



## Chairs Report from the Board Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019

1. This is the sixteenth Chair's Report and my first report as the new Chair of the Board. The report sets out the main items for the autumn meeting which were the minutes of the Board's committees, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Student Association Reports, the NCL Staff Report, the NCL Interim Principal's Report, my Chair's report, the NCL Business Plan update, the Regional Collaboration Plan, the Financial Forecasting Returns to the SFC and the SLC assigned college report to the Board.

### 2. Chair's Welcome

I welcomed everyone to this first meeting of my Chairmanship of the Lanarkshire Board. I introduced myself as the former Chief Executive of the enterprise company Lanarkshire Enterprise Services Ltd (LESL), the Chair of the Fusion Assets Company and the Chair of a Cumbernauld based IT Company. I was also a former Chair of the Audit Committee of the Lanarkshire Board. I informed the Board that I will be meeting with each Board Members over the coming weeks and that my door is always open for Board Members who wished to speak to me.

**3. The Board's Committees:** The feedback from the committees is by exception and was as follows:

**CSAO Committee Minute 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019:** David Winning drew the Board's attention to the student presidents' reports and the wide range of activities being carried out by the associations and the co-operation between them.

**Audit and Risk Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019:** Yvonne Finlayson is the new Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. The Audit and Risk Committee was recommending the Internal Auditors Audit Needs Assessment 2019-2022 which is the Audit plan for 2019-2022. The details of the plan were set out in the committee minute and the Board approved the recommendation from the committee to approve the plan.

**RGP Committee 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019:** Keith Fulton drew the Board's attention to further concerns being raised about the condition of some additional cladding fittings together with the sub-frame elements to which they were attached at the Motherwell campus. Gardiner Theobald, the Project Managers at the time of the build, were currently in discussion with Morrison Construction along with college staff. The Board was informed that the safety of students and staff is paramount and that an area at the residencies adjudged to be more badly affected had been cordoned off and was being continually monitored. Further intrusive, investigative work on the cladding was planned and this would involve the manufacturers of the cladding system, as well as the builder, the project manager and the College. The outcome of this work will be brought back to the RGP Committee and, subsequently, to the Board. Additional assurances on safety have been sought from and been provided by Morrison.

**Finance Committee Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019:** Kenneth Anderson had sent the revised remit for the review to the group and there was ongoing dialogue on the remit. He had in broad terms advised the committee that the points on the remit may be addressed through the regional finance working group and further regional dialogue. He also drew the Board's attention to the FFR which would be discussed by the Board later in the agenda.

**4. Board Minutes:** The draft minutes of the meeting of the Lanarkshire Board on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved. The Lanarkshire Board minutes are published on the NCL website. Stewart McKillop presented the SLC Board minute from the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to the Board and these minutes are on the SLC website.

**5. Student Associations' Reports:** The Students' Association Reports are published with the CSAO and Board papers on the NCL website. The Student Presidents presented their reports to the Board and they were congratulated again on the breadth of the activity being undertaken. The Board noted the reports.

**6. Staff Members Update:** At the last meeting of the Board, Moira Jarvie informed the Board as follows:

- job evaluation was causing stress amongst the staff and this is taking a lot of Trade Union time.
- She was meeting with vulnerable groups to assist them with the process.
- She informed the Board that an extension would be needed and that a formal request would be made from NCL this week.

At this meeting she updated the Board that 50% of the evaluations had been received to date and that the deadline for submission was currently the end of the month. She again highlighted the time that this was taking.

## **8. The Interim Principals Report**

Annette Bruton informed the Board that she was testing the water in terms of presenting a Principals Report to the Board. The report is published on the NCL website with the papers from this meeting. She highlighted the following from the report:

- NCL has the highest number of finalists at the World Skills event with 24 students set to compete in the national finals having been selected as the top performers in their chosen skills from national qualifiers held across the UK. They will compete in front of more than 70,000 spectators at the Skills Show at the NEC in Birmingham from 21-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019.
- A hair salon within the University Hospital Wishaw operated by staff and students from the Faculty of Service Industries has been shortlisted for Scotland's Dementia Awards 2019. The salon, Styles and Smiles opened in April to offer long term stay patients free hair styling and barbering services. Staff and students have, in addition, volunteered over the summer. This service has been very well received.

The Board agreed that the report was very useful and welcomed the report to the Board.

## **9. Chairs Report**

- Keith Fulton referred the Board to the update that he had delivered at all three NCL main campuses in August which informed staff of the appointment of Professor Christopher Moore as the NCL Principal and Chief Executive and the Chief Officer of the RSB and the ministerial appointment of Ronnie Smith as the Chair of the Lanarkshire Board. The Interim Principal was Annette Bruton. Ann Baxter had been appointed as Acting Vice Principal and Shona Pettigrew as Acting Assistant Principal.
- The Board noted that the Board Secretary wrote to the Board on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 setting out the process for the appointment of the new Principal and the recommendation from the Nominations and Search committee to appoint Professor Moore and asking for the Boards approval of the recommendation by written procedure by mid -day on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. The Board

Secretary wrote to the Board on the 27<sup>th</sup> June confirming that the Board had approved the recommendation from the Nominations and Search Committee.

- Keith Fulton also informed the Board that the Nominations and Search Committee had interviewed for four additional Board Members on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 with Janie McCusker, the Chair of the Glasgow City Regional Board, as the independent member from another region. The Nominations and Search Committee had recommended to Scottish ministers the appointment of Paula Blackadder (Executive Director with Morgan Stanley), Michael McGlynn (Executive Director at South Lanarkshire Council), Barbara Philiben (former Head of Service North Lanarkshire Council) and Alastair Rennie (senior IT executive in a number of organisations). Confirmation was now awaited from the Scottish Government.
- The Board was informed that the Nominations and Search Committee had recommended that another candidate, Ronnie Boyd, should be co-opted to a committee. There were two other less experienced younger candidates and the recommendation from the Committee to the Board was that the Board should set up a mentoring programme to allow less experienced candidates to acquire skills for future membership of public or charity boards. The Board agreed this recommendation.

**10. NCL Business Plan:** The Board was informed that the feedback from two meetings held with the SFC since the last report to the Board was positive and that the overall the Business Plan was on track. All areas were being reviewed earlier this year through spotlight on the curriculum. Class sizes are more efficient.

**11. Financial Forecasting Returns (FFR):** Iain Clark presented the NCL FFR to the Board and highlighted the following:

- The College (New College Lanarkshire/NCL) is directed to prepare a Financial Forecast Return (FFR) for the period 2018/19 to 2023/24. In essence this is an updated forecast for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and an updated 5-year management forecast for the period to 2023/24. The NCL return includes the College subsidiary (Amcol Scotland Ltd.) but excludes South Lanarkshire College whose FFR will be consolidated with the NCL FFR to arrive at an FFR for the Regional Strategic Body (RSB).
- As per the College Business Plan the College endeavours to produce a balanced budget and manage its cash resources appropriately to arrive at medium-term Financial Sustainability. The College endeavours to produce efficiencies with a focus on improvements in class sizes and early retention, aligning staffing levels to meet curriculum and service demands, as well as constantly reviewing income streams and addressing non-staff cost control.

The Board noted the work undertaken by NCL Finance Staff and budget holders to get to a balanced budget in a very difficult environment and commended the staff for this and approved the NCL FFR.

**SLC FFR:** The SLC FFR is approved by the SLC Board and comes to the Lanarkshire Board to allow that Board to carry out its function of assurance and challenge where appropriate. The Lanarkshire Board noted that the SLC Board had approved the FFR at its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and that it had already been submitted to the SFC by SLC.



**12. SLC Report to the Board.**

Stewart McKillop updated the Board on the main items discussed at the SLC Board meeting on the 17th September 2019 and the minute of this meeting will be posted to the SLC website when it is approved by the SLC Board. The Lanarkshire Board approved the appointment of Paul Hughes as an SLC Board Member.

**13. Board Dates for 2020:** The Board approved the dates for 2020.

**14. AOB:** I minuted that I was very grateful to Keith Fulton for covering for me until I could take up my position fully in October 2019. I also thanked Stewart McKillop who has announced his retirement for his very valuable contribution to education in SLC and beyond and for his contribution to the Lanarkshire Board.

**15.** I hope that you have found this report on the work of the Board and its committees useful. The next meeting of the Lanarkshire Board will be on the 16<sup>TH</sup> December 2019 in the Boardroom at the Motherwell Campus

**Ronnie Smith Chair of the Lanarkshire Board**