
MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH 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 17 OCTOBER 2011 AT 4.00PM.

PRESENT: Mr M Agnew (Chair)
Mrs J Doherty
Mr G Finnegan
Mr D Limb
Mr S McGregor
Mr S Murphy (Principal and Chief Executive)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P McKeown (Director of Finance and Estates)
Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

20.1 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Secretary invited nominations for Committee Chair. Mr Agnew was proposed by Mrs Doherty seconded by Mr Murphy. There being no other nominations it was agreed unanimously to elect Mr Agnew as Committee Chair. The Secretary invited Mr Agnew to take the chair. Mr Agnew thanked members for their confidence in electing him to the chair.

20.2 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

The Chair invited nominations for Committee Vice-chair. Mrs Doherty was proposed by Mr Agnew seconded by Mr McGregor. There being no other nominations it was agreed unanimously to elect Mrs Doherty as Committee Vice-Chair. Mrs Doherty thanked members.

20.3 APOLOGIES

All members were present.

20.4 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

20.5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2011

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.

20.6 MATTERS ARISING

19.4 (18.8) Estates Issues Update. The Principal reported that the matter had now been resolved.

19.9 Estates Issues Update. The Principal reported that there was no further update on the issue relating to damage to the Foyle Building.

20.7 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chair mentioned that a review of the Committee's terms of reference would take place at the November meeting of the Committee.

20.8 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (Ref: paper FC20.8)

The Director tabled the management accounts for the 2 months to 30 September 2011. He mentioned that normally he would provide a commentary on the accounts as part of the information members would receive. He explained the layout of the College Budget Variance sheet and provided details on various major items of income and expenditure which it contained. He explained to members that figures were based on the budget agreed by the Governing Body in June but, as is normal practice, he would be bringing a revised budget to the Committee in November. The report showed, for year to date, actual total income of £5,448,772 and total expenditure of £4,661,101. He indicated that normally end of year projections would be included in reports from January onwards. He also mentioned that the College provided DEL with a financial report on a quarterly basis. Members asked questions relating to values put on depreciation of buildings and on expenditure on staffing.

The Director then referred members to the Balance Sheet and College Investments.

The Director then referred members to the Aged Debtors Report as of 17 October 2011. He indicated that debt would rise over the next few months when HE invoices & VEP invoices would be issued by the College.

Members noted the reports.

20.9 TENDERS ISSUED (Ref: paper FC20.9)

The Director referred to the report on tenders issued to 7 October 2011. He explained to members that the Financial Memorandum set out the method of procurement which the College was required to follow. He mentioned that some tenders were dealt with through Crescent Consortium based in England which could result in disadvantaging local suppliers. Members then considered the range of tenders issued. It was noted that the tender for the supply of electricity was on behalf of 5 NI FE Colleges. Members noted the report.

20.10 DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2010/11 (Ref: paper FC20.10)

The Director explained that the draft accounts were laid out in a manner prescribed by DEL. They had been submitted to DEL in mid-September. At present the External Auditor (NIAO) is completing the audit and no major issues have been reported to date. He then referred members to a number of issues in the main commentary of the report. He said that the Committee would be considering the accounts again in November when the External Auditor's report would be available. Members noted the report.

20.11 ESTATES ISSUES UPDATE (Ref: paper FC20.11)

Strand Road Development. The Director reported on indemnity deemed to be provided by the Department of Justice, on the final account figure now settled apart from retention being withheld, and on malicious damage caused to the building.

City Factory. The Director reported that there had been no movement since last report.

Academy Boys Strabane. The Director reported that there was now agreement with the Duke of Abercorn Estate to put the building on the market.

Benevenagh Building, Limavady Campus. The Director reported that the court case on defective windows was now pending.

Estates Strategy Update. The Principal explained that, while awaiting the outcome of consultation with DEL on capital plan development for the Strabane Campus and with the continuing increase in enrolments on the Campus, there may be a need to add yet further temporary accommodation to that provided recently. He also indicated that the College was awaiting approval from DEL on the purchase of the Clondermott site, had submitted plans for an update at Springtown to be met from College reserves and was considering an energy project at Maydown.

A member requested that an Estates Inventory be provided to members. He also considered it would be helpful to new members if they could be given a conducted tour of the main campus sites.

Action: Director to organise Estates Inventory for next meeting & tour of each main campus when GB next due to meet there.

20.12 CORRESPONDENCE

None

Date of next meeting: Monday 21 November 2011 at 4.00pm in Strand Road.

This being all the business the Chair closed the meeting at 5.10.pm

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: 21 November 2011