

NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Resources Committee held on 27 March 2023 on MS Teams commencing at 4.00pm.

Present: Mr M Higgins, Mr D MacAuley, Ms Y Mallon, Ms D McIlwaine, Mr R McKernan, Mr I Murphy (Chair)

In Attendance: Ms K Craig, Mr C Fairless, Mr S Lavery, Ms C Murdoch, Ms J Small, Mrs K Wallace (Secretary)

35.1 Apologies

Mrs Brown.

35.2 Declaration of Interests

None.

35.3 Minutes of Last Meeting

Draft minutes of meeting on 23 January were approved.

Proposed: Ms Mallon Seconded: Mr McKernan

35.4 Matters Arising

None.

35.5 Chair's Communications / Correspondence

None.

35.6 Business Engagement

Mr Fairless presented an update on the External Engagement Strategy 2020-2025, detailing performance against targets at March 2023. He highlighted that original income targets had been exceeded due to an extensive increase in offering and types of programmes. He reported that some CDP targets had not been achieved as a result of delivery issues due to staff shortage and recruitment issues. However, with the Business Engagement team now almost at full complement and new relationships and delivery models established with curriculum, a very strong pipeline for programmes was being developed for 2023/24. Mr Fairless also reported on new programmes from the Department, some requiring working closely with other companies to target priority areas.

The Principal thanked Mr Fairless for the update. In response to queries Ms Small and Mr Fairless confirmed optimism in being awarded projects; a need for revision of income targets

and more support for students; and a review of current staff resource alongside new and existing programme provision.

Mr Laverty commended Mr Fairless and the team for over-achieving on targets to date and noted information on discussion around timescales for the additional Department funded programmes.

The Chair and members congratulated the team on achieving success in a complex and ever-changing environment and noted the College's current position as second largest income generation provider in the sector.

4.25pm Mr Fairless left the meeting.

35.7 HR Update

Ms Murdoch provided an update of HR issues to 28 February 2023 and highlighted key issues including recruitment; learning and development; health and wellbeing activity; steps being taken to ensure completion of mandatory training and appraisals; and work to revise benefits package information for the new academic year.

Members noted high levels of interest in available management training programmes and Ms Mallon endorsed the decision to stall the leadership development programme in the current economic climate.

The Principal thanked Ms Murdoch for her comprehensive report and confirmed that, following the ETI inspection in the previous week, it had been agreed to advise staff on disciplinary action in the event of non-completion of training.

Mr Laverty thanked Ms Murdoch for her report and noted ongoing work on culture through enhanced induction and support processes, in line with budget restrictions.

The Chair confirmed Committee's full support for work on culture change and encouraged the team to take all actions necessary to ensure safeguarding training was completed by all staff as agreed.

5.02pm Ms Murdoch left the meeting.

35.8 Estates Strategy

Members considered the summary report on the draft 10-year strategy and were asked to provide feedback on the full report by 19 April, to inform discussion with the Department.

Committee heard that the focus of the strategy was the Magherafelt and Newtownabbey campuses, plans for which would be subject to business cases and funding going forward.

The Chair highlighted the College's fortunate position in being awarded full funding for the 2 new campuses.

Action: Written feedback on the draft 10-year Estates Strategy to be provided by 19 April.

35.9 Finance Update

Ms Craig presented the NDPB return for February 2023 and advised that the College was operating to budget for March 2022/23 year end. She reported that £500k extra capital funding offered by DfE would be spent on IT infrastructure for the new builds through current frameworks.

Members considered the College management accounts to January 2023 and heard that the deficit to budget was in-line with previous years, and noted clarification on variance in relation to staffing.

The Chair commended Ms Craig and her team for outstanding work, especially in being able to utilise the extra funding within the required timeframe.

The Principal congratulated the finance team on being in a position to accept the additional capital funding. He encouraged Ms Craig to confirm with the Department, that the amalgamated capital funding figure would be the starting budget for 2023/24.

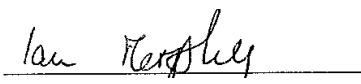
35.10 Any Other Business

None.

35.11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 12 June 2023 – location to be confirmed. Members noted that an interim reserved meeting would be arranged if necessary, pending budget information.

The meeting concluded at 5.25pm.

Mr I Murphy 

Date 12 June 2023

(Chair)

Mrs K Wallace 

(Secretary)