

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS, ON MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 4.30PM.

PRESENT: Mr A Rainey (Chair)
Mr M Agnew
Mrs J Doherty
Mr H Faulkner (Ex-officio)
Mr D Limb
Mr S Murphy (Principal and Chief Executive)
Mr A O'Connor

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P McKeown (Director of Finance and Estates)
Mr T Mahon (Estates Manager) for item 17.10 only
Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

17.1 APOLOGIES

None

17.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No member declared an interest in the business of the meeting.

17.3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2010

It was proposed by Mrs Doherty seconded by Mr Murphy and agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

Action: Secretary to publish approved minutes asap.

17.4 MATTERS ARISING

16.4 (15.4) (14.8) Financial review 2010/11 to 2012/13. The Director reported that discussions with the PFI contractor were almost complete. He expected a favourable outcome which would be to the College's benefit.

16.4 (15.6) Management Accounts. The Director indicated he expected a letter shortly from DEL approving the revised budget.

16.4 (15.13) Any Other Business. The Director reported that no reply had been received in response to the letter sent to DEL seeking permission to write off bad debt.

16.6 Draft annual accounts 09/10. The Principal reported that no changes had been made following the signing off in November.

[It was agreed to take item 17.10 at this stage in the meeting.]

17.5 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

No business was conducted under this heading.

17.6 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (Ref: paper FC17.6)

The Director updated members on the College accounts for the period to 31 December 2010. The report showed, for year to date, actual total income of £15,554,733 and total expenditure of £12,960,081. He drew members' attention to the variances shown, pointing out that invoices had been issued to schools in early January which should substantially reduce the VEP adverse variance. The Director then referred members to the Balance Sheet and College Investments. He advised that it may be prudent to consider a wider spread of investments. Members concurred with this view. Referring to the Aged Debtors Report as of 28 January 2011, the Director said that the College sought to work with students who were experiencing financial difficulties. Members noted the reports.

17.7 TENDERS ISSUED (Ref: paper FC17.7)

The Director referred to the report on tenders issued to 21 January 2011. Members noted the report.

17.8 PROGRESS REPORT ON MEDIUM TO LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Principal indicated that the College was still awaiting the 4 year budget from DEL following which he would be in a position to develop medium to long term plans.

17.9 FEES POLICY REVIEW (Ref: paper FC17.9)

In referring to the paper, the Director said that the fee structure and charges being proposed for 2011/12 were similar to that for 2010/11. He requested that a degree of flexibility be allowed for fees of some specialist courses. A member questioned the purpose of the Registration Fee. The Director pointed out that full-time FE students are not charged a tuition fee. It was proposed by Mr O'Connor seconded by Mrs Doherty and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body the adoption of the proposed fees structure for 2011/12 with flexibility on fees for some specialist courses.

17.10 ESTATES ISSUES UPDATE (Ref: paper FC17.10)

Strand Road Development. The Estates Manager reported that the new build would be ready for occupation on 11 March 2011. A decant plan had been drawn up for the move which would require the co-operation of all staff concerned. In relation to collateral warranties, he said that the contractor had been instructed to provide these as per the contract, by the end of February. Negotiations were still on-going with a third party on agreement for a shared gutter between buildings. **City Factory.** The Estates Manager told members that a meeting, without prejudice, had been arranged with the landlord to discuss matters relating to the reinstatement of the building. It was proposed by Mrs Doherty seconded by Mr

Agnew and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that the College arrange for a survey of the building to be carried out on its behalf.

Christchurch Building. The Estates Manager reported that the completion date had been agreed with the purchaser for 2 August 2011.

Academy Boys Strabane. The Estates Manager reported that Land and Property Services were negotiating on behalf of the College for the disposal of the site.

Benevenagh Building, Limavady Campus. The Estates Manager advised members that the appeal against the court's ruling over responsibility for damages in relation to the defective windows of the Benevenagh building had only been partially successful and that a further court hearing was anticipated in the next 12 months. The Director commented on the significant deterioration of the building which had already taken place. Enquiries were being made on how the College's claim would be affected if it were to proceed to carry out repairs to prevent further deterioration.

17.11 DRAFT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011/14

The Principal advised members that a number of significant amendments to the original draft had been included in the final draft which would be discussed at the forthcoming Governing Body meeting.

17.12 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

17.13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business was carried out under this heading.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4 April 2011 at 4.00pm in Strand Road.

This being all the business the Chair closed the meeting at 5.40pm.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____