



He further confirmed that Committee Members reviewed the draft Report to Those Charged with Governance and were advised that it is proposed that the Comptroller and Auditor General will certify the 2020-2021 financial statements with an unqualified audit opinion, without modification.

Mr Nugent requested that his thanks be relayed to Ms McGuigan and members of the finance team for their help in assembling the Annual Report.

Mr Nugent confirmed that Members reviewed the Internal Audit report on Covid-19 Student Funding Initiatives and advised that the internal audit of payroll provisions has been delayed on the request of management.

He informed that Members conducted their regular review of the Corporate Risk Register and relayed that Risks 8 and 9 have been lowered. Mr Nugent informed that Committee Members advised that management adopt a watchful stance regarding Risk 8 and the impact of coronavirus on College processes and delivery. He advised that Risk 9 failure to provide a safe working environment, was lowered in response to good progress in health and safety matters as evidenced against the HASMAP standard.

Mr Nugent stated that a detailed discussion had taken place regarding Risk 4 and the challenges that remain across the sector in recruiting a skilled workforce. He relayed that Members had recommended that further discussion takes place at the annual strategy day.

The Governing Body adopted the Committee minutes.

#### **A07. DRAFT REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE**

Mr Doran referred Members to the draft Report to Those Charged with Governance and reported on a clean audit. He advised that bank confirmations were received on 12 November and the report will be updated to include £75k not accrued in respect of a dispute relating to the estates project.

Mrs Campbell advised on other amendments required in the latest version and confirmed that the misstatement does not materially affect the Accounts.

Members noted the report, with Mr Nugent commenting that the Project Team has performed well in delivery of the new build projects.

#### **A08. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

Mr Doran presented the Annual Accounts and advised that no significant changes have been made to the document to those papers tabled over recent weeks.

Members unanimously approved Annual Report and Financial Accounts for the period ended 31 July 2021.

#### **A09. ARTICLES OF GOVERNMENT - AMENDMENT**

Mr Nugent informed that Audit Committee Members are supportive of renaming the Committee to Audit and Risk Committee to align with the Audit Code. He advised that the Department have confirmed that they would support the required amendment to the Articles.

Members approved the amendment to the Articles of Government, and the various other supplementary documents following receipt of the Department's signed and sealed confirmation of approval.

**A10. COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2022 – ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Mr Doran referred Members to the Action Plan developed in line with the College Development Plan. He advised that in the main, enrolments are down against target however advised that Essential Skills has recruited well to date and level 2 apprenticeship intake has increased significantly, particularly in regard to plumbing and electrical.

A detailed discussion took place regarding duplication of provision, the sector’s role in addressing local skills shortage, the development of part time provision and the College’s flexibility to differentiate curriculum offer from that of schools. Members discussed partnership provision and suggested further deliberation take place at the annual strategy day.

Mr Kilpatrick referred Members to items rag rated red within the action plan. He informed on good progress in progressing degree qualifications in mechatronics, digital construction and computing and advised on challenges in areas of marketing and costs applied to validating degrees. Mr Kilpatrick informed on the validation of sports and exercise provision.

Governors noted the report.

**A11. POLICY APPROVAL**

- **Safeguarding Care and Welfare policy**

Mr Doran referred Members to the Safeguarding Care and Welfare policy and advised that the document has been updated following ETI and Departmental guidance through the sector working groups. He confirmed that the main changes make reference to building healthy and respectful relations.

Mr Saunders stated that he is comforted by Mrs McKeown’s oversight and review of safeguarding concerns and protocols.

The policy was approved on proposal from Mr Alexander and seconded by Mr Redmond.

**A12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **2020/21 Governing Body Self-Assessment Exercise**

Members reviewed the outcomes of the annual self-assessment exercise and noted that the report reflects good governance practice within SRC. Mrs Thompson stated that it is interesting to note the relative data and improvements in performance and attendance.

Mr Saunders noted that one respondent indicated concern about the number of agenda items and advised that considerations will be given to prioritise matters.

- **Health & Safety Annual Report**

Mr Nugent stated that he is heartened to note the improvement in performance in health and safety matters and commended Mr Donaghy for his influence in this regard.

**A1. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the full Governing Body is to be confirmed for 1 February 2022.

The meeting concluded at 18.58.

Miss Armstrong

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**CHAIR**

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**DATE**