

EMPLOYMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

**27 November 2023 in room 026, Sutherland Building, City Campus West and via Microsoft Teams
(including videolink)**

CONFIRMED SUMMARY MINUTES

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

Present: H Fairfoul (Chair), Dr R Blackman-Woods [absent EF23/45], H Colclough, H Kajee, M Larsen,
Prof A Long, D Pearson, I Wilkin.
Observers: S Pelham, N Shah
Apologies: L Orme
Secretary: G Bailes, R Elliott (Assistant Secretary)
In attendance: F Belsey, J Embley, Prof T Lawson, Prof G Marston [minutes EF23/47], D Monnery, S Newitt,
C Stogden.

MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED/DECIDED ON AT THE MEETING	
2	<p><u>Core Financial Performance and Planning</u> <u>OfS Annual Financial Return</u> [EF23/44] The Committee endorsed the five-year financial forecast, comprising a full workbook submission and narrative, prior to seeking approval by Board of Governors for submission to OfS.</p>
4	<p><u>Policy/Regulation/Projects</u> <u>Blackboard Contract</u> [EF23/45] The Committee considered the contract for the Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment service used for teaching and learning. The current contract to Blackboard Ultra and supporting services was due to cease on 31 October 2024 and a new contract had been negotiated as OfS had introduced a new requirement to ensure that all data was kept in its original format for 7 years therefore the storage allowances could not be reduced. The Committee approved the new Blackboard VLE contract and the required investment.</p> <p><u>Blue-Light Police Degree Apprenticeship Framework</u> [EF23/46] The Committee noted the update.</p> <p><u>CHASE Design Contract Approval</u> [EF23/47] The Committee considered the proposal to appoint Ryder Architecture as Lead Designers/Architects for the CHASE building following a Public Contracts Regulation compliant open procedure tender process supported by relevant stakeholders. The Committee approved the appointment of Ryder Architecture as Lead Designers/Architects for the CHASE building.</p>

Richard Elliott, Assistant Secretary to Employment and Finance Committee
December 2023