



Agenda

NCL Board Finance Committee

Monday 18th May 2026 – 5.30 pm at the Motherwell Campus and Via Teams

1. Chair's welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Meeting 23rd February 2026 Minute Posted - PB
5. Matters Arising from the minutes
5.1 Format Management Accounts Verbal Update – LM
6. Financial Sustainability (FI)
6.1 NCL Cash Flow Management Verbal Update – LM
6.2 Strategy 2030 Update Paper Posted Update –ES
6.3 NCL Mid - Year Return Paper Posted –LM
7. NCL Management Accounts (FI) Paper Posted - LM
8. NCL Educational Foundation Update (FI) Verbal Update – LM
9. Cumbernauld Nursery Paper Posted - JL
10. Approval of publication of committee papers from this meeting (FA) BS
11. AOB
11.1 Any matters arising from RGP papers provided for information. Papers Posted –
RG
11.2 Estates Update Verbal Update -
RG
11.3 AOB
12. Date of Next Meeting NCL Finance Committee: The next scheduled meeting of the committee is the 7th September 2026 at the Coatbridge Campus and via Teams.

FI = For Information FA = For Approval FR = For Recommendation

***= non disclosable # = Future Publication .**

Name Abbreviations: CM = Christopher NCL Principal; BS/DMcG = Board Secretary RS= Ronnie Smith :RG = Ronnie Gilmour Deputy Principal; JL=Jennifer Lowe Deputy Principal PB = Paula Blackadder BP = Barbara Philliben; DC=Dugald Craig; LM= Lynn McKenzie NCL Finance Team; PN=Penny Neish

Diane McGill Board Secretary

New College Lanarkshire: Registered Charity Number SC021206



RGP Committee Papers For Information (FI)

1. Update from RGP Committee on ICT at NCL * (FI)

Paper posted - RG

2. Update on Systems Development at NCL (FI)

Paper Posted - RG

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Minute Finance Committee

Monday 23rd February 2026 – 5.30 pm at the Cumbernauld Campus and via Teams

Present: Paula Blackadder, Moira Jarvie, Elaine Loudon, Christopher Moore, Barbara Philliben.

In Attendance: Ronnie Smith, Ronnie Gilmour, Jennifer Lowe, Lynn MacKenzie, Nicola Mulholland, Diane McGill, Penny Neish and Elliot Scott.

1. Chair's welcome: Paula Blackadder welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Committee.

2. Apologies for Absence: There were no apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest: Ronnie Smith declared an interest as a Director of AMCOL. Jennifer Lowe and Moira Jarvie declared that they are members of the Cumbernauld Nursery Board.

4. The minutes of the meeting of the 17th November 2025 were approved.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes

5.1 Format Management Accounts: Lynn MacKenzie informed the committee that the accounts to date have focussed on comparing budgets to last years actuals. The focus will move to looking at the actuals and forecasts so that budget holders look at what is needed as opposed to spending up to budget. This is underway.

5.2 UWS Invoicing Procedure: The committee was informed that the UWS had been invoiced and the money had been paid into NCL's accounts. A formal procedure has now been drafted and this will ensure a robust approach to future invoicing.

5.3 Update on the ALF: The committee was informed that the ALF had been wound down, the lawyers paid which had taken the bulk of the funds and the remaining funds had been transferred to the Foundation account.

6. Financial Sustainability

6.1 NCL Cash Flow Management: Lynn Mackenzie informed the Committee that the approach of getting an advance from the SFC in February/ March which is then paid back to the SFC and also getting funds from AMCOL which are then paid back to AMCOL continues. **There was a meeting of the AMCOL Board scheduled for the day after this committee and a request for funds would be made with the approval of this committee.**

<i>Decision: The committee approved the request for funds to be made to AMCOL.</i>

6.2 Strategy 2030 Update: Elliott Scott informed the committee that there had been a series of staff consultation days across the NCL campuses. The strategy is on the Clan and the next phase is to update key stakeholders and to implement key projects outlined in the strategy. There has been a positive response from staff and the consultation events have been well attended. Christopher Moore informed the committee that there was focussed activity at the Kirkintilloch Campus to better utilise that campus.

6.3 Scottish Government Budget 2026/27:

6.3.1 There was discussion about the ministerial letter to the Chair of the Board. At this time, it is not known what the allocation from the SFC will be and what will be included for staff pay settlements and NI. The date for the SFC to announce indicative funding for the colleges is the 26th March 2026. Christopher Moore informed the committee that he had just had an email from the SFC asking for a plan for future financial sustainability by the end of April. This was to fit in with the SFC committees and Board. The SFC directorate is planning to take the issue of the continuation of the £ 4.5 million loan to it's Finance Committee and Board and is looking for reassurance. There was discussion about this request – the tight timeline and that the indicative funding allocations would not be known until the end of March and the FFR guidelines would also not be available until June. This would impact on the ability to produce such a plan and that this timescale was out with the NCL Board cycle to approve any NCL submission.

Action: It was agreed that, in the first instance, Christopher Moore would write to the SFC to raise the issue of the timing for this request and that NCL has its own governance process in the approval of any financial plan.

7. NCL Management Accounts:

7.1 Lynn MacKenzie informed the committee as follows:

The UOP to date shows £1,613k surplus, which is £1,488k (1189.6%) favourable to budget. This is mainly due to additional income from Galliford Try plus savings made to date on salaries and significant underspend on operating expenses. Income and expenditure will be reviewed in full when the Mid-Year Return (MYR) forecast is prepared. Income is £220k (0.9%) favourable to budget. Expenditure is £949k (3.9%) favourable to budget.

8. NCL Educational Foundation Update:

8.1 The Complimentary Breakfasts for Students initiative remains the Foundation's principal current activity, and it continues to meet a significant need amongst the student population. Extrapolating from the reduced number of complimentary breakfasts provided in the last quarter, it was anticipated that some 800 fewer would have been provided in the current quarter compared to the equivalent period in the last academic year. However, the figures indicate that the reduction was more than twice that, mainly due to a lower number of January starts than the previous year. As a consequence of the reduced uptake of complimentary breakfast, the cost in providing them is some £1,800 lower than the corresponding quarter last year.

8.2 The Foundation's current balance is £29,406, which is significantly higher than the last quarter and is sufficient to meet the commitment to providing complimentary breakfasts until the end of the 2025-26 academic year. The increase is due to donations of some £19,000 received during the period. Also, during this period, the Foundation's Steering Committee voted to award £3,000.00 to the College's Student Advisers to allow them to have 120 food vouchers available to award to students to alleviate food poverty and £1,000.00 to the Wellbeing Academy for the same purposes. This amount was immediately replaced by a £4,000.00 donation by the Foundation's patron Lady Haughey. In addition, we received a donation of £5,000 from Sureserve on the 23rd January.

9. Annual Procurement Report – Non- Compliance

9.1 Non-compliant spend is identified through an annual college expenditure analysis where the value of expenditure with a supplier exceeds these thresholds.

For the suppliers identified, the areas of non-compliance are summarised as follows:

- the requirement has not been tendered.
- the contract has expired but there has been a continuation to use the supplier.
- ad-hoc quotations have been obtained for initial spend/immediate requirements which has commenced as low value but has accumulated over the longer term.
- a framework supplier is being used but not through the correct call-off process or formally through the framework terms.

9.2 All areas identified have been scheduled on the Procurement Workplan. The paper contains a table setting out non- compliant spend – who the contract was with and the rationale for non-compliance. Lynn MacKenzie informed the committee that there would never be full compliance -for example, there will always be emergencies – but the ratio of non- compliance to compliance was small.

10.Cumbernauld Nursery

10. The committee was informed that the nursery was in a much better place with high occupancy rates in all the age groups, the finances now being in surplus and flexibility in the working hours with the nursery being open for 50 weeks in the year. The staff are engaging with the college and there is more integration with activity such as Brain Health and nursery staff are piloting a Building Bright Minds module. They also won a CDN award for the video they produced of the nursery.

11. Finance Committee Business

11.1 Terms of Reference of the Finance Committees

The Governance Professional informed the Committee that the Terms of reference had been updated to remove the aspects that applied to the role of an RSB.

Decision: The Finance Committee agreed the updated Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee.

11.2 The Committee had received the following reports: **NCL External Evaluation and Self - Evaluation Approach 2026.** The Governance Professional presented these reports noting that the CDN external report undertaken last year had been very positive. This had gone to the Board last June and recommendations had been included in the Board Development plan also presented to the Board. The external evaluation report had also acknowledged “survey fatigue” in the current approach to self-evaluation and had suggested a workshop approach. This was set out in the paper from the Governance Professional – Self-evaluation approach 2026.

11.3 Committee Self- Evaluation Questionnaire: The Committee considered the points that had been raised in the previous self- evaluation and the general comments in the CDN External Evaluation Report as set out in the Finance Committee self- evaluation paper. It also noted the



questions posed for the Finance Committee in this paper. The Committee decided that it would prefer to have a separate workshop before the Board meeting to carry out a self- evaluation of the Committee.

11.4 Board Development Plan: The Committee noted the Board Development Plan and that there had been progress on implementing the plan.

12. Approval of publication of committee papers from this meeting: The committee approved the publication of the Agenda, the minute the ministerial letter on the Scottish Budget and the papers for Item 11.

13. AOB:

13.1 Any matters arising from RGP papers provided for information: There were no matters arising from the RGP papers listed below and copied to the committee for information.

- Update from RGP Committee on ICT at NCL
- Update on Systems Development at NCL
- Update from RGP Committee on NCL Estate

13.2 Ronnie Smith flagged up to the Finance Committee that Dave Winning the CSAO Chair was not going to apply in the up- coming Board Member recruitment round. Barbara Philliben would Chair the CSAO meeting this time round and had agreed to being nominated by Ronnie Smith for the Chair of the CSAO Committee. This would go to the Board in March for a decision. He noted that It was open to any other Board Member who also wished to be nominated to contact him or the Governance Professional.

14. Date of Next Meeting NCL Finance Committee: The next scheduled meeting of the committee is the 18th May at the Motherwell Campus.



FOR DISCUSSION/INFORMATION			
Meeting:	RGP Committee		
Presented by	Jennifer Lowe		
Author/Contact	Jennifer Lowe	Department / Unit	Executive
Date Created	1 st May 2026	Telephone	7265
Appendices Attached	Appendix 1 – Summary Financial Position Statement		
Disclosable under FOISA		Yes	

1. PURPOSE

To provide an Operational/Financial Summary Update on the Cumbernauld Campus Nursery.

2. BACKGROUND

As part of the Business Plan and related Governance, The Cumbernauld Campus Nursery Development Board (NDB) formally reports quarterly to the Finance Committee. Position Statements are to be sent monthly to Committee members and the College Executive Board. NDB Minutes are made available on The Clan.

3. DETAIL

The report includes updates on:

3.1 Nursery Operational Update – May 2026.

3.2 The Summary Financial Position.

4. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Board retains an overview of NCL governance and progress against NDB Business Plan.

5. RISK

The Cumbernauld Campus Nursery is not performing to projections within the Business Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Cumbernauld Campus Nursery is not performing to projections within the Business Plan.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Compliance with Nursery Legislation – The Education (Scotland) Act 1980, The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 – this Act led to the formation of The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

8. WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no workforce implications at this juncture other than at operational levels.

9. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

There are potential reputational implications if not compliant.

10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no equalities implications.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to consider the information contained in this report and raise or discuss any issues.

Detail

3.1 Nursery Operational Update – May 2026

Occupancy Update

Both under three years rooms are almost at capacity with the slight drop in numbers due to children moving up to older rooms. Places have been filled as much as possible from our waiting lists and numbers will increase again for the new term in August.

The number of children attending the nursery during non-term time weeks is continuing to increase, with 37% of the children on our register attending over the Easter Break.

The three to five room now has 92% of all places filled.

Local Authority funded places for three to five year olds have been offered and accepted for the next academic year, 2026/2027. By April 2027, when all funded children will have taken up their place, the three to five rooms will be at 96% capacity. We are now having to pass applications for Local Authority funded places onto parents' second choice nursery.

Student Funding Update

Student Funding Manager advised that 18 NCL students (20 children) had been allocated a place in the Nursery in academic year 2025/2026 and there are 16 children remaining after withdrawal. The income for this is £129,416.

Curricular Update

Building Bright Minds

The Nursery is proud to launch Building Bright Minds, an innovative qualification designed to champion brain health across early years settings. This empowers practitioners with the knowledge and tools to nurture healthy brain development, while inspiring children to understand and value their own wellbeing from an early age.

The qualification is centred on a robust portfolio of evidence for staff, alongside a creative "passport to brain health" for children encouraging engagement, curiosity and lifelong healthy habits.

Building Bright Minds represents a significant step forward in embedding brain health at the heart of early education helping every child thrive today and into the future.

Child Smile

The Nursery is committed to advancing oral health outcomes for children through a dynamic partnership with the dental department placing prevention and early intervention at the heart of everyday practice.

This initiative focuses on delivering clear, consistent messaging around the importance of good oral hygiene, healthy habits and regular care.

3.2 Summary Financial Position

As per Appendix 1, the 2024/2025 result was a small deficit of c£16k against a budgeted deficit of c£24k and it should be noted that this was significant improvement on the 2023/2024 position of a c£158k deficit.

For 2025/2026 the budget is based on 70% occupancy, with a c£61k operating surplus predicted. Inclusive of central costs, a deficit of c£19k is expected. Central overhead costs will be further reviewed to check that the amount remains accurate.

The Nursery has performed better than budgeted for the first 8 months of 2025/2026 with a favourable variance of £37k, an operating surplus of c£84k against a budgeted surplus of c£47k. Inclusive of estimated central overhead costs of c£53k, there is a surplus to date of c£30k against a budgeted deficit of c£7k.

Based on the forecasting exercise carried out in March 2026, using the most up to date information available at that time, the 2025/2026 budgeted position is now expected to be improved upon. Inclusive of central costs, a surplus position of c£23k is now predicted.

APPENDIX 1 - CUMBERNAULD NURSERY PROVISION

	Annual - Aug24 to Jul25				Year to Date - Aug25 to Mar26			Annual		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Academic Year	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2025/2026	2025/2026	2025/2026	2025/2026	2025/2026
No. of Weeks Provision	38	45	45		50	50		50	50	
Nursery Opening Hours	0830-1630	0800-1800	0800-1800		0800-1800	0800-1800		0800-1800	0800-1800	
Hours per Week	40	50	50		50	50		50	50	
Occupancy level (based upon hours)	52%	65%	62%	-3%	70%	65%	-5%	70%	65%	

Income	302,973	498,697	478,108	(20,589)	362,453	384,649	22,196	543,680	571,666	27,986
Staffing	352,658	394,335	384,119	10,216	286,287	276,822	9,466	443,407	432,901	10,506
Supplies/Services Expenditure	23,684	43,469	32,363	11,106	29,417	23,777	5,640	39,150	35,925	3,225
Total Expenditure	376,342	437,804	416,482	21,322	315,704	300,599	15,106	482,557	468,827	13,730
<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	(73,369)	60,893	61,626	733	46,749	84,051	37,301	61,123	102,839	41,716
Surplus/(Deficit) as a % of income	-24%	12%	13%		13%	22%		11%	18%	
Allocation of Central Overheads	84,872	84,872	77,872	7,000	53,472	53,472	-	80,208	80,208	-
<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	(158,241)	(23,979)	(16,246)	7,733	(6,723)	30,579	37,301	(19,085)	22,631	41,716
Surplus/(Deficit) as a % of income	-52%	-5%	-3%		-2%	8%		-4%	4%	
Staffing FTE		11.12	10.88	0.24	11.57	11.53	0.04	11.57	11.53	0.04

Occupancy comparative based on places

	Aug-23	Aug-24	Oct-24	Apr-25	Sep-25	Nov-25	Jan-26	Apr-26
0 - 2	83%	97%	100%	100%	97%	100%	97%	90%
2 - 3	56%	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	90%
3 - 5	32%	54%	57%	81%	76%	77%	83%	92%
Whole Nursery	40%	63%	68%	86%	82%	84%	85%	93%

Current Intake @ 03/11/2025

Student Funding Only - 13 children
Student/Council - 4 children
Council Funding Only - 23 children
Council/Private - 7 children
Private Only - 24 children
Council/Student/Private - 2 children
73 children in total

Current Intake @ 31/01/2026

Student Funding Only - 13 children
Student/Council - 3 children
Council Funding Only - 28 children
Council/Private - 10 children
Private Only - 19 children
Council/Student/Private - 2 children
75 children in total

Current Intake @ 30/04/2026

Student Funding Only - 9 children
Student/Council - 6 children
Council Funding Only - 32 children
Council/Private - 9 children
Private Only - 20 children
Council/Student/Private - 2 children
78 children in total