

REGIONAL BOARD

Minute of Meeting

Minute of the Meeting of the Regional Board of North East Scotland College, held on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 10:00am, in the Exhibition Space of the Energy Transition Skills Hub, Altens

Agenda Item	<p>Present: Susan Elston, Regional Chair Iain Watt Mark Fotheringham Neil Cowie Leona McDermid, Vice Chair, from 11:07am Ellie Zemani Caroline Laurenson Emma Maclsaac Paul Butters</p> <p>In Attendance: Robin McGregor, Vice Principal, Curriculum & Quality Stuart Thompson, Vice Principal, Finance & Resources Susan Lawrance, Secretary to the Board Karen Fraser, Minute Secretary</p> <p>Guest Attendees: John Reid, ASET Board Chair (for Agenda Item 29-25/26) Susan Grant, Strategic Lead, Energy Transitions (for Agenda Item 34-25/26) Kimra Donnelly, Assistant Principal People Services (for Agenda Item 35-25/26) Robert Laird, Head of Planning and Academic Partnerships (for Agenda Items 36-25/26)</p> <p>Guest Attendance Via Teams, from 10:00am: Anne MacDonald, Senior Audit Manager, Audit Scotland (for Agenda Items 30-25/26 and 31-25/26)</p> <p>Regional Chair welcomed all to the Meeting and confirmed being quorate.</p>
	Agenda running order was adjusted in-Meeting to better accommodate external attendees
25-25/26	Apologies for Absence (S Elston) Apologies were received in advance from A Watt, M Dugan, J Gifford, B Hutcheson, G Lawrie, C Dempster, E Rattray, S Ross and D Cockburn.
26-25/26	Declaration of Any Potential Conflicts of Interest in Relation to Any Agenda Items (S Elston) No declarations were put forward.
27-25/26	Minute of the Previous Meeting (30/09/25) (S Elston) The Minute was approved as a true and accurate record.
28-25/26	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting (30/09/25) (S Elston) Attention was drawn to the updates applied to the 7 Matters Arising captured in the shared report.
	Reserved Matters for Decision
30-25/26	Annual Audited Financial Statements 2024-25 (as presented to Joint A&R/F&R Committees) (S Thompson)

31-25/26	Annual Audit Report prepared by Audit Scotland (as presented to Joint A&R/F&R Committees) (S Thompson)
	Guest Attendee A MacDonald left the Meeting at 10:28am Guest Attendee J Reid joined the Meeting at 10:29am
	Guest Attendance – ASET Board Chair J Reid
29-25/26	ASET Annual Report by Board Chair

	<p style="text-align: center;">Guest Attendee J Reid left the Meeting at 11:33am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Comfort Break 11:33am – 11:46am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Guest Attendees R Laird and K Donnelly joined the Meeting at 11:40am</p>
36-25/26	DYW Hosting (R Laird)
	<p style="text-align: center;">Guest Attendee R Laird left the Meeting at 11:56am</p>
35-25/26	Personnel Related Matters (K Donnelly – verbal update)
	<p style="text-align: center;">Guest Attendee K Donnelly left the Meeting at 12:05pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Guest Attendee S Grant joined the Meeting at 12:06pm</p>
34-25/26	ETSH Update (S Grant)
	<p style="text-align: center;">Guest Attendee S Grant left the Meeting at 12:41pm</p>

	Reserved Matters for Discussion
32-25/26	AY2025/26 Budget Update (as presented to F&R Committee) (S Thompson)
33-25/26	Estates Update / Clinterty and Gordon Centre Discussion (S Thompson)
	Matter for Discussion
37-25/26	<p>Quality Activity Interim Report (R McGregor)</p> <p>The referenced report detailed formal activity completed by the Quality department up to the end of November 2025 and was shared to facilitate discussion.</p> <p>R McGregor recognised its positivity and comprehensiveness.</p> <p>The upcoming HMIE inspection of NESCol's Modern Apprenticeship programmes in January 2026 was highlighted.</p>
	Reserved Matters for Information
38-25/26	Credit Activity Update and Forecast
39-25/26	Strategic Risk Register (S Thompson)
40-25/26	Updates on ALF Funded Projects (S Thompson – verbal update)
41-25/26	Report by the Principal (N Cowie)
	M Fotheringham left the Meeting at 1:01pm
	Matters for Information
42-25/26	<p>First Impressions Survey AY2025/26 Results (R McGregor)</p> <p>Members were invited to note the results of the First Impressions Survey for AY2025/26, conducted during September and October 2025.</p> <p>R McGregor recognised the slight decrease in completion rates to that of the previous 2 years, and confirmed team and course-level information accessible via PowerBI to</p>

	enable bespoke analysis.
43-25/26	SA Partnership Agreement AY2025/26 (E MacIsaac – verbal update) E MacIsaac detailed a sector-wide re-think and re-set regarding the relevance of Partnership Agreements. Work on this is continuing.
44-25/26	Report by the Regional Chair (S Elston) S Elston summarised the key messages from her shared report.
45-25/26	Report by Committee Chairs The report by the Committee Chairs was noted for information.
46-25/26	University of Dundee Key Findings Report NESCol's responses to the findings of the Gillies Report were captured. Members were reminded of the upcoming External Effectiveness Review, and their anticipated participation in conversations. The planned Development Day on 20/01/26 was also spotlighted.
47-25/26	Any Other Business No other business was raised.
48-25/26	Summation of Actions and Date of Next Meeting S Lawrance summarised actions recorded. The next Regional Board Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 10:00am, to be held at Fraserburgh Campus.
	Meeting ended at 1:10pm

Actions from the Regional Board Meeting of 10 December 2025			
Agenda Item	Action	Responsible Person	Deadline
29-25/26	ASET Annual Report by Board Chair:		
34-25/26	ETSH Update:		

Signed: S Elston, Regional Board Chair

Dated: 18.03.26