

## **NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 22 August 2022 on Microsoft Teams.

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

In Attendance: Mrs C Brown, Ms K Craig, Mr S Lavery, Ms J Small  
Mrs R Toms (Acting Secretary)

### **31.1 Apologies**

Mrs Y Mallon

### **31.2 Declaration of Interests**

None.

### **31.3 College Development Plan**

The Draft CDP, as submitted to DfE on 12 August 2022, was shared with the Committee.

JS noted that this draft is based on the contingency planning allocation from DfE and that DfE have provided the narrative for Chapter 1 and the Principals' Group will be providing Chapters 2 and 3.

JS addressed the draft paper and summarised the key points, including the Report Cards within. JS advised that the targets are flexible, the true position won't be known until enrolment has taken place. DfE will be requesting an updated draft in September.

Members were encouraged to provide feedback and brief discussion ensued.

In response to discussion, JS summarised the position with additional funding sources such as Skills Focus, Peace Plus, New Deal and UK Shared Prosperity Fund and opportunities to bid for additional income, bearing in mind the extent of the potential resource and the capacity which would be required.

IM spoke to the paper in the context of the anticipated Tribal Review; he referred to the potential to bid for courses in areas of skills shortages and referred to the work of the hubs across the sector. Members responded positively and the work being undertaken in these areas was highlighted.

MH noted the aspects arising from the discussion for inclusion with the next iteration of the draft CDP.

The CDP Progress Report to 31 July 2022, as submitted to DfE on 12 August 2022, was shared with the Committee and JS addressed the key deviations from target. Members provided feedback and clarification was provided on impact on financial income.

### **31.4 Financial Update**

SL presented a paper detailing the budget position for the College, following DfE's updated allocation in July.

It was noted that the proposed contingency planning allocation excludes pay and contractual pressures and has been provided in the context of CDP and budget planning purposes only.

Scenarios to mitigate the potential budget shortfalls were presented and cost saving measures were discussed. It was noted that the challenges to the College finances for the potential pay awards for both lecturers and support staff.

IM responded in respect of the pay negotiations and ongoing energy price increases and the potential impact in the context of the College's Risk Register.

SL responded to the points raised by IM and clarified the position. SL referred to the recent New Build Project Board meeting in respect of the College's New Builds and inflationary costs, resulting in an addendum being prepared to secure additional capital funding to ensure that construction can proceed and remain within an updated budget.

MH summarised the College position and potential going forward in the light of sector discussions.

### **31.5 Any Other Business**

DMcI requested an update on the number of staff who have completed Safeguarding Training.

**Action:** SL to obtain the figures and inform the Committee accordingly.

DMcI referred to a recent High Court Ruling in respect of part-year workers in the context of College staff; MH and SL advised that this is being reviewed by the sector HR working group.

IM encouraged members to participate in audit training as circulated previously by KW.

### **31.6 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Resources Committee will be held on 10 October 2022.

The meeting concluded at 17.20 hours

Mr I Murphy lan Murphy

Date 10 October 2022

(Chair)

Mrs R Toms R Toms (Acting Secretary)