



**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**5 June 2017**

**Minute**

**Present:** Ms Anne Richards (Convener) (by telephone)  
The Principal  
Ms Sarah Smith, University Secretary  
Vice-Principal Professor Jonathan Seckl  
Mr David Bentley  
Ms Alison Grant  
Dr Chris Masters  
Ms Doreen Davidson  
Professor Sarah Cooper  
Ms Jenna Kelly (on behalf of Mr Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson)

**In attendance:** Senior Vice-Principal Professor Charlie Jeffery  
Mr Hugh Edmiston, Director of Corporate Services  
Ms Tracey Slaven, Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning  
Ms Zoe Lewandowski, Director of Human Resources  
Mr Phil McNaull, Director of Finance  
Mr Gary Jebb, Director of Estates  
Dr Lewis Allan, Head of Court Services

**Apologies:** Lady Susan Rice  
Mr Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson

**1 Minute**

**Paper A**

The minute of the meeting held on 3 April 2017 was approved.

**2 Matters Arising**

**Verbal**

The Senior Vice-Principal advised that negotiations to establish a City-region Deal with the UK and Scottish Governments may resume shortly after the UK General Election, with an announcement prior to the Westminster summer recess a possibility. Given the schedule of Policy & Resources Committee and Court meetings, the Court City Deal Sub-Group and Exception Committee may be activated.

**3 Principal's Communications**

**Verbal**

The Principal reported on promising student application numbers for 2017-18 entry at undergraduate and postgraduate level, including online/distance learners; and, political manifesto commitments relating to higher education and immigration ahead of the UK General Election.

## SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS

- 4 Planning Round 2017-20** **Paper B**
- The Deputy Secretary, Strategic Planning, presented the final draft of the University's financial plan for 2017-20, synthesising business plans and investment proposals developed by the main budget owners recognising the objectives and development themes of the Strategic Plan 2016. The plan was recognised to be strategically focused and stretching. The Committee endorsed the plans and proposed investments for approval by Court.
- 5 Finance Director's Report** **Paper C**
- The favourable Quarter 3 forecast outturn, a summary of the Transparent Approach to Costing for Teaching Return for 2015/16, Quarter 3 results for subsidiary companies and the forthcoming Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) actuarial valuation were reviewed.
- 6 Social Finance Investment Proposal** **Paper D**
- Following the support in principle for developing social finance investment opportunities granted at the 24 April 2017 Court meeting, the Committee considered an initial social finance investment opportunity. An initial investment was approved under authority delegated by Court and the initiative to extend the University's Treasury mandate to include social finance investments endorsed.
- 7 Core Systems Strategy – Paper 2** **Paper E**
- Following the initial introduction paper considered at the 23 January 2017 meeting, the Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University presented a systems roadmap, technical strategies, vendor approach and procurement method for the University's proposed new core enterprise business systems. The strategy and the move to the first phase of procurement (competitive dialogue) was approved. A formal request for funding approval will follow.
- 8 FinTech Hub** **Paper F**
- An opportunity to create a national Small-to-Medium Enterprise (SME) Financial Technology or 'FinTech' Hub in collaboration with the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Finance Enterprise and its partners was considered. The ability of the University to boost SME innovation was supported and the direction of travel of the FinTech project endorsed.
- 9 Estates** **Paper G1**
- **Estates Vision 2017-2027**
- An Estates Vision 2017-2027, prepared as the first step towards a successor strategy to the Estates Strategy 2010-2020, was reviewed.

Noting links with the Residential Accommodation Strategy (Paper G2) and a Transport Strategy (to be developed over the coming year), the Estates Vision was endorsed and recommended for approval by Court.

- **Residential Accommodation Strategy**

**Paper G2**

A draft Residential Accommodation Strategy was presented for comment. The direction of travel to supplement the existing residential bed spaces was endorsed and the work undertaken to procure additional accommodation supported.

- **Proposal for Investment in Student Facing Facilities**

**Paper G3**

An overview of proposals for investment in student facing facilities was considered. Members discussed the importance of achieving high internal rates of return on revenue generating projects across the University Group to allow for investment in non-directly revenue generating projects such as student facing facilities and the importance of student facing facilities in terms of direct benefit for the student experience and indirect benefits in attracting prospective students given increased domestic and international competition.

- **Student Centre Full Business Case**

**Paper G4**

The full business case and funding request to deliver a new Student Centre at Teviot Row House and 1 George Square was reviewed. The full business case and request for funding from University Corporate Resources was endorsed and recommended to Court for approval.

- **Murchison House Full Business Case**

**Paper G5**

A full business case to refurbish Murchison House at the King's Buildings campus to provide student study, teaching and social provision space, Edinburgh Research & Innovation staff offices, incubation and industry collaboration spaces and campus administration was presented. The full business case and request for funding from University Corporate Resources and College of Science and Engineering reserves was endorsed and recommended to Court for approval.

- **King's Buildings Campus Infrastructure**

**Paper G6**

A request for funding from University Corporate Resources to progress the King's Buildings Infrastructure Project was endorsed and recommended to Court for approval.

- **Institute for Regeneration & Repair Updated Business Case**

**Paper G7**

An award from the Robert O Curle Trust for a regenerative ophthalmology research laboratory within the new Institute for Regeneration & Repair was welcomed and the request to Court to approve funding from University Corporate Resources to complete the construction of the laboratory endorsed.

**10 Hua Xia Healthcare Update**

**Paper H**

The Vice-Principal Data Science presented an update on proposals to establish a joint venture between the University of Edinburgh and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hua Xia Healthcare. A further submission will be made to request approval of the creation of the joint venture.

**ITEMS FOR NOTING OR FORMAL APPROVAL**

**11 People Report**

**Paper I**

The report was noted, with the HR Strategy to be circulated to those members who had requested it.

**12 Estates Committee Report**

**Paper J**

The report was noted.

**13 Investment Committee Report**

**Paper K**

The report was noted.

**14 Any Other Business**

Dr Chris Masters was thanked for his service and invaluable advice provided to the Committee over his term of office.

The Student President, Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson, and in his absence, Student Vice-President Jenna Kelly, were both thanked for their service and invaluable advice provided to the Committee over the academic year.

**15 Date of next meeting**

Monday, 4 September 2017 at 2.30pm, Raeburn Room, Old College