

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Minutes of the meeting held on 31 JANUARY 2007 at 1400 hrs at Newton Park

<u>Present:</u>	Mr I Ahluwalia Professor J Brown Ms C Bull Cllr J Gay (to Agenda item 7) Mr A Harris Professor F Morgan (Vice Chancellor) Mr P Parker (Deputy Chair)	Mr I Phillips Mr D Pickett Ms S Pirie (Chair) Mr M Roy Professor G Smith Ms S Talbot-Williams Ms M Toman
<u>In attendance:</u>	Mr A E Dewberry (Clerk) Mr J Brady Mr A Thomas Mr A J Frost Ms J Lock-Smith Ms C Puddicombe	Professor D Timms Mr K Wright Nisbet LLP Project Manager Cube Design Ltd Project Architect Savills LLP Planning Consultant
<u>Unable to attend:</u>	Mr D Croker, Mr J Amey, Professor P Luna	

06/25 MINUTES : 25 OCTOBER 2006

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2006, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

06/26 MATTERS ARISING

None.

06/27 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

None.

06/28 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Clerk referred to Paper G551 inviting the Board to consider schedule of meetings of the Board and its Standing Committees to June 2009.

Following discussion, the Board approved the schedule and noted that the Clerk would seek members' views on the proposal to hold the Autumn 2008 meeting in November rather than October.

06/29

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND VICE CHANCELLOR 2005 / 06

The Convener of the Audit Committee, Mr I Ahluwalia, referred to Paper G552 presenting the Annual Report of the committee to the Board of Governors and the Vice Chancellor 2005 / 06.

Following consideration, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G552, and
- b) expressed its appreciation of the thoroughness with which the Audit Committee fulfils its responsibilities.

06/30

ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

Councillor J Gay withdrew from the meeting.

The Board approved the Clerk's recommendation that the discussion and decisions on this subject remain confidential.

The Vice Chancellor referred to Paper G553 describing obstacles to progress in developing the South Quays site, summarising future costs and those incurred to date, setting out contingency plans and seeking a decision on continuation or abandonment of the project.

Mr A E Dewberry introduced the University's architect, Ms Jane Lock-Smith of Cube Design Ltd, who gave a presentation of the latest design and the academic facilities that would be provided. The Vice Chancellor expanded on the difficulties faced by the University in recent months as the result of interventions beyond its control in particular the Listing of adjacent buildings by English Heritage and objections lodged by the Environment Agency in relation to flood risk.

The Board noted that further problems had arisen due to disagreement between the RDA and B&NES regarding project management of the whole South Quays site (including BSU, Dyson and the public realm) and a potent mixture of political commitment and influence brought to the site by the presence of Dyson.

The Clerk tabled a confidential Addendum to Paper G553.

The Vice Chancellor stressed the need to strengthen BSU's position by making a determined application to purchase our part of the South Quays site even if this risked B&NES opting to sell the whole of South Quays to Dyson.

Further considerable expenditure required to submit a planning application, could not be recommended at this stage.

Following extended discussion, the Board of Governors:

- a) received Paper G553;
- b) thanked the architect for her presentation of the South Quays proposals;
- c) endorsed the approach of pressing hard, and publicly if necessary, to secure the purchase of the site at South Quays before committing significant further funds to progress a planning application;

- d) subject to purchase of the land and on substantial progress being made to overcome the objections of the statutory agencies, authorised the Vice Chancellor in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair to use University funds up to £430000 to prepare and submit a planning application and,
- e) authorised a further £50000 for other incidental expenditure in relation to South Quays.

06/31

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 1600 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Clerk to the Board of Governors
10 February 2007