

|  |
| --- |
| **Belfast Metropolitan College Curriculum, Quality and Committee 3.00pm Wednesday 15 March 2023 in Seminar Room E3 and via MS Teams MINUTES FINAL approved 27 June 2023** |
| **Committee Members**: Brian Wilson (Vice-Chair) Catherine Burns; Kathleen O’Hare; Kate Burns; Seamus Dawson; Yvonne Murphy; Michele Corkey; Bill Montgomery; Janis Leaden; Nik Brijpaul; Tai Campbell; Louise Warde Hunter.**Management:** Joy Kettyle, Director of Curriculum Innovation and Excellence (DCIE); Damian Duffy, Director of Partnerships and Sustainability (DPS); Michelle Devlin, Assistant Director of Curriculum.**In attendance**: Mark Lee, Director of Tertiary Education DfE; Clement Athanasiou, Director for Apprenticeships DfE; Kathryn McCamley, Deputy Director Apprenticeships & Youth Training DfE; Frank Bryan, Lauren McAteer; Sam Snodden; Jim McCall;**Clerk to the Governing Body:** Gerry Crossan**Observor**: Gráinne McGovern, Senior Quality & Partnerships Manager (Ireland), Open University; Áine Ó Keefe, Boardroom Apprentice 2022/23 |
| **CQE36 22/23** Clerk to the Governing Body | **Quorum, Apologies, Welcome, Conflicts of Interest, Notice of AOB and Leadership Culture****Quorum**: The meeting was quorate under the Terms of Reference for the Curriculum, Quality and Engagement Committee dated 22 June 2022 (Approved **GB81a 21/22 22 June 2022)** (2 Governors).1**Apologies:** No apologies received at date of meeting.**Welcome**: The Vice- Chair **welcome** senior colleagues from DfE to the meeting: Mark Lee, Director of Tertiary Education DfE, Clement Athanasiou, Director for Apprenticeships DfE; and Kathryn McCamley Deputy Director Apprenticeships & Youth Training DfE and other Governing Body Members, and Gráinne McGovern, The Open University **Conflicts of Interest**: No **perceived, potential or actual** conflicts of interest under the terms of Paragraph 15.1 of the Belfast Metropolitan College Governing Body Standing Orders dated August 2015 were advised.**AOB:** No Items of AOB received at the meetingT**Leadership Culture:** The Vice-Chair **noted** our commitment to Governing Body Leadership Culture Watchwords (**GB02d 22/23 21 September 2022** refers):Courageous / Creative / Candour / Challenge (**CQE47 22/23** below refers). |
| **CQE37 22/23** | **Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2023 - DRAFT (Proposed Final)** The Committee **approved** the **DRAFT (Proposed Final)** minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2023 without amendment. |

| **Agenda Item**  |
| --- |
| **CQE38 22/23** | **Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2023**All matters arising are on the agenda of this governance meeting. |
| **CQE39 22/23** | **Governance Guidance and Information** None advised since the last meeting. |
| **CQE40****22/23** | **Chair’s Business** The Chair thanked Management for the result of the recent ETI inspection.. |
| **CQE41 22/23****DfE Colleagues** | **Higher Education in Further Education**Mark Lee, Director of Tertiary Education DfE advised the Committee on:* the key elements in the reform of Vocational Qualifications in England and Wales;
* the potential impacts of that reform programme on reform in NI, including the use of the regulation framework to drive coherence across the offering of qualfications; and,
* the phases of the reform of Vocational Qualifications in NI.

The Vice-Chair asked DfE colleagues what the key issues for Key issues for NI FE Colleges in relation to the 10X Strategy1. how the College offering supports the key elements of the 10X strategy;
2. the content of the College offering;
3. as many people as possible qualified to Level 3 and able to access the job market; and,
4. impact on employment gaps relating to gender and equality.

The Vice-Chair asked what the implementation timescales might be. DfE colleagues advised that the defunding of qualification in E&W in 2024 would be a key threshold date and this would mean that the refresh of current qualifications in NI is likely to happen in 2026.The Committee raised the issue of the current provision of vocational education in post-primary schools and the place of effective provision and qualification pathways in the delivery of the 10X strategy.The Committee asked where the prioritisation of economy sectors and technology support to support delivery of the step change in growth that is envisaged in the 10X strategy. DfE advised that the roll out of the strategy would include the clear prioritisation of sectors and technology support.The Committee asked how the needs of people and employers in the gig economy would be engaged in the delivery of the strategy. DfE advised that a qualifications system which provides modularity, access to learning throughout all career/life stages. The Committee discussed the issue of accountability for timely delivery of the key elements in the 10X strategy and the fitness for purpose of the current delivery framework as the platform to move to the 10X vision.The Committee asked what the links were with DE and the Review of the 14-19 Curriculum. DfE colleagues that both DE and DAERA are members of the FE Review Project Board, DfE is aiming to deliver and approach to educational provision across NI and this scope is reflected in the consultation processes.**Apprenticeships and Vocational Training:**Clement Athanasiou, Director for Apprenticeships DfE advised the Committee and Kathryn McCamley Deputy Director Apprenticeships & Youth Training DfE advised the Committee on the following issues:1. the key elements of the reform to the Careers Service; and,
2. employed (apprenticeship) and non-employed pathways through qualifications from Level 1 to Level 4 and above to achieve the objective of sustained employment;
3. the issues around the provision of Higher Level Apprenticeships.

DfE advised that the current thinking is that Level 3 and 4 qualifications would be offered through FE and Level 5 and above, delivered through HE.The Committee discussed the risk to the development and the value of alternative pathways due to perceptions of these pathways by learners, parents and employers.The Committee **noted** the information provided by DfE colleagues. |
| **CQE42 22/23** | **New Programme Developments, Business and Skills update – DPS March 2023**Management advised the Committee on the key issues relating to Programme Developments, including 1. the development offerings around critical business skills areas;
2. current and emerging partnerships; and,
3. current performance against agreed KPIs and income targets which are all being met.

The Committee sought further information on the pathways available to students with refugee status.The Committee **noted** the information provided by and the action taken by Management. |
| **CQE43 22/23** | **Recruitment, performance and developments report -DCIE - March 2023**Management advised that the report to the Committee on the following issues will be rescheduled across the remaining meetings of Governance Programme 2022/23.1. At Risk & Outstanding Areas of Curriculum;
2. Student Enrolments and Withdrawals;
3. Lost Learning; and,
4. Curriculum Developments.
 |
| **CQE44 22/23** | **Higher Education Report March 2023** Management advised the Committee on the key issues across the delivery of HE in FE up to March 2023.The Committee  **noted** the information provided by and the action taken by Management |
| **CQE45 22/23** | **Quality Assurance & Learner Success Report March 2023**Management advised the Committee on the key issues associated with Quality Assurance and Learner Success, including:1. positive assurance from recent ETI valuation;
2. positive assurance of recent Internal Audit reviews of curriculum delivery areas; and,
3. forthcoming work in the light of recent analysis of the maths skills gap at Levels 4-6.

The Committee **noted** the information provided by and the action taken by Management. |
| **CQE46 22/23** | **Any Other Business** No AOB received at the meeting**.** |
| **CQE47 22/23** | **Leadership culture – Meeting feedback**Committee members provided positive feedback to the Vice-Chair on the conduct of this governance meeting in the light of the Governing Body’s commitments at **CQE27 22/23** above. |
| **CQE48****22/23** | **CQE4822/23 Date of next meeting** **Governance Programme 2022/23 Cycle 4** The **fifth** meeting of the **CQE Committee** during 2022/23 will take place at **3.00pm on Tuesday 27 June 2023** in the Titanic Quarter Boardroom and via Microsoft Teams. (**CQE65 21/22 29 June 2022** refers).**Governance Programme 2023/24 Cycle 3**: The **fourth** meeting of **CQE Committee** during 2023/24 will be held at 3.00pm on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at a TQ Boardroom and via MS Teams.The meeting ended at 5.30pm. |

**Chair of Belfast Metropolitan College Kathleen O’Hare**

**Signature Date**