

## CCEA

### COUNCIL

Minutes of the one hundred and thirty-third meeting of Council held on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 10 am in Room 115, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, CCEA, 29 Clarendon Road, Belfast.

**Present :** Mr T Carson (Chair)                      Mr RJ Thompson  
Mr C McKinney                                  Mrs K'O'Hare  
Dr A Kerr    Mr B Wilson  
Ms R Byrne    Dr N Morton  
Dr L Caul

Mr N Lavery (Permanent Secretary, Department for the Economy (DfE) – Item 12 only)  
Mr C Athanasiou (Head of Vocational Education Policy, DfE – Item 12 only)

Mr J Edwards (Chief Executive)  
Miss M Farragher (Director of Education)  
Mrs L Scott (Director of Finance and Corporate Services)  
Mrs S King (Head of Regulation)  
Mr J Daly (Financial Services Manager)  
Mrs E Martin (Programme Manager, Education) – Item 8 only

Miss N Kennedy (Manager, Council Secretariat)

#### Introduction

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting.

#### 1 Apologies

An apology was received from Mrs Carol Fitzsimons.

#### 2 Conflict of Interests

Members confirmed there were no conflicts of interests on any of the agenda items.

#### 3 Chair's Business

##### *Officer Attendance*

Mrs Esther Martin, Programme Manager, Education, would be present for Item 8 on the agenda.

##### *Department for the Economy Briefing*

The Chair confirmed that Mr Noel Lavery, Permanent Secretary (DfE) and Mr Clement Athanasiou, Head of Vocational Education Policy (DfE), would address the Council at the conclusion of formal business to discuss matters of mutual interest.

##### *Presentation to Council from Professor Elizabeth Rata*

Members were reminded that Professor Rata's presentation would take place in Room 115 at 1.30 pm.

### *Election of Vice-Chair*

The Chair advised members that a Vice-Chair of Council would be elected at the meeting on 9 October 2019. Prior to this expressions of interests will be sought from members and appropriate arrangement will be made for voting.

### *Council Workshop : Tuesday 2 July 2019*

Members were asked to confirm their attendance for the workshop on Tuesday 2 July if they haven't yet done so.

### *Chair's Report to Council*

The Chair gave an overview of the range of activities undertaken since the last Council meeting. This included:

- Appraisal Meetings with Council members for 2018-19 completed and submitted to DE.
- Attendance at a number of events hosted by the Chairs' and Chief Executives' Forum including a presentation on the Northern Ireland Budget.
- Meeting with Sue Gray, Permanent Secretary, Department of Finance (DoF).
- Second Stage Appeal Hearing held on 5 June 2019. The Chair confirmed that the appeal was not upheld, however, a number of recommendations were made.

### *Development Days*

He confirmed that the outcomes of recent Council development days would be reviewed and an action plan put in place from the Autumn 2019 to January 2021.

Meetings with the Chief Executive : The Chair confirmed that regular 1-1 meetings with the Chief Executive continued (on a fortnightly basis) to monitor effectiveness and seek assurances on the operations of the organisation. Updates were also provided by the Chief Executive on matters which arose outside of the 1-1 agenda items.

This concluded the Chair's report to Council.

### *Chief Executive's Report to Council*

The Chief Executive (CE) drew attention to the information provided and updated members on activity since the last meeting.

### *Curriculum & Assessment*

- The suite of materials for Active Citizenship (developed in conjunction with the Department of Justice (DoJ)), have been successfully launched. Feedback from schools and stakeholders was excellent.
- The Curriculum Monitoring Programme is virtually complete and has been successfully led by the Director of Education (DoE). The report will be shared with the Department of Education and the final version published during the Autumn Term.
- Subject Panels : CCEA has commended the subject panel workshops with key stakeholders who considered issues arising from the first teaching of specifications. The mechanism is proving successful and will provide useful insights into each subject from teacher and pupil experience.

- Pupil Voice : CCEA, in collaboration with NICCY, will conduct a survey on pupil experience on the NI Curriculum. The outcomes will be presented to the Education Committee.
- Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE): a hub has been developed to provide an extensive range of guidance materials and resources for RSE in line with DE requirements. This will be launched before the end of the school year (30 June 2019). Interest from the media will be monitored closely and handled sensitively.
- The pilots of the on-line diagnostic assessment tools for Numeracy and Literacy (CAT), were successfully completed with positive feedback from schools, and no technical issues reported.

There may be an opportunity to develop this for end of key stage assessments, however further funding is required. Clarification was sought on whether the pilot could be extended to Key Stage 2. The DoE advised that there were limited resources in this area at present, however, an opportunity may arise to discuss this further with DE at the next assessment meeting.

The Chief Executive confirmed additional funding was required to progress this initiative, and that this was raised at the GAR meeting on 11 June 2019.

### *Examinations*

- *Live Error* in regards to the AS Economics paper. This affected 30 centres and 462 students. All centres were contacted, and the option of Special Consideration was provided as an option should centres believe their students were adversely affected from this error. A range of correspondence was currently being managed.

Members were advised on the nature of the error, and provided with an assurance that additional quality assurance checks would be put in place moving forwards.

Clarification was sought on whether there were issues with other papers from other Awarding Organisations. The Chief Executive provided a brief overview, and advised that CCEA Regulation would receive a report of the investigations from all Awarding Organisations on issues pertaining to Summer 2019 examinations.

- GCSE Grading Changes: extensive communication, and strong engagement with the public continues to ensure the information explaining the changes to GCSE grades is provided. A media briefing will be held specifically for this purpose prior to issue of results.

All relevant staff have been fully trained on the new GCSE grading system.

### *Regulation*

A watching brief continues on T-Level developments in England. CCEA continues to lead the Access to Qualifications project informing the Department for the Economy's (DfE) strategy in regards to the future of qualifications provision in Northern Ireland.

Qualifications Reform : the Chief Executive advised on high level discussions with DE and had attended a meeting in England to discuss some of the implications for Northern Ireland, in particular challenges to the NI market in regards to the growing risk of supplying adequate qualifications to the market.

A member raised the issue of BREXIT and suggested that it would be beneficial for Council to discuss the implication of post-BREXIT to ensure a state of readiness following decisions in regards to Education.

The Chair suggested that adequate time be dedicated to this issue at a future Council meeting. He asked the Chief Executive to develop a short high level presentation and discussion paper. The Chief Executive welcomed this suggestion and would be in a position to present a paper once there is a better understanding of the UK's relationship with the EU.

Revised GCSE qualifications will be first awarded at qualification level in summer 2019. The Head of Regulation will issue a communication to all Principals at the end of the school term (30 June 2019) reinforcing the key messages in preparation for issue of results.

Meetings will continue with CCEA Awarding Organisation and regulatory colleagues in England and Wales in preparation for the awarding of GCSE and A Level, until the issue of results in August 2019.

BREXIT : CCEA Regulation continues to manage the medium to long-term risks associated with BREXIT through the risk register.

*Three Country Comparability* : the Regulatory Advisory Committee were made aware of Ofqual's intention to withdraw from the three country approach to predicting outcomes. The current arrangements remain for summer awards, however the issue will be revisited in the Autumn.

### *Corporate*

Investors in People (IiP): Silver Status will be retained until 2022. An action plan has been drafted and is currently being implemented. The Chief Executive commended the organisation on this achievement.

Business Plan for 2019/20 has been agreed with the Department of Education.

Staff Engagement on the Corporate Plan has completed and a draft is currently being considered by the Executive Team. Clarification was sought on whether Council would have an input into the draft. The Chief Executive confirmed that a draft will come forward for Council discussion prior to external consultation.

Programme Board for Estates continues to meet and funding has been obtained to appoint a project officer to take this work forward.

This concluded the Chief Executive's report to Council.

### *FOI Requests*

Members noted the most recent FOI requests.

## **4 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 March 2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 March 2019, were proposed by Mr Robert Thompson, and seconded by Mrs Christine Harpur, as a true and accurate record. A copy was available for the Chair to sign.

### *Action Points*

Members noted the status of the action points and were content with the updates provided.

## **5 Correspondence**

The Chief Executive drew attention to the following correspondence:

- Business Case : Irish Medium Interactive Maths Tool
- 2019/20 Capital Budget Allocation
- Post Project Evaluation : Confidential Printing & associated response from J Edwards
- Temporary Cover to pay Contractual Revalorisation for 2019/20
- Relationships and Sexuality Education Curricular Resources & Support; and CCEA's Proposal for Development of Resources
- CCEA's Corporate Risk Register 2019/20 & associated response from J Edwards

- 2019/20 Resource Budget : Development of materials to support Active Citizenship & Promoting Lawfulness
- 2018-19 Non-Teaching VES Redundancy Budget Allocation
- Circular from DE to Key Stakeholders : Update on Shared Education

He advised that there were no matters of concern to report.

## 6 Governance and Accountability

*Report on the Governance and Accountability Review (GAR) Meeting held 11 June 2019*

The Chair wished to place on record his gratitude to all members for the significant workload, placed upon members in light of being 3 members short of the full complement. He thanked members for their help and support the Executive Team to progress the work of the Council, in particular, participation in appeals and grievance panels, and sub-groups over the last 12 months.

He drew attention to the agenda and gave an overview of the main items discussed. These included:

- Financial Management and allocation of budget for 2019/20 – the challenging situation and current constraints on the organisation.
- Corporate Governance/Business Performance
- Estates Strategy – concerns in relation to the timeframe and costs associated with a new facility.
- Full Complement of Council – DE recognised the additional pressure and confirmed that a further submission had been presented to the Secretary of State at the beginning of June 2019. No response has been received to date.
- Council & Committee Quorums – the risk to the governance or the organisation was highlighted as a result of the Council not having its full complement of members. This continues to be a concern and has been raised with the Secretary of State.

Members noted the information provided.

## 7 REGULATION

*For Approval*

***Draft Recommendations : Proposed New Governance Arrangements for Regulation C/133/1***

The Chair of the sub-group drew attention to the information provided and advised that following a request at the previous Council meeting the sub-group had re-convened to discuss and review Recommendations 6 and 8. The recommendations were revised as follows:

Recommendation 6: Given that the Regulatory Advisory Committee's three year term has now expired, Council should seek the opportunity for form a new Regulatory Committee of Council. Once established the Regulatory Committee should consider co-opting independent technical expertise to support its role in regulatory oversight of CCEA.

Recommendation 8: The Regulatory Committee, once formed, should consider a research programme, to provide independent audits of standards in qualifications. The research programme should be on a three-year cycle, and research should be procured and undertaken by internationally recognised experts.

The Chair of the sub-group sought approval for the recommendations and asked that a letter of thanks be issued to the current members on the Regulatory Advisory Committee.

The recommendations were formally proposed by Dr Neill Morton, and seconded by Dr Ana Kerr.

The Chair thanked the sub-group for taking this work forward.

### ***Regulatory Advisory Committee Report : Meeting held on 22 May 2019***

The Chair of Council advised that the minutes had not yet been finalised and would be issued once available. He reported on the following :

- *Grading Changes at GCSE Update* : members noted preparations for the implementation of the new grading scale in advance of the Issue of Results.
- *Data Sets* : an update was provided on the process for production of statistics, to include additional quality assurance mechanism. This will be developed into an ISO procedure.
- *Presentation from Department for the Economy* : members welcomed the presentation from Clem Athanasiou, Head of Vocational Education Policy (DfE) on the Remit of the DfE Vocational Education Policy Branch.
- *Vocational Qualifications Reforms, Risks and Mitigations* : Members noted the risks associated with the VQ reforms and potential impact for NI learners, in particular a potential gap in the market when current qualifications are no longer fit for purpose.
- *BREXIT : Regulatory Contingency Planning* : to date no risks have materialised. Assurances have been sought and received from all Awarding Organisations that appropriate contingencies are in place.
- *Three-Country Comparability* : Members noted Ofqual's intention to withdraw from the three-country approach to predicting outcomes, however, the current arrangements remain for summer awards. The issue will be revisited during the Autumn 2019.
- *Revisions to the GCOR* : the GCoR has been revised to make them more accessible to the full range of audiences. This ensures complete understanding of what is required when adhering to the conditions.

A joint consultation will be launched at the beginning of July and run for a 12 week period. The final document will come forward for approval during the Autumn/Winter term.

- *Report on Statement of Compliance 2018* : members recommended the report to go forward to Council.

This concluded the report of the Regulatory Advisory Committee to Council.

### ***For Approval***

#### ***Annual Statement of Compliance 2018***

***C/133/2***

The Chair drew attention to the document and confirmed it had completed the appropriate governance process.

Members formally approved the report which was proposed by Mr Robert Thompson and seconded by Dr Neill Morton.

## 8 EDUCATION

### ***Education Committee Report : Meeting held on 6 June 2019***

In the absence of Dr Neill Morton, Chair of the Committee, Dr Caul chaired the meeting.

Dr Caul advised that the minutes had not yet been finalised and would be circulated to members once approved. He reported on the following.

- *BREXIT* : clarification was sought on the value of European funding and subsequent impact on CCEA once BREXIT realised. This would be an ongoing issue for discussion as matters arise.
- *Monitoring the Curriculum Project* : A summary of the interim findings and next steps for the project was provided. Members discussed the information in detail and put forward suggestions for consideration. The full report will be presented to Council in the Autumn term in advance of publication.
- *Operational Readiness : Summer Examinations Series* : members were provided with an assurance that adequate resources had been allocated to safeguard the summer series, and all issues were being monitored and managed carefully.
- *Live Error* : members were informed of the Live Error in respect of the AS Economics paper.
- *Statutory Assessment Update* : members discussed a range of issues in relation to statutory assessment and the support for teachers. It was recognised that more agile and effective working practices were required to reduce workload.
- *CAT Project* : this project would continue to be managed by the Director of Education, however, DE would manage assessment as part of the 14-19 Transformation Programme.
- *CCEA Support for Modern Languages* : members welcomed the positive feedback and next steps for the overall provision of Modern Languages following the Languages Symposium which was held in March 2019.
- *Website Project* : Members received a presentation on the content of the new website.

The Chair suggested that following the launch of the website, arrangements be made for Council to view the new design and content.

- *Active Citizenship Resources* : members received a presentation on the range of resources available and noted the positive impact of this work.

This concluded the Education Committee Report to Council.

The Chair welcomed Mrs Esther Martin, Programme Manager, Qualifications Development, to the meeting.

### ***For Consideration***

#### ***GCSE Science : Review of assessment arrangements for GCSE Science Qualifications C/133/3***

The Director of Education (DoE) drew attention to the information provided and gave an overview of the proposal to reduce the number of assessment opportunities for GCSE Science from three to two (March and Summer), removing the November series. The change would reduce the logistical burden on centres, and improve CCEA's financial position and reduce the risk of error. She recognised, that should

this come into effect, centres would require support in making the transition with teaching and timetabling arrangements.

The Chief Executive advised that some elements of the work needed to be progressed and confirmed that any suggested changes to policy would be considered by CCEA Regulation. He sought an agreement for the Director of Education to proceed on the basis that evidence is provided to support the proposal to reduce the assessment opportunities and practical components.

Following a wide ranging discussion, and clarification on a number of issues, members agreed to the Chief Executive's proposal, and asked for further information to be brought back to the December meeting of Council.

### ***The Future of CCEA Qualifications in Wales***

**C/133/4**

The Chief Executive introduced this item and spoke to the detail of the paper. He provided an overview of the proposal and outlined the reasons for withdrawing CCEA as an Awarding Organisation from Wales.

Members sought and received clarification on a number of matters and were satisfied with the explanations provided.

The proposal to withdraw from Wales was formally proposed by Dr Les Caul and seconded by Mr Robert Thompson.

The Chief Executive agreed to write to Qualifications Wales notifying them of this decision.

Ms Byrne left the meeting at this point.

## **9 AUDIT**

### ***Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Report : Meeting held on 15 April 2019***

The Chair of the committee drew attention to the minutes provided and reported on the following:

- *CCEA Policy Review Cycle* : members noted that all policies were being reviewed on a 3-year rolling programme, and amalgamated where possible.

Policies will be approved by the Finance Committee.

- *Update on Grievance 1* : Grievance 1 was complete and had not been upheld.
- *Risk Assurance in Awards and Purchases December 2018 – February 2019* : members noted no unauthorised purchases during this reporting period, and commended the performance. In regards to Direct Award Contracts : 1 for general purchases and 3 for external venues.

Members noted CCEA had met with DE to agree a way forward for reducing the number of DACs and develop exit strategies where possible.

- *Update on 2018/19 Annual Report & Accounts* : members noted the associated timelines for the production of the ARA had been observed.
- *Post-project Evaluation (PPE) Update* : members received an update on PPEs, in particular Lessons Learned which would contribute to continuous improvement of processes and management of contracts.
- *Annual Theft & Fraud Report 2017/18* : A copy was provided for members' information.



- *Corporate Risk Register March 2019* : Members noted the update on risks around BREXIT and were content with the information provided on the CRR.
- *Draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19* : Members reviewed the document and were content with the information provided.
- *Internal Audit Activity*: An exemplar of revised format of IA reports was provided and adopted by the committee (for a period of 12 months). One internal audit review in respect of Statistical Reporting was considered and received a satisfactory rating. Members also received the Review of Prior Year Recommendations; and the Internal Audit Annual Report and Assurance Statement 2018/19.

It was noted that CCEA had received a Satisfactory Assurance Level.

- *External Audit : CCEA Audit Strategy 2018/19* : The strategy and outline of approach was presented to the committee.
- *BREXIT Update on Contingency Planning* : members noted the updated provided (detailed on page 6 of the minutes).
- *Operational Readiness for Summer 2019 Examinations* : members welcomed the improvements to the on-line processes and testing on the new software system. An overview was also provided on the critical risks and associated mitigations.
- *Statutory Assessment Engagement* : an overview of the engagement by schools on statutory assessment together with resulting risks was provided. Discussions would continue with DE in this area.

#### ***Audit & Risk Assurance Committee Report : Meeting held on 12 June 2019***

The Chair advised that the minutes had not yet been finalised and would be issued following approval. He reported on the following:

- *Update on Grievance 2* : This grievance was still in process and the outcome would be reported at the Autumn meeting.
- *Risk Assurance in Awards and Purchases* : Marcy & April 2019 : members noted no unauthorised purchases during this period. In regards to Direct Award Contract : 11 in relation to general purchases, and 3 for external venues.
- *Draft Annual Report & Accounts 2018/19 and the NIAO Report to those Charged With Governance*: members reviewed the documentation, and were content to recommend both to Council for consideration and approval.
- *Corporate Risk Register May 2019*: Members considered the information, in particular the lessening of risks around BREXIT. It was also noted CRR has been realigned to DE's Risk Register.

The Corporate Risk Register would be provided to Council at each meeting, in line with best practice.

- *Internal Audit : 3-Year Strategy 2020-2023* : members reviewed the documentation and were content with the information provided. It was recommended for adoption.
- *Post-Project Evaluation Update* : members noted the update on PPEs.

- *Annual Governance Statement 2018/19* : members received an overview of the main areas of the document, and noted the risks associated with the non-appointment of new members to Council.
- *BREXIT Update on Contingency Planning* : members noted that the Contingency Management Group had been stood down until further notice, and no risks around the Summer Examinations series had materialised. Estimated costings for BREXIT have been recorded and will be updated as appropriate.
- *Summer Examinations Update 2019* : members noted the range of improvements to processes together with critical risks associated with resourcing. An assurance was provided that adequate staffing was available to safeguard the summer series and all issues were being carefully managed.

Members were also made aware of the live error in respect of AS Economics. Appropriate steps were being taken to increase quality assurance checks in regards to graphic and illustrative content.

This concluded the Audit & Risk Assurance Reports to Council.

***Draft 2018/19 Annual Report and Accounts***

***C/133/5***

The Chair of the ARAC presented the draft 2018/19 Annual Report & Accounts to Council for consideration.

The DoFCS drew attention to the information provided and advised of the disclosure in relation to Age Discrimination which is to ensure good financial provision is provided to pensions in the NILGOSC pension scheme. Advice from the Auditors is being sought on how to proceed, and the documentation would be revised accordingly. She confirmed that this would not impact upon the end of year position, however the necessary changes had been included in the Statement of Financial Position.

The Report to those Charged with Governance (RttCwG) would also include this change.

The Financial Services Manager (FM) confirmed that subject to the changes being made to the documentation, signing of the Accounts with the Chair and Chief Executive would be re-scheduled.

The Chair sought approval, subject to the changes being made. The Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19 were formally proposed by Mr Robert Thompson and seconded by Mr Trevor Carson.

***Corporate Risk Register : 2019/20***

***C/133/6***

The Chair of the ARAC presented the CRR 2019/20 to the Council and advised that the document had been reformatted to make the information more accessible and manageable. He stressed the importance of risk management across the organisation, in particular the ownership of risks at Executive Team level. He expressed concern at the level of manpower available, in particular, the recognition of single points of failure which contribute to the significant risks of the operation of the organisation.

The Chair concurred with the concerns and asked for clear identification of risks and strategies for mitigation to come forward to Council, through the ARAC. He asked for the Corporate Risk Register to be a standing item on the Council agenda moving forwards.

***Annual Governance Statement 2018/19***

***C/133/7***

The Chief Executive introduced this item and drew attention to the main areas of the document. He confirmed that this was the CCEA Accounting Officer report on effective governance arrangements to the Department of Education and that he was satisfied with the level of effectiveness apparent in the organisation.

He confirmed that CCEA had not been subject to any ministerial direction and all ISO Standards had been maintained during 2018/19.

Members noted the final statement.

### ***BREXIT Update***

The Chief Executive advised that that the Contingency Management Group had been stood down until further notice. He was pleased to report that no BREXIT-related risks around the Summer Examinations series had materialised, however, monitoring continued as appropriate.

Members noted the information provided.

## **10 FINANCE**

### ***Finance Committee Report : Meeting held on 12 June 2019***

In the absence of the Chair of the Committee, Mr Robert Thompson advised that the minutes had not yet been finalised and would be issued once approved.

He confirmed that members had fulfilled their challenge and scrutiny function on all agenda items, and reported on the following :

- *Interim Finance Report as at 31 March 2019* : members noted an interim end of year position of an underspend of £124K (0.6%) against DE funded revenue expenditure. This was within the DE's 1% tolerance limit. The final position was reported as £116K underspent. Members discussed the report in detail and commended the performance in such challenging circumstances.
- *Interim Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2019* : members noted the information provided and the ongoing issue in regards to pension contributions. An assurance was provided that this did not impact on the final budget position.
- *2019/20 Budget Allocation Update* : the committee noted the main budget allocation together with additional allocations in respect of promoting lawfulness and active citizenship resources.
- *Operational Plan Monitoring Report* : members sought and received clarification on a range of matters in regards to the report for year end 2018/19.
- *Draft DE Business Plan 2019/20* : members welcomed the clarity of the information provided.
- *BREXIT Update* : as previously mentioned, members noted the Contingency Management Group had been stood down until further notice, and were pleased that no risks around the summer series had materialised.
- *Procurement and Business Case Update* : 1 scheduled procurement with EA CoPE and 3 live with CPD. CCEA is also involved in 3 collaborative opportunities.

One business case is currently under review with DE and will require Finance Committee approval.

The Business Case for KS4 Gaelige Development was retrospectively approved by members for formal recording purposes.

- *Human Resources* : members received an update on Sickness Absence end of year report and noted the range of initiatives underway in this area.
- *Investors in People (IiP) Report & Action Plan* : a summary of the report and action plan were presented for information. The action plan would be progressed during the 2019/20 year to ensure readiness for the next assessment.

The full report was made available to Council.

- *Strategies & Policies* : The Estates Strategy continues as a standing item on the agenda until a suitable facility is found for CCEA post-2021. Members noted the activity since the March meeting and noted funding had been approved to recruit an Estates Project Officer. Discussions continue with DE and SIB on a range of options for inclusion in the Business Case.

Draft Policies for Data Protection; Anti-Fraud; Whistleblowing and Gifts and Hospitality were approved by the Committee.

This concluded the report of the Finance Committee to Council.

### ***For Information***

#### ***Finance Report as at 31 March 2019 (Interim position)***

***C/133/8***

Members were content that the Finance Committee had considered the report in detail and applied the appropriate level of scrutiny to the information provided.

#### ***Management Statement/Financial Memorandum (MSFM)***

***C/133/9***

The Chair advised members that in-line with an audit recommendation, the MSFM had been issued to Council on an annual basis. He advised that the next review would take place during 2019/20, and members would be advised once the exercise had been commissioned.

Members noted the information provided.

#### ***2019/20 Budget Allocation Update***

***C/133/10***

The FM drew attention to the information provided, and confirmed an additional £119K had been received for Year 2 of the Active Citizenship Project.

The Chair confirmed that an assurance had been provided at GAR that no in-year cuts were anticipated, however, no additional funding was available at present. In-year bids would continue during the normal monitoring rounds.

#### ***Operational Plan Year-End Monitoring Report : 2018/19***

***C/133/11***

The DoFCS drew attention to the information provided in paper FC/43/4 and reported on the final quarter for 2018/19. She gave an overview of the evidence provided to support those that were likely to be achieved but with some delay and not achieved (pages 3 & 4).

The Chair sought and received clarification on those targets that were not achieved, and suggested that it would be pertinent to put in place more realistic targets moving forward. The DoFCS advised that the operational targets had been significantly reduced. Work had been undertaken with DE to consolidate,

reduce and prevent duplication of targets to pitch them at higher level without losing the strategic intention.

Members welcomed the reduction and sharper focus on targets presented.

## **DE Business Plan 2019/20**

**C/133/12**

The Chair confirmed that a draft had been discussed by Finance Committee. The DoFCS provided a high level summary of the information and outlined the 6 Corporate Goals.

Members discussed the information and suggested that developing global citizenship be included as part of Monitoring the Curriculum Project. The Director of Education agreed to progress this with a view to developing resources in this area.

## **11 Any Other Business**

None identified by the secretariat.

## **12 Dates of Future Meetings**

The Chair advised that the next Council meeting would take place on Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 10 am.

Council Development Session : Thursday 17 October 2019 9.30 – 3.30 pm.

He reminded members of the workshop session scheduled for Tuesday 2 July which would be facilitated by Jo-Anne Baird, University of Oxford on Linear versus Modularity.

He thanked members for their input into the meeting.

### **Briefing by Permanent Secretary, Department for the Economy**

The Chair welcomed Mr Noel Lavery, Permanent Secretary, Department for the Economy; and Mr Clement Athanasiou, Head of Vocational Education Policy, Department for the Economy, to the meeting.

The Permanent Secretary addressed the Council on matters in relation to priorities for Education and Skills. He thanked members for their huge service to CCEA in particular, the significant support provided to the Chair and Executive team.

He encouraged members to continue engagement with the Education Sector as a whole to ensure cohesive thinking in developing programmes moving forward.

Members sought and received clarification on a range of matters in the Vocational Education area, in particular the timeframe for introduction of new qualifications. Concern was expressed in regard to the provision for young people and it was hoped that CCEA could contribute positively and effectively in supporting the Department for the Economy.

The Permanent Secretary welcomed the engagement, in particular, with the 14-19 Transformation Programme and advised that advice and assistance would continue to be sought from CCEA moving forwards.

The Chair welcomed the increased engagement with the Department for the Economy, and on behalf of the Council and Executive Team, thanked Mr Lavery and Mr Athanasiou for the informative briefing.



