

NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 22 January 2026 on Microsoft Teams at 5.00pm.

Present: Mr I Murphy (Chair), Mr M Higgins, Mr B Patterson

In Attendance: Mr D Blair, Mr S Lavery, Mr M Lennox, Mrs C Murdoch, Mr J Ross, Ms S Scannell, Mrs K Wallace (Secretary)

46.1 Apologies and Welcome

The Chair welcomed SS to the meeting. An apology was received from DMI.

46.2 Declaration of Interests

No declarations were made.

46.12 IT Update

JR presented the IT report, previously circulated. Members expressed significant concern regarding the results of the recent simulated phishing exercise and discussed the potential implications of a successful external cyber-attack.

JR outlined current cyber-security measures and detailed plans to strengthen the College's cyber resilience in 2026, including enhanced monitoring, surveillance, and contingency resourcing.

Members discussed additional login authentication, immutable backups, and the potential for continuous monitoring through a SOC. IM referred to the serious nature of cyber attacks and that those offenders must complete the training. The RAG rating for Cyber must be escalated on the corporate risk register and clearly reference mitigations taken as top priority. Strengthening of training materials on best practice, particularly regarding avoiding actions taken while distracted.

SL clarified the controls in place for separate College systems holding student and financial data. Members welcomed the upgraded cyber-security insurance, though noted the possibility of significant a ICO fine in the event of a major breach.

Actions:

- **JR to prepare an initial summary of required actions and associated costs for presentation at the Governing Body meeting on 28 January.**
- **Cyber-security progress to remain a standing item on Committee agendas until the end of the academic year.**
- **An additional Committee meeting to be scheduled for late February/early**
- **March to consider resource proposals. KW to poll members for availability.**

46.4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2025, previously shared, were approved on the proposal of MH and seconded by IM.

46.5 Matters Arising

All actions arising from the previous meeting had been completed.

46.6 Chair's Communications / Correspondence

None.

46.7 CDP Progress Report

CB presented the November 2025 progress report, noting continued progress against the 2025/26 CDP targets approved by the Minister in December 2025. IM congratulated CB on this position.

ML and CM joined the meeting at 4.30pm.

46.11 Net Zero Baseline Report

ML summarised the Net Zero Baseline Report submitted to DAERA in October 2025. A follow-up adaptation report, detailing policy development, procedures, and 2030 targets, is due by March 2026. Work remained on schedule with a contracted-out service team helping to prepare the submission.

Members discussed the high proportion of emissions from staff/student travel and potential measures to encourage car-sharing and reduce supply-chain emissions. SL highlighted the importance of embedding net-zero considerations within the CPD framework.

ML left the meeting at 4.50pm.

46.7 HR Update

CM provided updates on safeguarding policy implementation, sector-wide training initiatives, recruitment, exit interviews, absence management, and mandatory training completion.

Employee relations cases had decreased, and line-manager training had concluded. Members welcomed support measures for staff on long-term sickness and noted recruitment challenges in electrical installation, with criteria to be amended for upcoming campaigns agreed with the Department.

MH thanked CM for the report and welcomed the Health & Wellbeing programmes which had been put in place.

CM left the meeting at 5.00pm.

46.8 Draft Annual Accounts Update

Members considered the NIAO reports (Appendices 1 and 2). SS reported prioritisation of large material items and engagement with DfE regarding the recurrent grant debtor.

Agreement on closure of the July 2024 accounts was identified as key to moving forward.

MH noted that both A&R and FAIC were reviewing this issue, which was being shared with Committee as an update in the position in closing out the 2024 accounts.

46.9 Financial Update

Members reviewed the Financial Update, Annex A, and Revised Budget Allocation. IM was satisfied that the College remained on track to meet budget tolerances. Additional letters of offer were anticipated; time restrictions on spending would be reviewed.

MH noted that while no significant impact was expected on the March 2026 position from budget adjustments, the budget position for 2026/27 appears challenging based on information shared at a recent DfE workshop.

46.10 New Build Update

Members reviewed the update paper and letter confirming release of the Optimum Bias allocation.

SL outlined the context for re-profiling some funding into the following year and confirmed successful application to the GB Energy Fund, which would support additional solar panels and battery storage at Ballymena.

46.13 Any Other Business


None.

46.14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 April 2026 at 4.00pm.

The meeting concluded at 5.19pm.

Mr I Murphy, Chair



Date 26.03.26

Mrs K Wallace, Secretary

