

**Belfast Metropolitan College Governing Body 2:30 pm Wednesday 30 April 2025 Titanic Quarter Boardroom and via MS Teams**

**Governing Body Members:** Michele Corkey (Chair); Seamus McGoran (Vice-Chair); Rose Byrne; Tom Hesketh; Maurice Keady; Lauren McAteer; Janis Leaden; Michael McKernan; Bill Montgomery; Yvonne Murphy; Michael Mearns; Alex O'Neill; Damian Duffy (Interim Principal and Chief Executive (IPCE))

**In attendance from Management:** Aidan Sloane, Chief Operating Officer (COO); Fiona Dempsey, Interim Director of Curriculum and Learner Success (IDCLS); Siobhan Lyons, Interim Director of Development and Partnerships (IDDP), and Paula Graham Director of People and Culture.

**Secretary to the Governing Body:** Jim Woods

**GB54 24/25**

**Quorum, Apologies, Welcome, Conflicts of Interest, Notice of AOB and Leadership Culture**

**Quorum:** The meeting is quorate under the terms of Section 7 of the Standing Orders for the Governing Body V5 approved December 2024 (6 members, of which 3 must be appointed under Part II Paragraph 5a of the Instrument of Government).

**Apologies:** Seamus Dawson; Rose Byrne until 3:00; and Sheena McKinney.

**Welcome:** A warm welcome was extended to Paula Graham, Director of People and Culture.

**Conflicts of Interest:** There were no perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest declared under the terms of Section 8 of the Belfast Metropolitan College Standing Orders for the Governing Body.

**Gifts and Hospitality:** All participants must report the accepting / rejecting of Gifts and Hospitality in line with the Financial Management Policy for Belfast Met. GB10 24/25 18 Sept 2024.

**AOB:** None notified to date.

Leadership Culture: Chair noted our commitment to Governing Body Leadership Culture

*Creative and Courageous Conversation in an 'atmosphere' OR 'culture' of challenge and respect in line with our Code of Conduct*

(GB60 24/25 Meeting Feedback below refers)

**Belfast Metropolitan College Governing Body**

| <b>Minute</b>     | <b>Detail</b>  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>GB55 24/25</b> | <p><b>Chair's Business</b></p> <p>The Chair explained that the annual accountability meeting had taken place on 18 April. The Chair, IPCE and COO had attended the meeting at DFE on behalf of the College. The slides have been provided for information.</p> <p>Members are requested to note the information.</p>   |
| <b>GB56 24/25</b> | <p><b>Belfast Metropolitan College Strategic Plan 2025-28</b></p> <p>IPCE presented draft strategic plan entitled Transforming Education which covered the three-year period 2025-28. IPCE explained that the draft will be used as part of the consultation process to gather feedback from a range of stakeholders. The plan will be formally launched in August 2025.</p> <p>Members approved the draft College Strategic Plan.</p>   |
| <b>GB57 24/25</b> | <p><b>Castlereagh Strategic Outline Case Short List</b></p> <p>COO provided an update on developments with the Castlereagh Campus Strategic Outline Case. The presentation included explanation of the SOC methodology, including the detail as to how the long list of potential solutions was developed. A short list of the most feasible and impactful options was presented to the Governing Body for consideration.</p> <p>The Governing Body approved the short list of options to enable the SOC to be progressed to a final draft which will be presented to the Governing Body at its June 2025 meeting.</p> |
| <b>GB58 24/25</b> | <p><b>College Estates Strategy 2022/32 and the College Sustainability Action Plan 2030</b></p> <p>COO provided an update on the developments relating to the College Estate Strategy 2022-32 and a College Sustainability Action Plan 2030.</p> <p>The Governing Body noted the update.</p>  |
| <b>GB59 24/25</b> | <p><b>2024-25 End of year assurance statement</b></p> <p>IP&amp;CE presented the College's annual assurance certificate 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 which also comprises a confirmation of statements over 13 categories of controls. In previous years these statements were signed off by the IP&amp;CE. This year for compliance in addition to being signed off by the accounting officer had to be presented to the Governing Body.</p> <p>The Governing Body is noted that the end of year assurance statement.</p>  |

**Belfast Metropolitan College Governing Body**

| <b>Minute</b>     | <b>Detail</b>   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>GB60 24/25</b> | <p><b>Meeting feedback on Leadership Culture</b></p> <p>Members concurred that the meeting had been conducted in line with aspiration: <i>Creative and Courageous Conversation in an 'atmosphere' OR 'culture' of challenge and respect in line with our Code of Conduct.</i></p> |
| <b>GB61 24/25</b> | <p><b>Time and Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 25 June 2025</p> <p>The meeting ended at</p>  |

| Members attendance in person | Members attendance Via teams |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Michele Corkey               | Maurice Keady                |
| Seamus McGoran               | Yvonne Murphy                |
| Tom Hesketh                  | Rose Byrne                   |
| Janis Leaden                 |                              |
| Lauren McAteer               |                              |
| Michael McKernan             |                              |
| Bill Montgomery              |                              |
| Michael Mearns               |                              |
| Alex O'Neill                 |                              |
| Damian Duffy                 |                              |

| Ref               | What   | When         | Who  |
|-------------------|--|--------------|------|
| <b>GB56 24/25</b> | <b>Belfast Metropolitan College Strategic Plan 2025-28</b><br>Updater to be provide at the next meeting of the Governing Body                          | 25 June 2025 | IPCE |
| <b>GB57 24/25</b> | <b>Castlereagh Strategic Outline Case Short List</b><br>Final outline Strategic Outline Case to be presented to the next meeting of the Governing Body | 25 June 2025 | COO  |

Approved at the Governing Body Meeting held 25 June 2025