

Belfast Metropolitan College Resources Committee

3 pm on 10 June 2026 via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Committee Members: Seamus McGoran (Chair); Yvonne Murphy; Lauren McAteer; Michael Mearns; Michael McKernan; J Leaden, Tom Hesketh; and Damian Duffy, Principal & Chief Executive.

Management: Aidan Sloane, Chief Operating Officer (COO); Paula Graham, Director of People and Culture (DPC); Head of IT and Digital Services, (HOIT) Laura Allen, Head of Finance (HF); Peter Kane, Head of Estate and Facilities Management (HEFM). Hadessa McCusker, Deputy Head of Finance.

Secretary to the Governing Body: Jim Woods

RC42 25-26	Quorum, Apologies, Welcome, Conflicts of Interest, Notice of AOB and Leadership Culture Quorum: The meeting was determined to be quorate under the terms of Section 6.2 of Terms of Reference V5 of the Resources Committee approved by the Governing Body on 11 December 2024 (2 Governors). Apologies received from Fiona Dempsey and Siobhan Lyons Welcome: to everyone attending today's meeting, which had been moved to online Conflicts of Interest: No participants reported perceived, potential, or actual conflicts of interest under the terms of Section 8.1 of the Belfast Metropolitan College Governing Body Standing Orders. AOB: No Items of AOB received. Leadership Culture: The meeting set out the intent to engage in creative and courageous conversation in an atmosphere or culture of challenge and respect in line with our code of conduct.
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RC43 25-26	Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2026 The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2026, subject to the words 'was noted' being added to the paragraph on Martyns Law.
RC44 25-26	Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2026 All matters arising are on the agenda of this governance meeting.
RC45 25-26	Governance Guidance and Information. The Terms of Reference for the Resources Committee have been updated to reflect changes in the article of Government, primarily around moving the financial year end to 31 March 2026. The Resources Committee approved the updated Terms of Reference.
RC46 25-26	Notification of change to the internal control environment under Section 12d of Governing Body Standing Orders V5 22 June 2022 The Committee noted changes to the internal control environment relevant to the work of the Resources Committee, in relation to (i) IFRS amendments review (ii) Northern Ireland sustainability reporting guidance for NICS departments 2025-26
RC47 25-26	Chair's Business The Chair paid tribute to Laura Allen who is attending her last meeting of the Resources Committee prior to early retirement. He relayed that it had been a privilege to work with her and thanked her for her professionalism and invaluable advice which had always provided a degree of confidence and reassurance.
RC48 25-26	Financial Results to 31st March 2026 COO and HF took members through the report, which provided the Resources Committee with the final financial position for the year ended 31 March 2026. It outlined performance against budget, including income and expenditure variances, departmental outturns, cash management and capital delivery. Income was £2.4m favourable to the budget, while expenditure was £1.4m adverse; it reflected planned accelerated investment across Estates, IT and curriculum activity. The overall position achieved a breakeven outturn, with full utilisation of the DfE resource allocation. The report provided an assurance on financial control, adherence to budgetary limits and delivery of planned investment across priority areas, which supported College

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	operations and strategic objectives. The Committee noted the strong financial outturn for 2025-26.
RC49 25-26	Estate and Facilities Management Report HEFM took members through the Estates & Sustainability report, which provided a detailed update on delivery of the Estate Strategy 2022-32 and the 2025-26 Estate Business Plan. It confirmed that the revised ERP SOC had progressed through long-list and short-list option analysis, with refinement now underway to develop cost ranges, dependencies and cross-campus transition implications ahead of submission. The report highlighted that the Millfield PFI reversion programme is progressing to plan with 15 months remaining, with TUPE discussions commenced and governance structures in place. The report also confirmed active progression of the Riddell disposal through Community Asset Transfer, a “Good” internal audit outcome for Health & Safety. The report also reflected continued progress on sustainability priorities, including statutory climate mitigation and adaptation reporting. The accompanying Climate Reporting paper provided further detail on compliance, baseline emissions and identified risks. The Committee noted the information provided and the action taken by Management.
RC50 25-26	IT & Digital Services Report – Quarter 3 2025/26 The IT & Digital Services performance report for Q3 2025/26 covered service delivery, major projects, cyber security, and digital innovation. Service performance remained strong, with all KPIs exceeded during the quarter. Significant progress has been delivered across infrastructure investment, including firewall and network upgrades, end-user device refresh and delivery of the Teams telephony project. The report also highlighted strong cyber resilience activity, successful Cyber Essentials reaccreditation, and continued advancement of the Digital Framework and AI transformation program. The Committee noted the information and the progress on delivery.
RC51 25-26	Any other notified business There was no other business.
RC52 25-26	Meeting Feedback Leadership Culture: The chair sought feedback as to how well we lived up to our aspirations. Members confirmed that the meeting was conducted with creative and courageous conversations in an atmosphere or spirit of challenge and respect in line with our code of conduct.

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RC53 25-26	Date of next meetings for the Governance Programme 2025-26 23 September 2026
RC 54 25-26	The Resources Committee met in closed session to consider the 2026-27 allocation. Present Committee Members: Seamus McGoran (Chair); Yvonne Murphy; Lauren McAteer; Michael McKernan; Tom Hesketh; and Damian Duffy, Principal & Chief Executive. Management: Aidan Sloane, Chief Operating Officer (COO); Paula Graham, Director of People and Culture (DPC); Secretary to the Governing Body: Jim Woods 2026-27 Contingency Allocation The 2026/27 contingency allocation, set at 94% of baseline, presents a significant financial challenge, requiring delivery of c.£5.6m savings. This includes an immediate £2.5m reduction, with a residual £3.1m gap driving further strategic intervention. The financial response has necessitated planned reductions of approximately 1,900 enrolments to align provision with funding. A coordinated financial control and mitigation programme has been mobilised, including ELT and SLT-led workshops to develop and implement mitigation strategies across curriculum, workforce and cost base. This structured, leadership-driven approach is strengthening financial grip, enabling prioritised decision-making and positioning the College to deliver sustainable operations in a constrained funding environment. The Resources Committee noted the update.

Governing Body Attendance Report and Governing Body Member Assessment 2025-26	
Participation at the 25-26 Resources Committee Meeting held 10 June 2026	
via MS Teams	via MS Teams
Seamus McGoran	Lauren McAteer
Tom Hesketh	Yvonne Murphy
Michael Mearns	Michael McKernan
Damian Duffy	Janis Leaden