**Approved Minute of the meeting of The Lanarkshire Board**

**24th April Boardroom at Cumbernauld Campus and via Zoom**

**Present Face to face:** Ronnie Smith (Chair), Moira Jarvie, Kellyann McGraith, Christopher Moore and Dave Winning

**Present via Zoom:** Kenny Anderson, Paula Blackadder, Rahela Calin, Yvonne Finlayson, Keith Fulton, Paul Hutchinson, Stelle McManus, Ryan McRobert, Barbara Philliben, Alastair Rennie.

**In Attendance Face to face:** Ann Baxter, Iain Clark, Diane McGill, Penny Neish and Matthew Smith

**In attendance via Zoom:** Keith McAllister and Elaine Turkington

**1. Chair’s welcome:** Ronnie Smith (RS) opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending this special Board meeting. He proposed that Item 6 on the agenda would be taken after Item 4 and this was agreed by the Board.

**2. Apologies for absence:** There were apologies from Dianne Dixon, Anne Docherty, John Elliot, Fraser Heaney and Ann Docherty.

**3. Declarations of interest:** Barbara Philliben declared that her son was currently on an NCL short course.

**4. Update on the NCL Regional Consolidated Accounts**

**4.1** Iain Clark informed the Board that it had been hoped that it would have beenpossible to approve the accounts at this meeting. There had been a knock -on impact from the delays resulting from the on-going discussions between SLC and Mazars about the wording of the governance statement in the SLC accounts. The NCL consolidated accounts could not be finalised until this process was completed. It now has been and the final amendments are being made with Mazars to the NCL accounts. Stella McManus confirmed that the SLC accounts had now been approved by the SLC Board and signed. Ronnie Smith informed the Board that there would need to be special meetings of the RSB ARC and Finance Committees and Board to approve the accounts.

***Action: The Board Secretary is to set up these meetings when the accounts are finalised.***

**5. Item 6 on the agenda - NCL Mainstreaming and Equality Outcome Interim Report 2023**

**5.1** Elaine Turkington presented the report. Keith Fulton noted that clarification was needed at P9 about the use of the Lanarkshire Board and the use of the NCL Board and at P18 the job evaluation review should be added. It was agreed that Elaine would speak to Keith out with the meeting to agree and changes to the wording of the report.

***Action: The report was endorsed by the Board.***

**6. Item 5 on the agenda. - SFC Indicative Funding Allocation for Colleges for Academic Year 2023-2024 -**

**6.1** Christopher Moore introduced a presentation on the budget for 2023/24 by informing the Board that the SFC indicative funding allocations were delayed and had only been received on the 13th April 2023.

**6.2** Iain Clark set out the financial impact of the indicative allocations as follows:

* NCL Indicative Teaching Funding for AY23/24 is £38,391,392 (assumes same Regional split)
* NCL Funding for AY 22/23 was £38,678,310.
* Funding allocation for AY 23/24 with full inflationary increase of 10.4% would be £42,700,854.
* Equates to a £4,309,462 reduction in real terms. A decrease of £286,918 (c. 0.7%) in absolute

 terms.

* Credits – An indicative decrease in Credit Allocation from 131,305 to 117,289, a decrease of 14,016 credits (c. 10.7%).
* Indicative Capital Maintenance – same Regional allocation of £3,208,792; if same split, equates to £2,776,512 for NCL.
* Indicative Student Funding – same Regional allocation of £16,439,498; if same split, equates to £12,201,792 for NCL.

**6.3** Christopher Moore set out the proposed response to this financial position in the presentation to the Board as follows: a reduction in non-staff expenditure, a reduction in temporary staffing and a voluntary severance scheme offering 6 months to staff with two -year service eligibility. This is consistent with the current position in the sector. The SFC has again said that there will be no support for VS schemes and that these will have to be financed by the colleges.

**6.4** The presentation set out the details of the proposed approach and the targeted savings to be made from each part of the proposals. It also set out the anticipated impact of the measures. The presentation also set out details from the recent nursery review report that would be sent to the Board following the meeting. Moira Jarvie said that there would need to be discussions with the AMCOL Board. It was noted that AMCOL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the college.

***Action: The nursery review will be sent out to the Board. Ronnie Smith will convene a meeting with the Chair and the Chief Executive of AMCOL.***

**6.5** There was discussion by the Board on the presentation and the Board noted its disappointment to be again having to consider another voluntary severance scheme.

**6.6.** There was a meeting with the SFC on the 27th April 2023 to discuss the options to address the deficit which could be the sale of assets or in terms of a loan from the SFC. The Board was asked to give its support for the following:

* Approval for the launch of a Voluntary Severance Scheme.
* Methodology for servicing Voluntary Severance Scheme Costs.
* Recommendations of the Nursery Review.

Moira Jarvie recorded that she could not support the proposals for a VS scheme or the recommendation for the nursery review.

***Decision: The Board gave its support for the launch of a VS scheme and for the recommendation in the nursery view. It noted that there would be discussion with the SFC on Thursday 27th April re the funding options to address the deficit.***

**7. AOB** Iain Clark noted that there may be a need for a special meeting of the Finance Committee in the week before the Board to approve the FFR for 2023/24.

**8. Date of Next Meeting:** The scheduled date of the next meeting of the Lanarkshire Board is 12th June 2023 at 5pm.