



**NEW
COLLEGE
LANARKSHIRE**
Bringing Education Closer

Agenda

NCL Board Meeting – 30th April 2026

5.30 – On-line via Teams

1. Chair's welcome

Ronnie Smith

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

4.. NCL Forward Plan

**Papers Posted –
CM and Executive
Board**

5. AOB

6. Date of Next Meeting: The scheduled date of the next meeting of the New College Lanarkshire Board is **5pm Monday 8th June 2026 in the Motherwell Campus Boardroom and via Teams.**



Minute NCL Board Meeting – 30th April 2026

5.30 pm On-line via Teams

Present: Ronnie Smith, Ruth Allison, David Alves, Yvonne Finlayson, Moira Jarvie, Kellyann McGrraith, Christopher Moore, Barbara Philliben, Lisa Reid, Joan Rosie, Alastair Rennie.

In Attendance: Elizabeth Arogbofa, Ronnie Gilmour, Jennifer Lowe, Lynn MacKenzie, Penny Neish, Diane McGill, Nicola Mulholland, Elliott Scott, Barry Skea, Elaine Turkington.

1. Chair's welcome:

1.1 Ronnie Smith welcomed Board Members to the meeting and thanked them for attending and for their time. This was noted at the meeting.

1.2 To set the context, Ronnie Smith informed the Board that this meeting was being held because the SFC had asked for a Forward Plan which is in addition to the Strategy 2030 and to the usual Financial Returns such as the FFR. This had resulted in considerable additional work on top of Strategy 2030 for the Executive Board and staff. It had also resulted in this additional meeting of the Board held to meet the SFC deadlines for receipt of the plan.

1.3 He informed colleagues that Keith Fulton had submitted a couple of questions for consideration and response in due course. The first was relating to section 5.2 of the plan which set out the fall in staff headcount over recent years going from 953 in 2021 to 706 by May 2024. It was also noted that data informed delivery had gone up from 295 credits in 2022/23 to 389 in 25/26. The question was how much of the increased delivery was due to staff reductions and how much to increased data delivery. This was noted by the Board and the Executive Board will provide a response.

2. Apologies for Absence: There were apologies from Paula Blackadder, Keith Fulton, Elaine Loudon, Chelsea McCue, Delphi Parker, Cath Pollock.

3. Declarations of Interest: Moira Jarvie declared her membership of the Cumbernauld Nursery Group and Jennifer Lowe that she was the Chair of this Group. Ronnie Smith declared his membership of the AMCOL Board and that he had been appointed as the Chair of the People and Place Board in South Lanarkshire.

4. NCL Forward Plan:

4.1 Members of the Executive Board took it in turn to set out key aspects of the Forward Plan set out in a power point presentation to the Board. The power point presentation is appended to this minute but will be redacted when the minute is published due to the confidential nature of the Forward Plan at this stage as it is a document to the regulator i.e. the SFC and for its approval.



4.2 The presentation covered the following areas:

- Scene Setting
- Pre-phase1 2023
- Recovery Investment
- Forward Plan 2024
- Current Financial Status
- Objectives
- Strategic Planning Measures
- Built Environment
- Community Benefits
- Key New Partnerships
- Financial projections and Scenario Planning
- Governance and Reporting
- An extension to the current VS scheme
- Cashflow.

4.3 There was discussion at the Board following the presentation.

- It was agreed that a lot of good work had gone into the plan from the EB to tight time scales.
- It was noted that Keith Fulton had commented on whether the plan should also have a wider focus than Lanarkshire given world skills, the City Region and key Lanarkshire partners who also worked out-with the Lanarkshire Region. This point was agreed and it was noted that there was already planned partnership activity with key partners who did operate widely.
- Moira Jarvie set out concerns about another voluntary severance scheme and the impact that they had on staff. The Board was assured that this would be an extension to the existing scheme. It would be advertised to all staff and there would be no bar to those who wished to re-apply. The concern about impact on staff and the resilience to deliver on the Forward Plan was expressed by other Board Members and management informed the Board that it was hoped that VS schemes would not need to be used again in the future. There was also discussion about the need to refresh the curriculum to deliver on the plan and Strategy 2030.
- There was also discussion about communicating the Forward Plan to staff as it was felt that this document gave a very clear contextual overview as to what had happened and why, how it had been mitigated and also what the route should be to progress with stability into the future. Some Board Members including Moira Jarvie felt that the document should be communicated to staff in the near future and others thought that it should be once the SFC had considered the document with feedback and probably at the start of the new academic year. This latter option was the preference of the Executive Board. It was agreed that the document should be circulated at the appropriate time.
- There was overall consensus that this was a very good document with ambition and exciting new approaches and opportunities to bring financial sustainability.



Decision 1: The Board approved a six - month extension to the current VS scheme.

Decision 2: The request to AMCOL for the transfer of £2 million to assist with cash flow which will be returned in due course.

Decision 3: The Forward Plan was approved by the Board and will be submitted to the SFC to the agreed timescale.

5. AOB: There was no other business.

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