



RICHARD HUISH TRUST BOARD MEETING

24th February 2025 at 5.00pm

Rowan House and via MS Teams, Richard Huish College

Directors Present:

Jade Renville (Chair)
Catherine Christie (Vice Chair)
Dan Maycock – via Teams
Tim Duffen
Clare Greenslade – via Teams
Dominic Lynch
Olivia Salaman -via Teams

In attendance:

John Abbott (CEO)
Paul Lonsdale (CFO)
Steve Chattell (CPO)
Richard Anderson (Director of IT & Facilities)
Roz Abbott (MIS Manager)

Clerk:

Helen Wells (Governance Specialist)

MINUTES

RHT
24/93

1. MEETING FORMALITIES

Action

1.1 Welcome and apologies for absence

The chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. There were apologies for absence from Pat Flaherty.

RHT
24/94

1.2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5th December 2024 were agreed as an accurate record. The Chair agreed to her electronic signature being used to sign them off.

RHT
24/95

1.3 Matters arising

Directors discussed the matters arising paper and agreed they were either all completed or were satisfied they were in progress and had been brought forward to this meeting or a relevant committee.

RHT
24/96

1.4 Declarations of interest

Directors confirmed that the summary declarations of interest for publication on the website were accurate, no declarations of interest were declared for this meeting.

Signed:.....*Jade Renville*..... Date:.....14th May 2025.....

2. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Strategic update

RHT 24/97 **Strategic overview**
A presentation was given by the CEO on key strategic updates. The Headteacher's Forum was highlighted as it now extends the invite to other local schools for peer review purposes. Directors noted there are discussions/processes underway with primary schools interested in joining Huish but that there are many factors to consider.

RHT 24/98 The new Ofsted report card approach was noted and the introduction of the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) Teams from the DfE.

RHT 24/99 **How are employers and others to be engaged with local priorities by the RISE Team?**
The detail is not yet clear. This will be worked through in a collaborative way to inform the basic offer for schools across the region from the autumn.

RHT 24/100 **What have the developments been with Pyrland since the last update to directors?**
The executive team are looking to proactively address some of the concerns raised by the inspection team in their verbal feedback, including issues around bullying/behaviour. The executive team have met with a local charity who are well placed to help address bullying issues.

RHT 24/101 **Are there any financial repercussions if Huish commission support from a charity in relation to bullying?** There is a cost; it is a bought in service, costs are not yet known. Directors agreed this needs addressing as soon as possible.

RHT 24/102-120 **There were confidential discussions in relation to Pyrland School**

3. GOVERNANCE

RHT 24/121 **3.1 Safeguarding monitoring**
The CPO noted the safeguarding monitoring report summarising the reports from the local governing boards (LGBs) via their link safeguarding governors. There were no significant matters arising from the report. The CPO highlighted that there has been a significant change with Richard Huish Tigers and the sports club to seek further assurance, with regard to their safeguarding protocols as they are not using RHT processes. The assurance recognises that the governing body of those groups has had their approach to safeguarding mapped against the RHT approach which gives confidence they are of the same quality. The next round of monitoring is in progress to produce the next report for this term.

RHT 24/122 **3.2 SEND monitoring**
The new style report document SEND monitoring was pending completion. The CPO noted it is a new process and some of the details of it are still being worked through and refined with the LGBs. Directors recognised that as a new process there may be teething issues. The CPO assured directors the report would be circulated as soon as it is available.
ACTION: Circulate the SEND monitoring report to directors as soon as it becomes available. CPO

RHT 24/123 **3.3 Scheme of Delegated Authority (SoDA)**
The Governance Specialist highlighted proposed changes to the SoDA summarised on the accompanying paper and more minor updates detailed in the main SoDA document. Changes had already been reviewed by the Governance & People Committee which had recommended them for approval to the board.
RESOLVED: Changes to the SoDA were approved.

Signed:.....*Jade Renville*..... Date:.....14th May 2025.....

RHT
24/124

3.4 Membership of Governance & People (G&P) Committee
The G&P Committee recommended director Dominic Lynch be approved to join the committee.
RESOLVED: Dominic Lynch was approved to join the G&P Committee.

RHT
24/125

Directors discussed the need to recruit new directors, with the particularly pressing need for additional members in the Academic Performance & Quality (AP&Q) Committee.
ACTION: Approach headteachers and deputy headteachers of primary schools in the area to see if they may consider joining Huish as a director.

Clerk/
CEO

RHT
24/126

3.5 LGB membership updates
Directors noted the updates to the LGB membership.
RESOLVED: Directors approved governors for appointment as detailed on the related paper.

4. FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNAL CONTROL

RHT
24/127

4.1 Oversight Report including Management Accounts – December 2024
Directors discussed the projected intake of new students across the schools. Directors discussed the nursery finances noting that nurseries were part of the internal audit last year and will reviewed in terms of action and implementation this year. Directors agreed that continued assurances and oversight of financial management of the nurseries will remain a priority, to ensure it is delivering a quality provision that is meeting the needs of the community. Directors noted the role of the LGBs with the oversight of the nursery provision at each academy.
ACTION: Where necessary and appropriate LGBs to be asked that nursery performance be discussed as a regular part of LGB meetings.

CEO

The CFO updated directors on the challenges in relation to drawing down the ongoing funding of Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs). Directors noted the inclusion of academy newsletters in the oversight report helps illustrate the breadth of activities and wider context of Huish.

5. MINUTES

RHT
24/128

5.1 Minutes from recent Trust Board Committees
Directors noted the recent minutes from the Trust Board Committees.

RHT
24/129

5.2 Minutes from recent Local Governing Boards
Directors noted the minutes from recent LGB meetings.

6. POLICIES AND OTHER MATTERS OF NOTE

RHT
24/130

6.1 Admission Arrangements for academies 2026-2027
Directors noted all arrangements have been recommended for approval by the linked LGBs.
RESOLVED: Admissions arrangements for 2026-27 were APPROVED

RHT
24/131

6.2 Internal audit plan for 2024/2025
Directors received the internal audit plan as approved by the Audit & Risk (A&R) Committee at their last meeting on 14th January 2025.

RHT
24/132

6.3 Carbon reduction strategy update
Directors received the carbon reduction strategy update as reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) Committee at their last meeting on 5th February 2025.

Signed:.....*Jade Renville*..... Date:.....14th May 2025.....

- RHT 24/133** **6.4 Health & Safety update**
Directors noted the H&S Term 1 update for 2024/2025 as reviewed by the F&GP Committee on 5th February 2025.
- RHT 24/134** **6.5 Skills audit summary report**
Directors noted the skills audit report as reviewed by the G&P Committee on 29th January 2025.
- RHT 24/135** **6.6 People update**
Directors noted the people update as reviewed by the G&P Committee on 29th January 2025.
- RHT 24/136** **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 7.1 Any other business
 There was no other business.
- RHT 24/137** **7.2 Consideration of confidential content of the minutes**
Directors agreed that much of item 2.1 should remain confidential in addition to any papers marked as confidential.
- RHT 24/138** **7.3 Agenda for next meeting**
Directors noted the AGM on 20th March, and that the agenda for the Strategy Day in June would be circulated at a later date.
- RHT 24/139** **7.4 Next meeting dates**
Directors noted the next meeting of the board was scheduled for 13th June 2025.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.15pm

Signed:.....*Jade Renville*..... Date:.....14th May 2025.....