

Shetland College Board**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick****Wednesday 1 May 2019 at 10.00am****Present:**

P Campbell E Macdonald
T Smith B Wishart

Apologies:

A Priest G Smith

In attendance (Officers):

N Grant, Director – Development Services
W Shannon, Interim Joint Principal
K Adam, Solicitor
S Berry, Depute Principal
K Briggs, Joint Manager – Train Shetland (Vocational)
A Pottinger, Manager – Train Shetland (Short Courses)
J Thomason, Management Accountant
L Geddes, Committee Officer

Chair

Mr Campbell, Chair of the Board, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2019 on the motion of Ms Macdonald, seconded by Mr Smith.

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2019 on the motion of Mr Smith, seconded by Ms Wishart.

06/19 Shetland College Principal's Update

The Board considered a report by the Interim Joint Principal (SCB-146-F) which provided an update on activity across the tertiary sector in Shetland.

The Interim Joint Principal summarised the main terms of the report, advising that the College had already met its credit target for the academic year, and it was one of the few colleges in the region that was in this position. The overtrading position

was predicted to be similar to last year, but it was important to demonstrate that the College could deliver more as this would assist with seeking additional funding.

The Manager – Train Shetland (Short Courses) summarised the activity between January and March 2019, advising that the number of courses and delegates had increased, but that the number of Council delegates was slightly down. This would be the last time Train Shetland required to use an external company to deliver National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) and Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) courses, as an in-house trainer was currently completing the required qualification and should be able to deliver these courses from 2020. She went on to say that the tender that Train Shetland had submitted for the Council's First Aid courses had been unsuccessful. This was very disappointing as it would have a knock-on effect on future credits, income and numbers over the next two years. She was currently awaiting feedback as to why the tender had been unsuccessful.

The Chair commented that he was pleased to see that numbers were up, but it was very disheartening that Train Shetland had been unsuccessful in the tendering process at a time when the Council should be supporting the move towards an integrated tertiary sector in Shetland.

The Director of Development Services advised that the Council came under scrutiny to ensure that it was getting best value for services it was procuring. Train Shetland was currently in a difficult position - being neither fully internal or external to the Council - but it would sit outside the Council once the merger process was complete and would not have the same overheads.

The Joint Manager – Train Shetland (Vocational) then gave an update on recent activity, highlighting a number of successful events that had been held. Responding to a question, he advised that the first “Modern Apprentice for a Day” event had only included Council placements, but that this may be expanded to include more employers in the future.

The Director of Development Services added that the Developing the Young Workforce team had been working closely with the construction industry to help build a better relationship between the industry and schools, and attract more young people into the construction industry. However ultimately the challenge facing the Council was to increase the population of young people, as any movement into the construction sector would create a vacuum elsewhere.

It was commented that it was encouraging to see the work being done with parents to increase their knowledge of what was available locally, and to challenge gender stereotypes.

The Interim Joint Principal then spoke about the industrial action taking place at Shetland College, which was part of a national campaign. The Board noted that it was not expected that there would be any impact on exams locally, and that the withdrawal of “goodwill” by lecturing staff related to work carried out outwith contracted hours.

He went on to advise that staff were keen to progress the issue of student accommodation locally, which was vital for the growth of the tertiary sector in Shetland. A working group of staff across the sector had been formed with the intention of developing a Strategic Outline Case (SOC). In response to questions,

he advised that UHI had an agreement with a private provider to provide student accommodation, but the proposal to develop accommodation in Lerwick was not being progressed any further. It was likely that it would be up to the community to provide a solution and he would expect the SOC to flag up any potential sources of funding, though it was still at a very early stage.

The Director of Development Services added that the SOC would look at all options including new builds, existing buildings and private rentals. It was hoped this work would be carried out during May.

The Board commented on the need for student accommodation locally, and commended staff for their efforts to progress this. It was noted that the lack of accommodation had an adverse impact on student numbers, and it was important to keep this issue at the forefront to help ensure the sustainability of the tertiary sector in future.

Decision:

The Shetland College Board:

- NOTED the content of the report and the current position in relation to FE and HE enrolments for academic session 2018/19 and the activity levels in Train Shetland for both Vocational Training and Short Courses.

The meeting concluded at 10.30am.

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Chair