

**FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**11 November 2025 in room 209, Sutherland Building, City Campus West.**

**CONFIRMED SUMMARY MINUTES**

**Contact Georgina Bailes [georgina.bailes@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:georgina.bailes@northumbria.ac.uk), Secretary to the Board of Governors, with any queries about these Summary Minutes.**

Present: H Fairfoul (Chair), Dr B Bartoli, Dr R Blackman-Woods, Prof A Long, M Larsen, Prof J McLaughlin  
 Observers: M Udeze  
 Apologies: Dr B Bartoli, A Fellows  
 Secretary: G Bailes, B Lenney (Assistant Secretary)  
 In attendance: T Assadian [FR25/20], H Bower [to FR25/20], Prof T Lawson, L Mayfield, J McKenna [FR25/23], A Robinson [FR25/21- FR25/23], J Taylor [FR25/23]

**MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED/DECIDED ON AT THE MEETING**

**1 Vice-Chancellor's Horizon Scanning [Oral Report]**  
 The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive provided an update on national, regional and local sector and policy developments and their implications for Northumbria. The Post 16 Education and Skills White Paper had been published in early October ahead of the Autumn Statement and there had been several key announcements made which would impact on the sector, the UG tuition fee cap would increase in line with forecasted inflation for the next two years, with a commitment to legislate for automatic increases thereafter, though Foundation Year fees were frozen for classroom based subjects, student maintenance loans would increase annually with inflation and maintenance grants would be re-introduced, funded by a levy on international student fee income. The Alliance for International Students were lobbying against the levy alongside several universities, including Northumbria, to influence the levy's implementation. The Office for Students would be given powers to impose recruitment limits where there was poor quality and strengthened powers to investigate and close down fraudulent provision. The Government had committed to better understanding the concerns of Post-92 Universities in regards to pension provision, in the meantime, all academic staff had received communications regarding the University's approach to pensions and were invited to a comprehensive range of engagement sessions. George Clarke had been appointed as the University's new Chancellor and would be presiding at the December Congregations. The University's NUSTEM outreach team won the 2025 Institute of Physics (IOP) William Thomson, Lord Kelvin Medal and Prize for public engagement in physics, recognising their work with children and young people across the North East and beyond. Dr Lynette Shotton and the team from the School of Communities and Education were finalists in the Public Health category at the prestigious Nursing Times Awards 2025 in London and Linda Lightly (Fashion technician) had been shortlisted for Outstanding Technician of the Year from the Times Higher Education Awards and the results would be announced later that week. **The Committee noted the update, noting that all feedback and questions received from the initial pension consultations would be responded to, and the international student levy was expected to take effect from 2027/28.**

**2 Financial Planning and Improvement**  
**Student Recruitment 2025/26 [FR25/19 & Presentation]**  
**The Committee noted an update on Student Recruitment for 2025/26.**  
  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024/25 [FR25/20]**  
**The Committee noted the Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024/25 from a performance aspect, following consideration of a draft version in a joint informal meeting with Audit Committee on 8 November, welcomed the commentary and endorsed the ARFS for consideration by Board of Governors on 27 November 2025.**  
  
**Draft Five Year Financial Forecasts Submission to OfS [FR25/21]**

	<p>The Committee noted Draft Five Year Financial Forecasts Submission to OfS noting that a final version would be considered for endorsement at a Special meeting of the Committee on 20 November for submission to Board of Governors on 27 November, in advance of the submission deadline to OfS on 31 December 2025.</p> <p><b><u>Finance Monthly Report: P2 2025/26</u></b> [FR25/22]  The Committee noted the financial performance for Period 2 (September) which was favourable to budget.</p> <p><b><u>Medium Term Financial Plan (including Income Diversification Plan update)</u></b> [FR25/23]  The Committee noted the Medium Term Financial Plan and Income Diversification update, which would be further developed ahead of its consideration at the February meeting, and would include further information on the achievability of the identified income streams and expected timelines.</p> <p><b><u>Students' Union Financial Performance P2 2025/26*</u></b> [FR25/24]  The Committee noted the Student's Union Financial Performance Report for September 2025.</p>
3	<p><b><u>Capital, Estates and Contracts</u></b>  <b><u>Value for Money Annual Report 2024/25</u></b> [FR25/25]  The Committee considered the Value for Money Annual Report for the year ending 31 July 2025, prior to consideration by Audit Committee on 17 November which had previously been two reports, the Annual Report on Outsourced Facilities Management Contracts, and the Material Contracts Performance Update, these had now been incorporated into the Value for Money report considered annually by Audit Committee to reduce duplication. <b>The Committee welcomed receipt the Value for Money Annual Report for the year ending 31 July 2025, prior to its consideration by Audit Committee on 17 November. The Committee had previously received two reports, the Annual Report on Outsourced Facilities Management Contracts and the Material Contracts Performance Update, and noted that these had now been incorporated into the Value for Money report considered annually by Audit Committee to reduce duplication.</b></p> <p><b><u>Contracts Summary</u></b> [FR25/26]  <b>The Committee noted the update and approved the proposed contract with Durham Constabulary.</b></p>
4	<p><b><u>Policy Regulations and Projects</u></b>  <b><u>Modern Slavery Statement 2024/25</u></b> [FR25/27]  The Committee considered the 2024/25 Statement on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking for endorsement. The University satisfied the financial threshold requirement and had prepared and published a statement each year since 2015/16. The highest priority categories for continued focus were Facilities &amp; Estates, Travel, ICT, and Laboratory equipment and chemicals. The University continued to work with colleagues to define and regularly review goals in Responsible Procurement including ethical supply chains. The University would continue to enhance its working relationship with NEUPC, including representation at their Procurement Strategy Group and Responsible Procurement Group. New Procurement Legislation introduced at the end of February 2025 included further Responsible Procurement requirements for any procurement with public funding. A modern slavery section was included in the online safeguarding training, which was mandatory for all staff and the University would continue to enhance its due diligence framework for the consideration of potential partnering arrangements, including research partners. <b>The Committee noted and endorsed the Modern Slavery Statement for consideration by Board of Governors on 27 November 2025.</b></p> <p><b><u>Annual Report of Finance and Resources Committee</u></b> [FR25/28]  <b>The Committee approved its Annual Report for 2024/25 for prior to submission to Board of Governors on 27 November 2025.</b></p>

Beth Lenney  
Assistant Secretary to Finance and Resources Committee  
November 2025