

**Minutes of the Resources Committee Meeting held via Microsoft Teams on
Monday 12th December 2022 at 4pm**

Present: Christine Bampton (Corporation Chair)
Margaret Boneham (independent member)
Michelle Brabner (Principal)
Rob Firth (independent member)
Alex Kenny (independent member) (up to item 7)
Alex Gamil (Committee Vice Chair)
Paul Walker (Committee Chair)

In Attendance: Lisa Farnhill – Clerk
Kevin Williams – Vice Principal Finance and Facilities

Apologies:

Minute No.	Minutes	Action
R.23.41	Open and Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking members and attendees for giving up their time for the additional meeting.	
R.23.42	Item 1: Apologies for Absence The Clerk confirmed no apologies were received; however, noting Alex Kenny would need to leave at 4.30pm. <u>Item 1 - Noted</u>	
R.23.43	Item 2: Declarations of Interest There were no declarations made. <u>Item 2 - Noted</u>	
R.23.44	Item 3: Minutes/Matters Arising The Committee Chair confirmed that as an extraordinary meeting, the meeting would only address matters it was called to review therefore minutes, and all actions and matters arising would be carried forward to the next scheduled meeting in January. <u>Item 3 - Noted</u>	

R.23.45 Item 4: Confidential Business

Members reviewed the agenda and confirmed that as highlighted, the Staff Pay Award should be held as a confidential minute.

Item 4 – Noted: The Committee resolved to note the need for confidentiality around the affordability of the staff pay award.

R.23.46 Item 5: Management Accounts – October

The VP Finance and Facilities summarised the management accounts for October, highlighting the deterioration in the financial position resulting in a 2022/2023 financial health grade of “requires improvement”. Members were advised that there were a number of grants not included and noted the projected adverse outturn forecast for AEB in the region of £210,000 would be reduced by enrolments in January and April.

Members were given an overview of the grants secured, including timeframe for delivery, with members asking if the costs associated with the grants also needed to be incorporated in the November management accounts. A full explanation of the proposals was provided by the VP Finance and Facilities.

Members acknowledged the emerging risks and deteriorating financial position, agreeing to approve the management accounts and use the information to support their pay award decision under item 6.

Item 5 - approved: The Committee resolved to approve the management accounts for October.

R.23.47 Item 6: Redacted from Public Copy

R.23.48 Item 7: Capital Bids

The VP Finance and Facilities provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed bids including the timeline, noted to be very tight for the work required. The overview included an outline of three proposals.

Members were provided with examples of previous successful awards achieved by the architect, with a requirement for varying contribution levels by the colleges. Members noted the updated criteria, with a heavier weighting on the educational impact, with this expected to increase applications.

Members acknowledged the difficulties in preparing for the animal management T Level in 2023 with the framework not yet release and noted, as an area of growth, healthcare provision required investment to ensure outstanding facilities provided the best learner experience available. Concerns were raised over the ability to prepare and deliver the electrical T Levels and difficulties were highlighted in moving carpentry to upper floors due to the difficulties around delivery and movement of materials to the area.

Costs and implications were discussed, including the option to delay the roll out of the T Levels. Members were advised of the funding uplift available for the first year, responding by expressing concerns over the reputational impact

of rushing the implementation of courses, risking a reduction in future income, with staffing considered a key factor.

Members also asked if staff had the time for the bid preparation work, noting significant additional pressures on the senior team in relation to the efficiency savings needed.

Discussing examples of the success and failures of investments by other colleges, members concluded the risk of standing still and not pursuing opportunities was greater than the financial impact of making the bids, noting the expenditure and work could be utilised for future opportunities if this application was unsuccessful.

Members clarified their position in relation to approval. They noted the budgetary adjustment would not be material and the expected cost was within the operational approval limit of the college, with the proposal brought for transparency and to seek permission to deviate from the financial regulations in relation to tendering. Members noted that this did not fit within any of the permitted deviations within Annex B, however, agreed that clause 2.6 enabled the Committee to approve deviation in exceptional circumstances, agreeing the limited time available was considered an acceptable reason for deviation.

It was agreed that the VP Finance and Facilities would take the necessary action to prepare the bids, incorporating feedback from key stakeholders including from Southport and Aintree hospitals, with the information to be presented to the Committee at their next meeting, being just ahead of the deadline for submission.

Item 7 - Approved: The Committee resolved to approve deviation from the financial regulations to ensure that the bids could be submitted within the required timeframe

R.23.49 Item 8: Items to be Reported to the Corporation

The Clerk summarised the items as included on the agenda of the Corporation to be presented as follows:

- Staff Pay Award (Confidential) (for approval)

Item 8 - Resolved: The Committee resolved to present the information to the Corporation as detailed above.

R.23.50 Item 9: Date of Next Meeting (and Closing Comments)

Members and attendees were thanked for their input into what had been productive and essential discussions.

The next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 31st January 2023 5pm.

Item 9 - Noted:

The meeting closed at 5pm