

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSITIONAL BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY, 24 JUNE 2011 AT 9.00 AM IN THE BOARD ROOM

1. PRESENT Mr M P Campbell (Chairperson)

Councillor J Cavanagh
Councillor S Clarke
Dr P Cunningham
Mr C Mackin
Councillor J McCrum

Rev Canon J McKegey
Mr R McVeigh
Professor P Murphy
Mr J Wilkinson

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A P Murphy, Ms L Ayling, Mr G Butler, Mr J Curran, Dr C Mangan and Mrs L McCall.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mrs R Brownlee and Mrs C M McCaul.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Chairperson referred to the letter dated 17 June 2011 from the Department of Education giving a revised position of Councillor Members on Education and Library Boards following the local government elections on 5 May 2011. The DE letter had advised that all existing Councillor Members of ELBs should stand down as Board Members until Councils would send details of their nominees to DE and until the appointments were confirmed by the Minister.

The Chairperson reported that further communication had been received on 22 June 2011 from DE to confirm the re-appointment by the Minister of Councillors J Cavanagh, S Clarke and J McCrum to the Board. The Board noted that confirmation was still awaited in respect of the Councillor Members from Armagh City & District Council, Craigavon Borough Council and Newry & Mourne District Council.

4.2 CONGRATULATIONS

The Chairperson expressed congratulations to Dr Cunningham on his Appointment to the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for outstanding achievement to education

5. RESOURCE ALLOCATION PLAN (RAP) 2011/12 : RE-SUBMISSION

The Board noted the DE letter* of 13 June 2011 advising that the Board's Initial RAP had not been approved as it did not implement the full efficiencies as set out in DE's Savings Delivery Plan and it did not deliver a balanced budget within the Board's resource allocation.

Ms Ayling advised that DE was requesting a revised RAP to be submitted by the end of business that day in conjunction with supporting information to enable further assessment by DE. Ms Ayling stated that the SMT had met to examine and identify further areas of

efficiencies. She presented a paper** setting out the RAP which had been agreed by the Board at its meeting on 18 May 2011 which had identified savings in the amount of £6.7m and leaving a shortfall of £3.025m.

The Board noted an information paper** setting out areas where savings had previously been identified in preparation for the Board meeting on 18 May 2011.

Members expressed concern that the prescriptive nature of the savings identified in the Savings Delivery Plan had limited the Board's scope for flexibility in determining efficiencies across all its services. While it was noted that no written confirmation had been provided by DE with regard to the definition of front line services, many areas of consideration could not be pursued in light of the potential impact on front line services to schools.

Ms Ayling presented a revised RAP** incorporating an additional 1% efficiency savings across services (leaving a shortfall of £2.038m) and setting out further savings in areas as identified by DE's Savings Delivery Plan, which would enable the Board to meet its overall budget allocation of £88,160k. The Board acknowledged that the further 1% efficiency savings in service areas would be challenging to budget holders.

Ms Ayling also presented a paper** setting out further information for DE on the risk assessment of schools' Savings Delivery Plan Targets. Clarification was sought in relation to delivering the required savings. Ms Ayling drew attention to the areas in the risk assessment paper detailing factors which would impact on the Board's ability to deliver its targets. The Board recognised that many of these factors were outside the Board's control and welcomed the fact that these issues would be highlighted to DE in conjunction with the Initial RAP.

It was proposed by Professor Murphy, seconded by Mr Wilkinson, and agreed to adopt the reanalysis of the Initial RAP for 2011/12.

Ms Ayling pointed out that interim authority had been given to the Board for spend up to 30 June 2011. It was noted that the Board had been in the same position the previous year and spend had been authorised by DE through a further extension.

The meeting ended at 9.50 am.

CHAIRPERSON

* Paper circulated

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

** Paper tabled

DATE

24 June 2011 LMcC