

## **NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE**

### **RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee (unreserved business) held on 14 October 2019 at the Farm Lodge campus, commencing at 5.10pm.

Present: Mr H Crossey, Ms Y Mallon, Mr I Murphy (Chair) and Prof T Scott.

In Attendance: Mr M Higgins, Mr S Lavery and Mr S Watt (19.8)

Mrs K Wallace (Secretary)

#### **19.1 Apologies and Condolences**

Apologies were received for Mr Chambers, Mrs Donnelly, Mrs McConnell and Mr Taggart.

Condolences were extended to Mrs Donnelly on the recent death of her brother.

#### **19.2 Declaration of Interests**

None.

#### **19.3 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2019 were approved.

Proposed: Ms Mallon                      Seconded: Mr Crossey

It was agreed that the Staffing Update be taken as the next item.

#### **19.8 Staffing Update**

Mr Watt spoke to his report and highlighted key issues including the focus for learning and development, an update on performance management, success of the new e-recruitment portal and low levels of absence and staff turnover. It was noted that Mrs Donnelly would be aligning leadership training with organisational development going forward and that report on employee relations' would be taken under reserved business.

Members were keen to see completion of outstanding staff appraisals and prompt returns for the incoming year.

#### **Actions:**

- Mr Watt to agree a timetable for delivery of performance appraisals with SLT and report back to the next meeting.
- Information on staffing update report to be reviewed as discussed.

#### **19.4 Matters Arising**

Committee noted that the Permanent Secretary had approved the PSD business case, which was now with DoF, and that Mr Higgins had been allocated procurement lead.

#### **19.5 Chair's Communication**

Mr Murphy expressed his appreciation for the opportunity of Chairing the Committee and thanked Mr Crossey for his extensive work to date.

**Action:** The College's budget position would be considered at the November meeting of the Governing Body.

#### **19.6 Correspondence**

Committee noted correspondence from the Department of Finance regarding work being carried out, by March 2020, to align College Accounts with the Department's year end of 31 March.

#### **19.7 New Build Update**

Mr Higgins summarised the current situation with plans for Coleraine and Ballymena, with progress proceeding to plan. Members noted that tenders had been updated to reflect any impact from Brexit and the process was being kept under constant review. An update would be provided to the Governing Body in November.

#### **19.9 Assurance Statement**

Committee noted that two areas of partial compliance had been highlighted in the Assurance Statement, with all other areas being fully compliant. Members were updated on the submission process.

**Action:** The Assurance Statement was approved subject to the adjustments.

#### **19.10 Annual Accounts**

Mr Lavery presented the updated draft accounts for 2019, highlighting changes made since presentation at the Audit & Risk meeting in September, and referred members to the NILGSOC Colleges Briefing Note and the FRS 102 Accounting Schedule. Mr Lavery reported a reduction in completion of annual audit time to 3 weeks and noted that some revisions to the accounts in relation to Brexit and recent external market impacts, had been notified to auditors.

Mr Lavery answered members' questions on a number of issues including College deficit, NRC position in relation to other Colleges, pension cost, treatment of accruals and valuation of land and buildings and advised that a number of issues would be discussed at the NIFON meeting on 18 October.



