

Minute

College Management Council Sub-committee

Monday, 7 February 2022, 13:30.

Microsoft Teams.



Present

Councillors Stephen G Clackson, Alexander G Cowie, J Harvey Johnston, W Leslie Manson and Gwenda M Shearer.

Community Representatives:

Beverly Clubley, Malcolm Graves and Peter Slater.

Business Representatives:

Rebecca May and Steven Sinclair.

Student Representatives:

Francesca Meneghetti (Orkney Depute President, Highlands and Islands Students' Association) and Duncan Foxley.

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- Colin Kemp, Interim Head of Finance.
- Graham Bevan, Service Manager (Secondary and Tertiary Education).
- Peter Trodden, Solicitor.
- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.
- Amanda Anderson, Senior HR Adviser.

Orkney College

- Edward Abbott-Halpin, Principal.
- Claire Kemp, Assistant Principal.
- Joanne Wallace, Assistant Principal.
- Andie John Seatter, Staff Representative.
- Iain Wilkie, Staff Representative.

Observing

- Barbara Nelson, HMI Inspector.
- Rebecca McAuliffe, Press Officer.
- Donna Wishart, Principal's PA and College Management Team Secretary.

Apology

- Mark Jones, Business Representative.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Beverly Clubley.

1. Form of Voting

The Sub-committee resolved that, should a vote be required in respect of the matters to be considered at this meeting, notwithstanding Standing Order 21.4, the form of voting should be by calling the roll (recorded vote).

2. Disclosure of Exempt Information

The Sub-committee noted the proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Item 8, as the business to be discussed involved the potential disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

3. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

3.1. The revenue financial detail in respect of Orkney College for the period 1 April to 31 December 2021, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, indicating a net surplus of £796,800.

The Sub-committee scrutinised:

3.2. The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 2 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, and obtained assurance that action was being taken with regard to significant budget variances.

4. Orkney College – Draft Revenue Budget

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Principal, Orkney College, the Sub-committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the draft revenue budget for Orkney College for 2022/23, attached as Annex 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing and the Head of Finance, be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration through the budget setting process.

5. Highlands and Islands Students' Association – Update

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Orkney Depute President, Highlands and Islands Students' Association, the Sub-committee:

Noted the paper prepared by the Orkney Depute President of the Highlands and Islands Students' Association, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, outlining key activities during October to December 2021.

6. Academic Partner Outcome Agreement

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Principal, Orkney College, the Sub-committee:

Resolved to **recommend to the Council** that the Academic Partner Outcome Agreement between the University of the Highlands and Islands and Orkney College for academic year 2021/22, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute, be approved.

7. Vertical Farm Project

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Principal, Orkney College, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

7.1. That the Vertical Farm project, a constituent element of the Islands Growth Deal, proposed testing a vertical farm unit in an island context using renewable energy, a summary of which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

7.2. That a Strategic Outline Case had been developed in respect of the Vertical Farm project, and subsequently submitted and accepted by the Scottish and UK Governments, with funding of £2 million provisionally approved towards the set-up costs of the project.

7.3. That work had commenced on the next step in the process for Islands Growth Deal projects, namely development of an Outline Business Case.

7.4. That the deadline for submission of the Outline Business Case for the Vertical Farm project to the Scottish and UK Governments had been extended, with an action plan to meet that deadline proposed.

7.5. That the project Lead Group included representatives from Orkney College, the University of the Highlands and Islands, the Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the James Hutton Institute, who currently provided all time from existing staff resources.

7.6. That, notwithstanding paragraph 7.5 above, there was a need to identify ongoing additional support for development of the Vertical Farm project and the Outline Business Case.

8. Orkney College Business Planning Review – Update

On the motion of Beverly Clubley, seconded by Rebecca May, the Sub-committee resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 6 and 11 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Principal, Orkney College, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

8.1. That, on 20 January 2020, the College Management Council Sub-committee noted the proposal to undertake a strategic review of Orkney College.

8.2. That, also of significance to the business planning of Orkney College, was the UHI Branding and Positioning Project.

8.3. That, on 7 December 2021, the Council resolved that the recommendations of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee relating to the UHI Branding and Positioning Project should be referred back to that Committee.

8.4. The proposal to establish a short life working group, that would conclude by the end of 2022, with a remit to inform a draft detailed business review and business plan for Orkney College.

The above constitutes the summary of the Minute in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 section 50C(2) as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

9. Conclusion of Meeting

At 14:45 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: B Clubley.