

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING

28 November 2022 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: Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods (Chair), Craig Apsey, Dr Birju Bartoli, James Bromiley, Dr Laura Brown, Emma Collier, Helen Fairfoul, Katherine Fawcett, Sophie Haagensen, Peter Judge [from BG22/29], Hassan Kajee, Professor Andy Long, Professor Libby Orme, Sally Pelham, Helen Thorne.

Apologies: Liv Bird, Dr Stuart Fancey, Professor James McLaughlin, Amy Rice-Thomson, Simon Yellowley.

Observer: John Taylor.

Secretary: Georgina Bailes, Richard Elliott (Assistant Secretary).

In attendance: Professor Tom Lawson, Dan Monnery, Simon Newitt.

MAIN ITEMS DISCUSSED/DECIDED ON AT THE MEETING

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2021/22 [BG22/27]

The Board of Governors considered the Annual Report and Financial Statements (ARFS) 2021/22 following endorsement from Employment and Finance Committee (from a performance perspective) on 7 November and Audit Committee (from a compliance perspective) on 14 November 2022. Two issues had arisen since the draft of the ARFS considered by Audit Committee: an actuarial adjustment to the LGPS liability with no income and expenditure or cashflow impact, and a minor adjustment to the London results that reduced the consolidated surplus slightly. **The Board approved the 2021/22 Annual Report and Financial Statements.**

Annual Financial Return 2021/22 [BG22/28]

The Board of Governors considered the five-year financial forecast, part of the OfS Annual Financial Return, following endorsement by Employment and Finance Committee on 7 November 2022. The approach and assumptions made had been cautious due to uncertainty around inflation, tuition fee levels and Government policy on foundation years. Strong operating cashflows and good headroom and contingency levels were expected to be maintained with growth in income sufficient to address inflationary pressures and allow planned investments. **The Board noted that detailed consideration of financial forecasts and the associated risks would be built into the Strategy development process, and approved the five-year financial forecast to be submitted to OfS.**

Annual Report of Audit Committee [BG22/29]

The Board of Governors considered the Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22, which summarised the breadth and complexity of some of the work undertaken including supporting the development of a new approach to risk management, a new Strategic Risk Register and Faculty and Service-level risk registers. The Committee concluded that the University had adequate and effective arrangements in place for: risk management, governance and control; economy, efficiency and effectiveness and management, and quality assurance of data submitted to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, the Student Loans Company, the OfS and Funding Councils, Research England and other bodies. **The Board noted the report.**

Safeguarding and Prevent Annual Report 2021/22 [BG22/30]

The Board considered the Safeguarding and Prevent Annual Report 2021/22 following endorsement by Audit Committee on 14 November 2022. It was the first integrated annual report covering both the Prevent Duty and Safeguarding requirements, and summarised the University's approach to Safeguarding, and the activities that ensure its ongoing compliance with OfS requirements in relation to the Prevent Duty. OfS required an annual Prevent accountability statement, signed by the Chair of the Board, and an associated dataset, to be submitted by 1st December 2022. **The Board approved the Safeguarding and Prevent**

Annual Report 2021-22 and confirmed that:

Safeguarding

- **The University had complied with its statutory Safeguarding duty in the protection of children and adults at risk;**
- **The University had adequately discharged its Duty of Care to students, staff and anyone otherwise connected with the university who may be vulnerable due to a range of factors (mental ill health, disability, etc.);**

Prevent

- **The University had shown due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent Duty);**
- **The University had provided to the OfS all required information about its implementation of the Prevent Duty;**
- **The University had reported to the OfS in a timely way all serious issues related to the Prevent Duty, or subsequently provided any reports that should have been made, with an explanation of why they were not submitted;**
- **The University had reviewed, and where necessary, updated its Prevent risk assessment and action plan.**

Georgina Bailes
Secretary to the Board of Governors
December 2022