



Estates Committee

Thursday 9 November 2023

Minute – Website Version

Note: This is an edited version of the full Estates Committee minutes. The majority of papers for Estates Committee are closed but where possible minute text has been provided. This may not be the full minute for each item.

- Present:** Frank Armstrong, Co-opted Member of Court (Convener)
Leigh Chalmers, Vice-Principal and University Secretary
Sue Currie, External Member
Dave Gorman, Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability
Lee Hamill, Director of Finance
Colm Harmon, Vice-Principal Students
Gary Jebb, Director of Place
Catherine Martin, Vice-Principal Corporate Services
Mark Parsons, EPCC Director and Dean of Research Computing
Sarah Prescott, Vice Principal, Head of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
Alistair Smith, Co-opted Member of Court
Rona Smith, Director of Strategic Planning & Insight
Carina Svensen, Director of Accommodation, Catering and Events
Richard Terry, External Member of the Committee
Damien Toner, Director of Estates
- In Attendance:** Tommy Angus, Director of Estates Operations
Stephen Barnes, College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, Head of Operations and Planning
Jo Craiglee, Head of Knowledge Management and IS Planning
Terry Fox, Director of Specialist Services, Finance
Grant Ferguson, Director of Estates Net Zero and Carbon Leadership
Jane Johnston, Director of Estate Development
Iain Logan, Head of Construction
Kym McCaul, Estates Governance and Committee Officer
Jennifer Milne, Deputy CIO
Tony Weir, Director of Information Technology Infrastructure
Hannah King, Policy and Governance Manager
- Apologies:** David Argyle, Vice Principal and Head of College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine
Sharan Atwal, EUSA President
Chris Cox, Vice-Principal Philanthropy and Advancement and Executive Director of Development and Alumni
Iain Gordon, Vice-Principal and Head of College of Science & Engineering
Kim Graham, Provost
Gavin McLachlan, Vice-Principal, Chief Information Officer and Librarian to the University
Theresa Merrick, Director of Communications and Marketing

Anne-Marie Coriat, College Registrar, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine
Peter Mathieson, The Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Anne Payne, College Registrar, College of Science and Engineering
Alma Riessler, EUSA Vice President
Zoe Stephens, Director of Estates Business Services

1. Welcome & Introduction

The Convener advised that a virtual meeting of Estates Committee had been arranged to discuss the requirement for additional funding to complete the Edinburgh Futures Institute project. If approved by Estates Committee, further approval would be required by Policy and Resources Committee on 13 November 2023 and University Court on 4 December 2023.

2. Edinburgh Futures Institute

An update was provided on the Edinburgh Futures Institute project. Approval was sought to recommend the award of additional funding to Policy and Resources Committee and University Court in order to complete the project.

Estates Committee noted the progress on site to date and the update in relation to the various discoveries and structural complexities that had been encountered over the lifespan of the project. The anticipated realistic profile of forecast of total cost through to completion was noted, as was the worst-case forecast.

It was further noted that some funding provision was already contained within the Capital Plan and that an additional sum was required for the realistic forecast beyond the Capital Plan allowance and that a further sum would require to be incorporated into the Capital Plan to reflect the worst case forecast.

The initial recommendation to Estates Committee was to approve funding up to the value of the realistic cost forecast. During discussion the following points were raised:

- That the project team were focused on completing the project within the realistic forecast cost scenario;
- That the University was still to receive the final Extension of Time and Loss and Expense claims from the contractor but that the figures included were based on the University's experience from previous claims, from the contractor, for the project;
- Whilst an assessment had been incorporated in the realistic scenario for the various claims from the Contractor it was recognised that these lacked the detail required to validate and evaluate and due to the uncertainty regarding the final contractual claims, that it would be prudent to make allowances in the Capital Plan for the worst-case scenario forecast;
- That the increase in funding for the EFI project was affordable however this would mean that this would be reflected in funding available for the development of a new capital plan which was scheduled for 2024;
- Following discussion, it was agreed that funding, up to the realistic cost forecast, should be approved but that Estates Committee could be delegated

authority to approve any additional funding up to the worst case scenario and that appropriate provision should be made in the Capital Plan;

- That detail on the Return on Investment for the project would be provided in time for the University Court meeting on 4 December 2023; and
- That a full review of the benefits and Business Case for the project would be undertaken and presented to a future meeting of Estates Committee.

The Committee noted the significant value this project has across the University and to the Community.

Estates Committee agreed to recommend to Policy and Resources Committee and subsequently University Court that additional funding for the realistic case forecast should be approved to complete the project but that authority should be delegated to Estates Committee to approve further additional funding up to the worst case forecast.