

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH 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 22 NOVEMBER 2010 AT 4.00PM.

PRESENT: Mr A Rainey (Chair)
Mr M Agnew
Mrs J Doherty
Mr S Murphy (Principal and Chief Executive)
Mr A O'Connor (from 4.15pm)

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

16.1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Mrs Lestas.

16.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

16.3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2010

With a minor amendment, 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.

16.4 MATTERS ARISING

15.4 (14.8) Financial review 2010/11 to 2012/13. The Director reported that discussions with the PFI contractor were still on-going and that a benchmarking exercise in examining costs was being carried out.

15.6 Management Accounts. The Director indicated that a letter had been sent to DEL seeking approval for a revised budget with a deficit greater than 2%.

15.13 Any Other Business. The Director reported that a letter had been sent to DEL seeking permission to write off bad debt.

16.5 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chair reported to members that the meeting with the staff associations had taken place on 16 November 2010 and that subsequently a note had been circulated to all College staff and to members of the Governing Body.

16.6 DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009/10 (Ref: paper FC16.6)

The Director mentioned that there had been a few minor changes to the figures and narrative of the document. He also indicated that

- It had not been possible to obtain some information relating to the teachers' pension scheme
- Recently FE Colleges had been re-classified as non-departmental public bodies. He said that this would make no difference to their legal status or governance arrangements but the College had been required to submit medium term financial projections at short notice
- Decisions had yet to be made by DFP on the accounting procedure to be used in the accounts when reporting the FRS 17 pension adjustment.

The Director considered that the document may be subject to further changes after being signed off. A member commented on the apparent verbosity of the document. The Director indicated that DEL issued a draft layout to ensure consistency in presentation across all colleges. It was proposed by Mr Agnew seconded by Mrs Doherty and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body the approval of the College's Annual Accounts and Financial Statements for 2009/10.

16.7 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (Ref: paper FC16.7)

The Director updated members on the College accounts for the period to 31 October 2010 which he indicated were based on original budget figures for 2010/11. The report showed, for year to date, actual total income of £9,246,205 and total expenditure of £7,520,628. He drew members' attention to the variances listed including that for second contract/ overtime lecturers' payments. The Director then referred members to the College Investments and to the Aged Debtors Report as of 12 November 2010. He mentioned that the invoices for HE courses had recently been issued which had caused a temporary rise in the total debt figure. Members noted the reports.

16.8 TENDERS ISSUED (Ref: paper FC16.8)

The Director referred to the report on tenders issued to 12 November 2010. In reply to questions he assured members that quality of goods and workmanship from accepted tenders was continually monitored. Members noted the report.

16.9 REVISED BUDGET 2010/11 (Ref: paper FC16.9)

The Director explained to members that, although there was little change in the overall anticipated deficit of the revised budget for 2010/11 compared with the budget figures presented on 14 June 2010, adjustments had been made to individual elements of income and expenditure. These included:

- Increase in DEL capital grants including those for major works
- Reduction in staffing costs in both teaching and administration
- Increase in costs of teaching support
- Increase in costs of premises and capital investment.

Following discussion it was proposed by Mr Agnew seconded by Mr O'Connor and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body approval of the revised budget for 2010/11.

16.10 PROGRESS REPORT ON MEDIUM TO LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Principal reported to members that he had had discussions with DEL officials concerning future funding. He said that the situation would remain unclear until the NI Assembly had agreed its budget. He indicated that he would return with proposals once details were known. He considered that there may be little new capital investment by DEL which would affect development plans for Strabane Campus. However he was hopeful that it might be possible to obtain approval to purchase the Clondermot site.

16.11 ESTATES ISSUES UPDATE (Ref: paper FC16.11)

Strand Road Development. The Director reported that the issue of long term warranties following the report on bomb damage was still the subject of on-going discussion between the contractor and the loss adjuster. He was hopeful that the building will be ready for use by March 2011. He expressed some concern over future leasing arrangements should this date not be met.

Christchurch Building. The Director reported that sale of the building had now been agreed.

Academy Boys Strabane. The Director mentioned that discussions were continuing in relation to future use of the building.

Limavady Campus. The Director advised members that an appeal had been lodged against the court's ruling over responsibility for damages in relation to the defective windows of the Benevenagh building.

The Principal reported that the Senior Management Team would be carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment in relation to part of the accommodation usage.

16.12 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

16.13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No business was carried out under this heading.

Date of next meeting: It was agreed to meet on Monday 7 February 2011 at 4.00pm in Strand Road.

This being all the business the Chair closed the meeting at 5.30pm.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____