH Remuneration and Performance Review Policy - new
- IEG Code of Conduct & Ethics Policy - revised

Finance & Resources Committee – 12.06.25

- Subcontracting Values 2025/26 – new values approved
- Subcontracting Rationale 2025/26 - revised
- IEG Financial Regulations 2025/26 - updated
- IEG Fees Policy 2025/26 - updated
- UCP Financial Regulations 2025/26 - updated
- Health & Safety Policy 2025/26 - revised
- Environmental Statement of Intent - new
- Partnership Policy 2025/26 – revised
- Subcontracting Supply Chain Fees and Charging Policy – revised

The above governance related documentation, policies and subcontracting values to be adopted (**ACTION 6**).

5. CEO'S REPORT

The CEO provided her report covering the following, received and **discussed** by Members:

- the new Centre for Green Technology officially opened on 9 May 2025, with strong stakeholder support, including a letter of thanks from Baroness Taylor of Stevenage;
- IEG has secured £2.4 million in capital (condition) funding, but additional funds due from the Towns Fund are still pending;
- the financial outlook for the upcoming year has significantly improved due to a 5.4% increase in the 16-18 funding rate, helping to mitigate ongoing financial pressures.
- on 21 May 2025, IEG had a productive meeting with senior Department for Education (DfE) officials to discuss key challenges, including capital funding and student growth. The DfE response to that meeting will be shared with Members over the summer period (**ACTION 7**);
- HMRC has concluded its audit of QRS with no further action required, and IEG has already implemented an advisory note on timesheets for salaried workers;
- IEG is performing well against the new DfE/FE Commissioner financial benchmarks. Whilst staff costs are currently slightly above the 65% target, this is consistent with most other colleges;

- the new DfE Financial Handbook, published 23 June 2025, includes updated rules for accounting officers, new guidance on investments and procurement, and changes to the audit committee's role;
- the DfE is establishing 10 Construction Technical Excellence Colleges (CTECs) to create regional hubs for construction training. IEG is one of only 58 colleges nationally that is eligible to apply. IEG submitted its TEC bid today – up against probably 11 colleges in the Eastern Region;
- the Federation of Lincolnshire Colleges met with Dame Mayor Andrea Jenkins to discuss devolution and ensure the college's needs are considered within the new Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) structure;
- the new UK Industrial Strategy (shared with Members for information) outlines a 10-year vision with an additional £1.2 billion for skills, reforms to the apprenticeship levy, and a new Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE), all of which will directly impact the FE sector.

Looking ahead Members discussed key challenges including the unclear role of Skills England, inconsistent devolution policies across mayoral authorities, and the ongoing mismatch between government policy and funding.

The Board **thanked** the CEO for her useful and focussed report.

6. GOVERNOR DASHBOARD 2024/25

The Governor dashboard for 2024/25 (as at P10) was presented for scrutiny. The Board received the dashboard and discussed the following aspects, in particular, that:

Financials:

- IEG is projecting a small deficit against the UCP 2024/25 budget forecast.
- IEG finance status is "amber" due to late funding announcements, which impacted secure forecasts.

Funding & Delivery:

- Adult Skills Funding (ASF) was delivered at 100% by the end of Period 10, with a planned over-delivery of 110%. Next year, the ASF budget will be challenged by high demand, leading to significant course reductions, especially for study programs.
- HND income has increased, but this money is directly absorbed by staff costs.

Apprenticeships:

- Apprenticeship achievement rates are consistent with the previous year.

HR & Staffing:

- HR metrics are aligning with last year's figures.
- There are an 'acceptable' number of long-term sick staff members (based on the size of the workforce),
- The Occupational Health service is under review, and the appointment of a new provider is being explored.

Health & Safety:

- Plumbing and carpentry departments have a "red" RAG status, indicating a safety concern due to a higher number of low-level injuries last year. Additional safety measures are now in place.

Members **welcomed** the updated report and **requested** that the format of the Dashboard be reviewed for 2025/26 to:

- provide context for each metric to support a wider understanding of the data presented - of particular importance are adult funding and apprenticeship metrics;
- include an arrow descriptor against each metric to indicate whether performance is up or down against the last report (**ACTION 8**).

7. GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Members considered a number of governance issues, as presented by the Governance Director, for decision. The following issues were discussed:

Governor appointments/Membership/Terms of Office

Members were invited to consider the current terms of office for its IEG Corporation and UCP Council membership. In light of the recent DfE/FE Commissioner guidance on maximum terms of office, understanding start date amendments allowed due to incorporation in 2020 and the need for a clear decision which meets the moral intent of the latest guidance, the following was **agreed**:

- IEG Board Member terms of office be a maximum of 2 x 4 years from their date of first appointment with the following exceptions:
 - Chair/Chairs of Committees whose first term of office is considered as starting on the date of merger (03.08.2020) or actual date, if appointed after merger;
 - Marco Cereste be offered an extension to July 2026 to provide fair notice.

The above arrangements to be adopted **(ACTION 9)**.

- the current UCP Council Member terms of office (maximum 3 x 3 year terms) to be reviewed to bring them in line with the IEG Board **(ACTION 10)**.

New Governor Recruitment

Members were advised that the recruitment drive for new governors to fill business governor vacancies is going well with ten potential candidates currently being invited for informal discussions with the CEO/Governance Director before a short list is presented to the Search & Governance Committee for interview early September. It was discussed that UCP Governance would be strengthened during the year ahead.

The Chair advised members that Gillian Beasley has moved to Colchester to live with her daughter and resigned from the Board in May 2025.

Governance Development Plan 2025 & Governor Training Plan 2025/26

Having considered both Plans, the Board:

- **approved** the IEG Governance Development Plan for 2025/26 for implementation **(ACTION 11)**.
- **noted** that a UCP Governance Development Plan is to be developed **(ACTION 12)**.
- **approved** the IEG Governor Training Plan 2025/26, as recommended by the Search & Governance Committee **(ACTION 13)**.
- **noted** that a UCP Governor Training Plan 2025/26 is to be developed **(ACTION 14)**.

DfE Guidance to amendments to the Instrument & Articles of Government (I&A)

A recent letter from the DfE highlighted areas of governance which required review. The Board **approved** the following amendments:

- the removal of the reference to student governors under the age of 18 being eligible to vote on financial or contractual matters. Due to this being incompatible with Charity Law (I&A: Delete clause 13.7)
- remove outdated clause regarding the Secretary of State's role in the absence of a board quorum as the Secretary of State no longer has this power. Equally it is possible to appoint new governors without a quorum and therefore the clause can be removed (I&A: Delete Clause 4.2 and amend 4.3 and 4.4).

(ACTION 15)

Schedule of Meetings 2025/26

The proposed Schedule of Meetings 2025/26 was approved for implementation (**ACTION 16**).

8. STUDENT GOVERNORS - VERBAL UPDATE REPORT

A written Student Governor Report 2024/25 had been received by the Curriculum & Quality Committee in June and student governor, Marley Sheridan, provided a verbal update for the full Board, covering the following:

- planned student activities had experienced a slow start but the pillars had been hit and everything that was possible had been achieved;
- as a student governor, he had personally felt more confident and comfortable by the end of his term of office;
- it was suggested that the outgoing student governor could potentially sit alongside a new student governor at the first few meetings to build confidence and to better understand how to balance study with governor role;
- the planned relationship between FE and HE student governors did not happen in a timely way but it remains an excellent idea;
- Marley has enjoyed the year – it has been a really useful experience and made him want to volunteer more

It was advised that the appointment process timeline will be brought forward for 2025/26 so that new student governors are in place for October. NAMS has launched new group offering support for service managers who look after student governors. A review of processes and support will be undertaken over the summer period (**ACTION 17**)

The Board **thanked** the outgoing student governors for their contributions, time and effort during the year.

9. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (QIP) – SUMMARY OF MOVEMENTS

The Board received a high-level summary of progress against key quality measures, ensuring actions drive expected outcomes, reflecting good progress overall. The Curriculum & Quality Committee considered progress against the QIP in detail at its meeting on 17 June 2025 and Members discussed the following in particular:

- **Student Learning:** Students continue to be challenged in their lessons, and their progress is improving, with more expected to exceed their minimum target grades. The teams continue to focus on and develop new attendance strategies, recognising the impact attendance has on outcomes
- **Leadership & Management:** The new Centre for Green Technology has been successfully opened. A new Interim Executive Director for People Services has been appointed to improve recruitment and workforce planning.
- **Personal Development:** All aspects of personal development are rated positively, with no areas for concern.
- **Adult Learning:** A new Assistant Principal for Adults is driving continued stakeholder engagement, despite challenges arising from funding cuts.
- **Apprenticeships:** IEG is on track to exceed its apprenticeship outcome target, with a predicted outcome of 63.7%.
- **High-Needs Provision:** There has been continued improvement in curriculum input for students with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Governor David Cashmore advised Members that he had spent a day with the Student Services team and had seen first-hand the extraordinary lengths that staff go through to get students through the door.

The Board **thanked** the teams for their continued hard work in driving performance to further improve outcomes for students.

10. NARTS 2023/24 REPORT

Members received the 2023/24 National Achievement Rate Tables (NARTS), published by the DfE in March 2025. The NARTS data allows IEG to benchmark performance nationally and regionally, view its GFE ranking, and is used by Ofsted, the DfE, and the ESFA to evaluate performance. The tables reflect a very positive picture for IEG outcomes:

Overall Performance

- IEG's overall achievement rate of 88.2% places it in the top 15% of General Further Education (GFE) colleges;
- the achievement rate for 16–18 learners improved, moving IEG into the top 10% nationally;
- adult achievement remained high;

Qualification Achievement

- at Level 2, IEG achieved an outstanding 91.7% achievement rate, ranking it 3rd nationally;
- at Level 3, IEG improved significantly, rising 19 places to 63rd nationally with an achievement rate of 85.8%;

GCSE English & Maths

- the overall 16–18 achievement rate in GCSE English and Maths was 96.2%, which is a three-place rise from the previous year, ranking IEG 3rd out of 156 GFE colleges;
- 29.9% of students achieved a Grade 4 or above in GCSE English, resulting in a national ranking of 17th;

Apprenticeships

- the overall apprenticeship achievement rate increased from 54% to 63.8%;
- this improvement led to a rise in rankings, from 701st to 588th among all providers.

The Board **welcomed** the tables, **commenting** that the results are a testament to the continued commitment of our students and the expertise of our staff, reflecting the skill and dedication of colleagues across all teams.

11. FINANCE REPORT

The Board received the following Finance Reports and considered each, noting that:

IEG P10 Group Finance Report 2024/25

(Considered in detail by the Finance & Resources Committee, included in draft minutes)

- the overall in year financial situation is stable (despite impact of late funding announcements) and the year-to-date surplus is strong;
- any changes to the surplus by year end will likely be an increase, not a decrease;
- there was over delivery on the Adult Skills budget beyond the 100% threshold, but governors were reassured that it did not negatively impact the overall bottom line as costs were already accounted for in the budget. However, with reduced adult funding in 2025/26, there will be additional controls introduced to closely monitor spending against allocated funds in year. A new Finance team member will be hired to improve financial analytics;
- of the total approved capital spend authorised by the Board to develop its Masterplan (£490k), £193k has been spent to date with a total of £474k expected to be spent by the end of the year;
- the underlying operating performance is pleasing, if adjusted for the master planning spend IEG is ending the year with a surplus that is close to the original budget, despite some in-year funding changes. This demonstrates positive underlying financial health.

The Board discussed and agreed that the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for 2025/26, (and possibly the format of the Finance Report to be more forward-looking), be adjusted to support their improved understanding of the in-year position **(ACTION 18)**.

Members also requested more detailed information about its debtors - the total amount that has been written off and what has been cleared. A snapshot of this data will be included in future reports **(ACTION 19)**.

IEG 3 Year Group Financial Plan

The Board received the final version of the 2025/28 Group Financial Plan which includes both colleges, UCP, and QRS. It noted that the plan has been constructed on a set of budget principles reviewed by the Finance & Resources Committee in March 2025, an options paper reviewed by the members in early June 2025, and revisions based on very late funding announcements.

The plan has been fully constructed since the Finance and Resources Committee meeting in June, and the formal confirmation of funding received by IEG on 23rd June. It was duly noted that the late notification of funding, while positive in the eventual outcome, has undermined the income planning process this year.

The following key points included in the plan were discussed:

- the plan is written against the revised strategic plan priorities, principally the Financial Sustainability priority.
- Modelling the three metrics within the plan that combine to calculate the ESFA Financial Health Rating reflects the following forecast position: 2025/26 Good; 2026/27 Good; 2027/28 Outstanding
- the new FE Commissioner benchmarks have been considered within the plan;
- the plan generally aligns to the budget principles reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee, the predominant changes being to funding and staff costs;
- whilst key income streams have been confirmed for 2025/26, there is no certainty around in year growth funding;
- project funding is included in the plan if a formal agreement is in place;
- 16-18 funding - whilst in year growth in student numbers is expected, in year growth funding from the ESFA is not included in the plan;
- the T Level allocation is much lower than expected. IEG are currently writing a business case to request additional funds for 2025/26. The additional income is excluded from the budget;
- the adult funding income stream is reducing in 2025/26 which has required some reductions to be made against current levels of activity;
- commercial income streams are budgeted to make a small surplus;
- there is overall growth in payroll budget of 13.5% in 2025/26 due to increased staffing to meet student growth demands;
- overall non-pay costs have been reduced in 2025/26, due to a number of non-recurring project costs in 2024/25 being removed from the budget;
- the last two years have seen high levels of capital investment over the Group estate. The plan reduces this to £1.6M for the next two years, to recover the cash position. This area may change, if capital awards or central government borrowing opportunities are forthcoming;
- the plan does not include the Towns Fund monies due.

Due to the lateness of allocation announcements the CFFR statement which would normally be presented to the Board for agreement was not available. However the Chair and Suneel Appan agreed to consider the details and approach outside of the meeting.

The Board **agreed** to:

- a. approve the IEG 3 Year Financial Plan;

- b. delegate authority to the Corporation Chair to approve the CFFR statement, due by 31st July 2025 (**ACTION 20**).

UCP P10 Finance Report 2024/25

The Board received a detailed report reflecting a much-improved position for UCP and noted that:

- the full-year forecast has been updated to reflect a deficit of £22,000. This revised forecast is a result of not meeting January enrolment targets, which led to tuition fee income being below plan. The deficit was substantially reduced by an in-year grant for developing degree apprenticeships;
- the team is continuing to review non-pay costs to find more opportunities for savings before year-end;
- UCP successfully used all of its HTQ funds and the OfS capital allocation;
- while the year-to-date balance sheet shows a healthy net asset position, it is anticipated that the net assets at the end of the year will be similar to or lower than the current position due to the forecasted deficit.

The Board was **pleased** to receive the improved year end forecast

UCP 3 Year Financial Plan

Members noted that the Plan has been through Finance & Resources Committee and the UCP Council and is recommended to the Board for approval. It was noted that:

- the report presents a revised three-year financial plan (2025-2028) for UCP. It follows up on an earlier report from March 2025 that highlighted significant financial challenges due to lower-than-expected January recruitment;
- the new plan is a result of a comprehensive review of UCP's income and expenses. The primary goal was to create a more realistic financial outlook, directly addressing any optimism bias previously experienced;
- Student Numbers: the Plan significantly reduces the projected student enrolment numbers from the original five-year plan. The new projection for 2025/26 is 493 headcount (453 FTE) - these numbers are considered reasonable given recent improvements in applications;
- Financial Outlook: the plan forecasts a very small surplus; however, this is contingent on achieving £90k in unidentified savings or additional income;
- the plan has been integrated into the IEG 3 Year Financial Plan.

The Board approved the UCP 3 Year Financial Plan (**ACTION 21**).

The UCP Chair thanked colleagues for the work undertaken to close the financial gap and all noted that, whilst there are positive signs of improved recruitment for 2025/26, clearing is likely to be very challenging this year as universities fight for students in an increasingly competitive market.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT - REVIEW OF STRATEGIC RISKS (BAF)

The Board received a report summarising the final review of the risk environment for the 2024/25 academic year covering two risk registers: IEG Group Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and IEG Group Operational Risk Register (summary). The risk registers had been considered in detail by the Audit Committee in June.

Key Changes to Strategic Risks (BAF)

- Financial Risk: This has increased due to uncertainty and late announcements over 2025/26 funding and cost pressures from the national schoolteacher pay award. The financial position of UCP also remains a risk, with September 2025 enrolment being a critical factor.
- Safeguarding Risk: This risk has decreased, which is a cyclical, summer-related reduction.
- Enrolment Risk: This risk has increased due to reduced adult funding in 2025/26 and the associated reputational challenges.
- Positive Group Ethos: This risk slightly decreased following improvements noted in the 2025 staff survey.

Key Changes to Operational Risks

- Overall changes: 12 risks with an amended residual rating: 8 increased, 4 reduced; 4 new risks were added; 1 risk was removed.
- Increased risks are mainly financial, but also include HR systems, website security, industry placements, and the use of AI in learning.
- Reduced risks relate to the delivery of the Green Technology Centre, curriculum reform, a supported delivery contract, and relationships with Stamford Football Club.
- New risks added are:
 - Over-delivery against reducing adult allocations.
 - Failure to service the increasing number of exams.
 - Failure to correctly onboard new staff following the end of the QRS Agency Worker Model.
- T Levels - Lack of student interest – due to recruitment growth, this risk was removed.

The Board **welcomed** the risk registers and **approved** the reported risk adjustments. Members recognised the value of increasing the risk level around AI, necessary in a fast changing landscape.

13. CAPITAL AND ESTATES DEVELOPMENT - STAMFORD NORTH HEADS OF TERMS

The Board received a detailed report providing an overview of IEG Capital and Estates Developments and a review of the Stamford North Development Heads of terms for the new lease arrangements and construction works. The report detailed the following:

Overview of the IEG Estate Condition Liability

The IEG estate has a total condition liability of over £13 million that needs to be addressed within the next five years. The majority of the buildings are in poor condition ("Grade C") and require significant investment or replacement. Specifically:

- Peterborough College requires over £8 million in maintenance, with £4.56 million for immediate "backlog" work.
- Stamford College needs over £5 million, with £2.46 million for immediate "backlog" maintenance.

Overview of New DFE FE Condition Fund Allocation

IEG has been awarded a £2.4 million allocation from the new national Further Education College Condition Allocation (FECCA) fund. This funding, which is the 28th largest allocation in the FE sector, has a spending deadline of March 31, 2028. The primary purpose of the funds is to address maintenance needs, prevent deterioration, and ensure safety, with a strong encouragement to prioritize Net Zero and energy efficiency projects.

IEG has asked DfE to review the allocation considering the conditions survey of the college campuses, but they are not prepared to review.

Update on Completion of Capital Grants

The IEG Estates Department has successfully completed and drawn down various grant funding streams during the 2024/25 period. These funds have been fully spent to invest in the buildings and infrastructure.

Masterplan Update

IEG has submitted a number of proposals that are part of their masterplan and is actively engaging stakeholders, lobbying the DfE and developing plans to secure the required funding:

- Phase 4: A £5 million proposal for a dedicated SEND block at Peterborough College to create an additional 100 student places.
- Phase 2: A £40 million proposal submitted to the CPCA for a new development aligned with the UK's industrial strategy, particularly in response to a 35% increase in demand for engineering courses.

The following next steps were endorsed:

- Issue investment brochure to key stakeholders
- Identify appropriate development partners to discuss funding options
- Target key influencers to support the masterplan
- Meet with Mayor of the CPCA to discuss the masterplan

Members heard that staff were excited to learn about the Masterplan, revealed at the recent staff events in June.

The Group is also shifting its focus to long-term master planning and future developments now that the recent grant funds have been spent.

(Having declared his interest in the Stamford North Development, Chair David Pennell left the room for this part of the agenda item with discussions led by F&R Committee member, Suneel Appan)

Stamford North Development - Heads of Terms

Members received a summary of the "Heads of Terms" for the Stamford North Development, outlining an agreement between several parties, including Stamford College (SC), Peterborough College (PC), and Stamford Football Club (SAFC), for a construction project at Borderville and the football club.

The key points of the Agreement were noted as:

- **Project Scope:** The development involves constructing new sports facilities, including a full-sized 3G football pitch, a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), a car park, and a modular welfare unit.
- **Lease Arrangements:** Existing leases for both Stamford College and Peterborough College will be surrendered and replaced with new leases under the same terms to facilitate the construction.
- **Financial Contribution:** The project will be financed by a £350,000 contribution from SAFC, with no financial contribution required from IEG.
- **Shared Use and Benefits:** IEG will have continued access to the property during construction and will gain free shared use of the new MUGA during school hours.
- **Timeline and Conditions:** The agreement is not legally binding yet and is contingent upon all parties obtaining satisfactory planning permissions within the next three years.

The benefits to IEG are in getting upgraded sports facilities with new leases and shared use rights, without having to contribute financially, provided the project secures the necessary planning permissions. The heads of terms reflect what has been discussed and

agreed throughout this process. Once the Heads of Terms are agreed IEG will receive a new lease which will be reviewed by solicitors ahead of signing and allowing the works to proceed.

The Board **approved** the signing of the Heads of Terms by management and **noted** that the draft lease will be brought back for approval once approved by solicitors (**ACTION 22**).

14. LEARNING CURVE CONTRACT AWARD 2025/26 APPROVAL

The Board was requested to approve a reduced contract value with Learning Curve for the 2025/26 academic year, due to a lower allocation of the Adult Skills Fund (ASF).

The proposed contract value is a maximum of £750,000, which is a decrease from the previous year's £1.1 million. The new contract includes an option to extend for up to four years, with the value to be agreed upon annually.

Members noted that this continued partnership helps IEG to fully utilize its DfE funding in Lincolnshire, while the institution works on increasing its own capacity for direct adult delivery. The agreement is viewed as a "measured risk" during the region's transition to a devolved authority.

The Board was **pleased to approve** the Learning Curve Contract for 2025/26 at a maximum contract value of £750,000 (**ACTION 23**).

15. URGENT BUSINESS: (RE ITEM 1C)

None

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 16TH OCTOBER 2025

The date of the first meeting for 2025/26 was duly noted.

Staff and student governors were requested to leave the meeting at this point, prior to the confidential section.

