

REGIONAL BOARD

NOTE OF MEETING

Minute of the meeting of the Regional Board of North East Scotland College, held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 1000 hours in M102, Altens Campus.

Agenda	Present:		
Item	Susan Elston (Regional Chair)		
licili	Neil Cowie		
	Jim Gifford Bryan Hutcheson Carrie Beaton		
	Sheena Ross		
	Caroline Laurenson		
	lain Watt		
	Mark Fotheringham		
	Cindy Dempster		
	David Blackhall		
	Duncan Cockburn		
	Dave Anderson		
	In attendance via Teams:		
	Leona McDermid		
	Trade Union Observer:		
	Leanne Ross, Unison		
	In attendance:		
	Robin McGregor, Vice Principal, Curriculum & Quality		
	Stuart Thompson, Vice Principal, Finance & Resources		
	Susan Lawrance, Secretary to the Board		
	Karen Fraser, Minute Secretary		
	Consider the state of		
	Guest attendees:		
	Atholl Menzies, ASET Chief Executive & Executive Director (for Agenda Item 28-		
	23)		
	Ian Gossip, ASET Interim Chair (for Agenda Item 28-23)		
	Anne MacDonald, Audit Scotland (for Agenda Item 30-23A, brought forward to		
	be first Item discussed)		
	Susan Grant, Strategic Lead, Energy Transitions (for Agenda Item 32-23)		
	Kirsty Pettitt, Student Engagement and Wellbeing Manager (for Agenda Item 33-23)		
00.05			
23-23	Welcome Regional Chair S Elston welcomed all in-person and virtual attendees.		
30-23A	Annual Audit Report 2022-23 External Audit – Audit Scotland		
(Item			
brought			
forward)			
	Guest attendee A MacDonald left the meeting at 10:09am		
04.00	An election for Absonage		
24-23	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received in advance from G Watt and N McLennan.		
	Applogles were received in duvance norm & wan and mixite infant.		

Items L McDermid declared a potential conflict of interest by virtue of her position with Aberdeen Foyer. J Gifford declared a potential conflict of interest by virtue of his position with Aberdeenshire Council. S Lawrance declared a potential conflict of interest on behalf of L Ross by virtue of her position with Unison. Minute of Previous Meeting (11.10.23) The Minute was approved as a true and accurate record. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting (11.10.23) Members noted that all matters arising had been addressed. It was confirmed that the issuing of invites to S Elston to attend Community Planning Partnership Aberdeenshire meetings is progressing. Guest attendees A Menzies and I Gossip joined the meeting at 10:15am Reserved Matters for Decision ASET – Annual Report by the Chief Executive (Presentation) Guest attendees A Menzies and I Gossip left the meeting at 10:49am		S Elston greeted new members L Ross and C Laurenson.		
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	28-23	ASET – Annual Report by the Chief Executive (Presentation)		
9-23 ASET		Guest attendees A Menzies and I Gossip left the meeting at 10:49am		
	29-23	ASET		

30-23	Audited 2022-23 Financial Statements
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	L Ross left the meeting at 12:15pm
31-23	Voluntary Severance (VS) Scheme
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	L Ross re-joined the meeting at 12:22pm			
	Guest attendee S Grant joined the meeting at 12:25pm			
	Reserved Matters for Discussion			
32-23	Energy Transition Skills Hub Update/Report			
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	Guest attendee S Grant left the meeting at 1:04pm			
	Constaller to K Pall'H's to dillegate at 104 and			
	Guest attendee K Pettitt joined the meeting at 1:04pm			
	Matters for Decision			
33-23	SA Partnership Agreement (K Pettitt) Guest attendee K Pettitt joined the meeting in order to present the updated			
	Partnership Agreement, highlighting new projects focused on addressing the			
	Cost of Living crisis. The work of the SA was commended by S Elston on behalf of			
	the Regional Board.			
	The Board approved and endorsed the SA Partnership Agreement.			
	Guest attendee K Pettitt left the meeting at 1:06pm			
	Matters for Discussion			
34-23	Strategy Event – Next Steps Members referred to the event held on 22/11/23 and acknowledged the			
	disappointment on the facilitation, but highlighted the quality of individual table			
	discussions, observations of the day were shared and provision of likely feedback			
	to SDA in the new year was detailed. A timeline for onward progression of the Strategic Plan will be presented at the Regional Board's 20/03/24 meeting.			
	Reports to the Board			

35-23	Report by the Regional Chair Including National Bargaining Update (\$ Elstor				
36-23	Report by the Principal (N Cowie)				
	N Cowie highlighted the key takeaways from his submitted report. Congratule on the CDN awards and commendations were expressed by members.				
07.00	Donathy Committee Chaire				
37-23	Report by Committee Chairs Members noted the Report by the Committee Chairs, with S Ross, J Gifford and B				
	Hutcheson providing brief overviews of meeting content.				
	Members of the Audit and Risk Committee suggested that \$ Elston convey her				
	dissatisfaction with the handling of the External Audit as undertaken by Audit				
	Scotland.				
	As noted by members of the Curriculum and Quality Committee, the Student				
	Support team and the Students Association were commended for work initiated				
	and ongoing. Appreciation was expressed for the Business and Community Development Update presentation delivered by D Abernethy at the 30/11/23				
	meeting.				
	Matters for Information				
38-23	Strategic Risk Register				
39-23	Opportunity Register				
40-23	Health and Safety Update				
40-23	S Thompson summarised the shared report, detailing a slight reduction in				
	accident reporting for the period August – October 2023 when compared to the same period in the previous year and recognised that the data captured within				
	the Annual Report and presented to Regional Board at the 11/10/23 meeting				
	would have benefitted from being filtered.				
41-23	First Impressions Survey Results AY2023-24				
	Members were invited to digest the largely positive results from the Survey. Members noted the information provided, including feedback provided by ITTS				
	in relation to the experienced Wi-Fi outage.				
	I Watt and S Thompson left the meeting at 1:33pm				
	Reserved Matters for Information				
42-23	Credits Activity Update and Forecast				
.2 20					
	L Ross left the meeting at 1:34pm				
	Governance Matters for Information				
43-23	Governance Update (\$ Lawrance)				

	NESCol and SA staff members left the meeting at 1:35pm		
	Any Other Business		
	Private Reserved Matters for Information		
44-23	Principal's Performance Management Objectives		

Actions from the Regional Board Meeting of 11 October 2023					
Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Deadline		
31-23	Voluntary Severance (VS Scheme):				
32-33	Energy Transition Skills Hub:				

Signed: S Elston, Regional Chair **Date:** 20.03.24