MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD ON TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026 at 17.30 IN BOARDROOM NEWRY WEST CAMPUS.

PRESENT:	**IN ATTENDANCE:**
Dr Thomas Moore (Chair)	Ms Libby Shackels, Director of Curriculum
Mrs Lee Campbell (Principal / CEO)	Mrs Emma Foster Secretary to the Governing Body
Mrs Hilary Singleton	Mrs Michelle Khan Assistant Director of Finance & Planning
Mr Stuart Harper	Mr Raymond Sloan, Director of Client Services
Mr Sean Fitzsimons	
Mrs Monica Kelly	
Mr Andrew Sloan	
Dr Liz Finnigan	**APOLOGIES:**
Mrs Sharon O'Hare	Mr Nick Harkness
Mrs Geraldine Campbell	
Mrs Patricia McCaffrey	
Mr Gary Mc Murray	
Mrs Angela Whiteside (Teams)	
Ms Celine Maria Corhea (Teams)	

The meeting convened at 17.30

A01. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Harkness.

A02. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chair reminded those present to declare at the commencement of the meeting any conflict of interest held in matters to be discussed. No interests were disclosed.

A03. MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING

Governing Body minutes 14 April 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body held on 14 April 2026 were reviewed for accuracy and unanimously approved as an accurate record on proposal from Mrs Singleton and seconded by Mrs G Campbell.

A04. MATTERS ARISING

Members noted the outstanding action with a completion date of June 2028.

A05. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Dr Moore informed members that he had recently attended the Sector Awards event on 4 June 2026 at the Glenavon Hotel, in Cookstown. He expressed his appreciation to staff for their hard work and extended particular thanks to Ms Neville (Collaborative NI Manager) for her efforts in organising the event. It was an outstanding evening for all attendees.

Members were advised that the Celebration of Success event will take place on 25 June 2026 at the Canal Court, with the Higher Education Graduation Ceremony scheduled for 28 August 2026 in Armagh City Hotel.

Dr Moore also reported that the Convenor, appointed by the Department, has been reappointed for a further year. Notification of this reappointment was issued to the Chairs of the Governing Body on 11 June 2026.

In addition, Dr Moore has requested that the Department establish a portal to provide members with regular updates on the Fit for the Future FE Reform programme.

Mrs McCaffery joined the meeting at 17: 40.

A06. PRINCIPAL AND CEO'S BUSINESS

Mrs L Campbell informed members that the CITB Regional Finals were held on 19 May 2026. The event received coverage on a local news programme.

Members were advised that the FE Sector has launched its *LEAD* programme, which is currently being developed by Chairs and Principals across the sector. The College is leading on the governance workstream, arising from the conditions attached to the Pay Award in May 2025.

Mrs Campbell also reported that colleagues attended the Irish News Awards on 4 June 2026, where a team from the College was recognised for their outstanding work.

Members were advised that the first draft of the College Development Plan (CDP) will be submitted to the Department on 18 June 2026.

Mrs L Campbell also advised the Principals' Group will meet on 18 June 2026. Discussions will include the submission of the College Development Plan to the Department.

Members were advised that an SEN workshop will take place on 23 June 2026. The workshop will focus on the ETI evaluation of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision and the findings arising from the Review.

Ms Shackels informed members that three students from the Wall and Floor Tiling programme have progressed to the national finals. This will take place in October 2026 in Milton Keynes. Dr Moore congratulated the students on their achievement and thanked the staff involved for their support and dedication.

Mr Harper joined the meeting at 17.46.

A07. Policy Review

a) **Governing Body Standing Orders**
b) **Governance Operating Framework**

These policies are part of the annual review process.

Minor amendments will be made and uploaded to SharePoint for members. Mrs Foster

These policies were approved by Mrs O'Hare and seconded by Mr A Sloan.

A08. Draft SRC Strategic Plan 2025-26/2028-29

Mrs L Campbell provided members with a verbal update on the Draft SRC Strategic Plan 2025–26 to 2028–29. Members were advised that the consultation period has now closed and that feedback received is currently being reviewed and incorporated. The revised plan will be resubmitted to the Department in due course.

Members noted this.

A09 COMMITTEE MINUTES – FOR APPROVAL

The following draft committee minutes were presented to members for Approval.

a) **Staffing Committee 24 February 2026**
b) **Audit and Risk Committee 09 March 2026**
c) **Education Committee 24 March 2026**

The minutes were taken as read, and no further matters were raised.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed for accuracy and were unanimously approved as an accurate record on the proposal of Mrs Kelly, seconded by Mr Harper.

A10. COMMITTEE MINUTES – FOR REVIEW

The following draft committee minutes were presented to members for information:

a) **Finance and General Purposes Committee 31 March 2026**
b) **Staffing Committee 28 April 2026**
c) **Education Committee 19 May 2026**

These were taken as read and nothing further was added.

A11. FE Fit for the Future Update

Mrs L Campbell provided members with a verbal update on the workshop held on 30 April 2026. She advised that a meeting had taken place with Chairs and Principals, and that draft curriculum Terms of Reference have been developed covering course Levels from 0–6.

A12. Register of Interests 2025-2026

Members noted this.

A13. Updated Meeting Schedule 2026-2027

Mrs Foster drew members' attention to a change in the date of the Strategy Day, as the originally proposed date now falls during the half-term holidays. The revised date suggested is 02 February 2027. Members agreed the change of date and Mrs Foster will amend and reissue the Calendar to all members. | Mrs Foster

A14 Governing Body & Committees' Terms of Reference

a) Finance and General Purposes Committee
b) Audit and Risk Committee
c) Education Committee
d) Staffing Committee

Members noted these.

A15. Hardship Fund Update

Mrs L Campbell informed members that the Education Committee had previously received an update on this matter. Members noted this.

A16. DfE Annual Year End Assurance Statement 2025-2026

This was submitted on 14 April 2026 by Mrs L Campbell in her role as Accounting Officer.

Members noted this.

A17 Tertiary Education Report

Ms Shackels provided members with an update on this matter. She advised that senior managers within the sector meet regularly to collaborate on post-16 education, with the group chaired by the Permanent Secretary within the Department.

Members were informed that a work plan is in place aligned to the Programme for Government priorities. Sub-groups are also undertaking work in relation to cross-border collaboration. Additional work streams include widening access, higher education, and skills training.

A meeting was held last Friday to consider progress in these areas with discussions focusing on expenditure and next steps, which are expected to be progressed by December 2026.

A18 College Development Plan 2026/2027 Final

Members noted this.

A19 Budget Update

Mrs Campbell informed members that no budget letter has been received yet from the Department. A contingency letter, has however, been received outlining the position of a potential allocation of 94% of a cash flat budget. The sector had been asked to submit their plans in how they will manage this within seven working days alongside an Equality Impact Assessment. Mrs Campbell has met with the Director of FE to seek an extension to allow time to time to complete the forms in full.

Taking into consideration the current pressures within the budget, this budget pressure is roughly a 13% cut across the six colleges this equates to around a £30million pressure. The estimated financial pressure for SRC is approximately £6 million.

The six colleges have explored a range of measures to address the budget shortfall, including deferring expenditure, identifying additional income sources, and reviewing existing budgets, particularly non-pay budgets. It was estimated that Colleges could potentially at risk manage 45–50% of the shortfall on a one-of basis. However, concerns were raised that these actions could have an impact on student recruitment, in turn affecting student numbers.

A20 Any Other Business

a) Co-optee
b) Chair of Audit and Risk Committee Ballot

The co-optee advertisement was withdrawn from the meeting. This will be brought to the next Governing Body meeting in September 2026.

Members were also asked to submit their vote for Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee by email to Mrs Foster by 18 June 2026. Members will be informed in due course of the successful applicant.

Dr Moore thanked Mrs Singleton for her contribution during her tenure as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

A21 REVIEW OF MEETING

Members were content with the Governing Body meeting.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Governing Body meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 17.30 in Boardroom Newry West campus.

Mrs O'Hare, Dr Finnigan and Ms Corhea left the meeting at 18.45.

The meeting concluded at 18.47

[redacted]

CHAIR **DATE** 03-10-2026