**Minute Special Meeting of the ARC and Finance Committees**

**5.30 pm 15th May 2023 – Blended Meeting**

**Face to Face in the Boardroom, Motherwell Campus and via Zoom**

**Present: Face to Face** Paula Blackadder,Yvonne Finlayson (Chair) **Via Zoom**: John Elliott, Moira Jarvie, Ryan McRobert, Barbara Philliben, Alastair Rennie.

**In attendance: Face to face:** Ann Baxter, Iain Clark, Jack Kerr (Audit Scotland), David Hoose (Mazars), Christopher Moore, Diane McGill, Penny Neish, Ronnie Smith, Matthew Smith, Louisa Yuill (Audit Scotland). **Via Zoom:** Keith McAllister (Head of Finance, SLC), Stella McManus (Principal SLC).

1. **Chair’s welcome:** Yvonne Finlayson chaired the joint meeting and welcomed members and attendees to the meeting. This meeting had been called to make a recommendation on the 2021/22 NCL regional consolidated accounts to the Board. The Board would meet at 6.00 pm to consider the accounts following this meeting of the Committees.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** There were apologies from Clare Gibb and Craig McLaughlin (Chair SLC ARC).

**3. Declarations of Interest:** There were no Declarations of Interest.

**4. November/ December 2022 Committee Minutes for Information**: The Board Secretary had circulated the minutes from the ARC and a special meeting of the Finance Committee both held on the 5th December 2022and from the Board meeting on the 12th December 2023. There had been presentations to each Committee from Lucy Nutley of Mazar’s on the draft NCL Annual Audit report and from Iain Clark on the draft NCL Financial Statements. The Board had also received draft copies of the Annual Audit Report and the Financial Statements and the minutes from the committees. The Committees and the Board had, therefore, already considered the accounts in detail at these meetings.

**5. Recommendation of NCL Consolidated Accounts 2021/22**

**5.1** David Hoose gave a short introduction to the NCL Annual Audit Report. He informed the committee that the governance statement was now agreed following agreement with SLC on their governance statement and the NCL accounts were unqualified. There was now a section at P 15 of the report which states as follows:

***Significant difficulties during the audit:*** *During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full cooperation of management. The draft accounts, working papers and annual report were all provided in line with the agreed timetable which included the receiving of a final draft of the Governance Statement following the finalisation of South Lanarkshire College’s Governance Statement. We do not consider there to have been any significant delay to the New College Lanarkshire audit and the later than typical signing of the accounts is entirely a consequence of the delay in finalisation of South Lanarkshire College’s (the assigned college) completion. We would like to express our thanks to management and college staff for their cooperation throughout the audit.*

**5.2** Iain Clark informed the Committees that the Financial Statements were not substantially changed from the drafts in November/ December with the main change being the governance statement. Paula Blackadder said that the Finance Committee had recommended the statements to the Board for approval.

**5.3 Annual ARC Committee Report 2022:** the Board Secretary presented the Annual Report from the ARC Committee.

***Decisions:***

***1. The ARC recommended the Annual ARC Committee Report to the Lanarkshire Board for approval.***

***2. The ARC also recommended the NCL Annual Audit report for approval to the Board.***

 ***3. The Finance Committee recommended the NCL Financial Statements for approval to the Board.***

**6. AOB – There was no other business.**

**7. Date of Next Meeting:** The date for the next scheduled meeting of the ARC 4th September 2023 is and the Finance Committee is 11th September 2023.