

CCEA

COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Monday 24 April 2023 at 4pm via hybrid arrangements.

Present: Mr T O'Reilly (Chair) Dr L Caul
Professor P Hanna Mrs P Leitch
Mrs D O'Connor Mrs A Kingsley
Mrs C Fitzsimons Mr B Wilson
Ms P Slevin Mrs K O'Hare

Executive

Mr G Campbell (Chief Executive)
Mrs L Scott (Director of Finance & Corporate Services)
Ms A Swann (Temporary Director of Examinations)
Mr J Daly (Financial Services Manager)
Mrs S King (Head of Regulation)
Mrs C Latham (Temporary Director of Curriculum & Assessment)
Miss N Kennedy (Manager, Council Secretariat)

In Attendance

Mr A Stevens (N/V)
Mr C Coffey (N/V)

Introduction

The Chair thanked members for their attendance at the Council Meeting the purpose of which was to discuss the 2023/24 Budget Update.

The Chair reminded members of the protocols for joining the meeting via MS teams.

Apologies

An apology was received from Mr H McCarthy.

Conflict of Interests

None identified on the main business for the meeting.

Main Business

2023/24 Budget Update

C/SP/1

The Chair thanked officers, in particular the Director of Finance & Corporate Services and the Financial Services Manager for the work completed for the meeting.

The Chief Executive drew attention to the detail provided in the paper and correspondence received from DE in relation to the indicative allocation for 2023/24.

He confirmed that in the absence of an executive minister there is no set budget for CCEA. He referred to the significant budget cuts outlined in the paper and that CCEA was being asked to confirm how the budgetary efficiencies could be delivered and to agree a financial plan to deliver a balanced budget.

The Chief Executive confirmed that DE is aware of the extreme difficulties CCEA faces in identifying the cost savings and that he would be seeking a meeting with DE..

The FM gave detailed explanations on each of the areas outlined in the paper and provided further contextual information on the figures outlined on page 2.

The Chair referred to the savings proposals and agreed that officers should revisit their areas to safeguard the statutory responsibilities in terms of quality assurance, standards and the invigilation service. It was agreed that the CEO should submit the revised savings plan to DE for feedback, bearing in mind that Council did not agree to the savings in areas where core statutory functions would be detrimentally affected.

The Chief Executive agreed that implications for the organisation need to be made clear to senior DE officials alongside Council's concerns on the negative impact the pandemic has had on CCEA as an organisation.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions to the meeting.