

NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

GOVERNING BODY

Notes of the Governing Body Strategic Workshop held at 12.30 pm on 10 February 2015 at Cafe Lamont, Ballymena Campus, Northern Regional College

Present Mrs C McKinney (Chair), Professor T Scott (Principal), Mrs I Allison, Mrs K Collins, Mr S Davidson, Mrs J Eve, Mr R Jay, Mr A Kennedy, Dr D Lennox, Alderman PJ McAvoy, Mr M Murray, Mr K Nelson and Mrs A Rankin

In Attendance Mrs B Crotty, Ms S Denny (KPMG), Mrs C Moore, Dr C O'Mullan and Mr JA Hunter

Apologies Alderman J Brown, Mr C Chan, Mr S McCartney and Mrs G McConnell

1. Welcome

The Professor Scott, Principal, welcomed Governors, EMT and Ms S Denny (KPMG) to the Strategic Workshop.

2. Background and Moving Forward

The Principal referred to correspondence from DEL, dated 27 January 2015 providing an outline skeleton of the proposed structure of the FE Strategy Consultation document. She stated that the College's Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) must be aligned to and take cognisance of the new strategy for FE that is currently being developed by DEL.

Professor Scott detailed the following issues/topics which would inform the SIP as inter alia: Tribal recommendations; current position; ETI Reports and Feedback; Funding; DEL Strategy for FE; Demographics; Economic Environment (skills gap), Stakeholder Feedback and SWOT analysis

3. Vision and Values

Professor Scott referred to the guidance for governors of FE college publication prepared by DEL and advised it was necessary for the College to clearly articulate its Vision, Mission and Values. She referred Governors to an extract from the Colleges 2013-2016 CDP and asked them to consider typical examples of values. Governors, divided into three groups to consider values that best reflect the College's ambitions.

4. Core Activities

Dr O'Mullan, Director of Curriculum, updated Governors on the status of the Curriculum Planning process. It was noted that Dr O'Mullan would bring the draft 2015/2016 Curriculum Plan to the next meeting of the Governing Body on 11 March 2015. This Plan is required to support the Outline Business Case for new builds at Ballymoney/Coleraine and Ballymena.

Governors, divided into the same three groups, considered various aspects of the College's provision: what gaps exist? what should be expanded? what should be reduced? what changes should be considered? and what makes NRC distinctive.

5. Stakeholders and Partnership

For the third workshop Governors considered the question 'who are the College's stakeholders and partners?'

6. Plenary Session

In drawing the session to an end governors highlighted the need to build on existing strengths and achievements; maintain focus on employer engagement and learner experience; progress investment in IT infrastructure and VLE; identify and secure sustainable partners; improve communication to stakeholders; address the integrity and timeliness of management information to inform decision making pertinent to the Strategic Improvement Plan.

The Principal thanked Governors for their attendance and participation at the Workshop. She asked them to complete an evaluation form prior to departure.