



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.2 Members congratulated the Executive team on progress to date in achieving its KPI targets and resolved to **approve** the RAG-rated summary as presented.

2.3 It was confirmed that further consideration of the KPIs would form part of the discussions at the next University Council Strategy Day in February 2023.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022 and the notes of the Council Strategy Day on 4 October 2022 be accepted as correct records.

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**4. CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

4.1 The Chair had no specific items of business to raise.

**5. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S BUSINESS**

5.1 The Vice-Chancellor reported on the planned University and College Union strike action, scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>h</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, with action short of a strike due to commence from 23<sup>rd</sup> November. A number of measures had

been implemented by the University to mitigate the impact of the strike on students, including communicating staff absences in advance and providing additional learning materials online.

## 5.2



## 5.3

The Vice-Chancellor updated members on a further range of news from around the University, including:

- Head of Computer Science in the School of Computing and Engineering, Professor Richard Hill and Pedagogic Lead, Dr Jane Wormald, from the School of Education and Professional Development, were named National Teaching Fellows.
- The University has been awarded £1million of UK Research and Innovation funding to accelerate research impact.
- Professor Michael Doyle, renowned for his forensic mental health research, has been named winner of the 2022 Rüdiger Müller-Isberner award by the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services (IAFMHS).
- PhD student and Mechanical Engineer Kevin John and his team, which included members from Italy and Belgium, were announced as the winners of the 2022 euspen Talent Programme, organised by the European Society of Precision Engineering and Nanotechnology (**euspen**).
- Professor Heather Clark won the Truman Capote Award 2022 to add to a list of prestigious honours for *Red Comet*, her acclaimed biography of poet and novelist Sylvia Plath. She has also been named as a panellist for the Pulitzer Prize for biography.
- The University hosted the 54<sup>th</sup> Academy of Marketing Conference.
- The School of Computing and Engineering has been awarded the Athena SWAN Bronze Award in recognition of its commitment to progressing gender equality within the School.
- Dr Camilo Tamayo Gomez, Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Course Leader of the University's MSc in International Security and Criminology, was invited to share his expertise with the United Nations' cybercrime taskforce at the UN's first ever convention on tackling cybercrime.
- Huddersfield film lecturer Obi Emelonye saw his movie 'Black Mail', which he directed and wrote himself, released across over 100 cinemas across the UK in August.
- A major international project entitled 'Public Service Media in the Age of Platforms' (PSM-AP) is being led by the University and was awarded €1.5million by the Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe (CHANSE).
- Former prime minister Sir John Major delivered the annual Harold Wilson Lecture held at the University.
- The Vice-Chancellor has become the 141st President of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).
- Rachel Main, Hannah Fraser and Esha Goswami were named as the In-house Legal Team of the Year at the 2022 Yorkshire Legal Awards. Rachel Main, University Solicitor, has also been named as Lawyer Monthly's UK Education Lawyer of the Year.

- The University won the Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for its Huddersfield Differential Attainment Project at the 2022 Times Higher Education Awards, at a ceremony in London.

## 6. UNIVERSITY SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

6.1 The University Secretary briefed members on a range of governance matters which had been considered by the Governance and Membership Committee at its meeting on 15 November 2022, including:

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- Recent changes to Council membership, and current vacancies on Council and Committees. A range of membership options were discussed, including the recommendation from the external effectiveness review for the appointment of a second student member of Council, and from the CUC that there was external human resources expertise on Remuneration Committee(s). These would be considered further at the next Governance and Membership Committee.
- A schedule for governor engagement, designed to aid Council members' further understanding of the broad range of business undertaken by the University.
- The annual Public Interest Disclosure (whistleblowing) report.
- The application of the University Seal since the last meeting.

6.2 The following items were also considered by Governance and Membership Committee and presented to University Council for approval:

- A new governance action plan, developed in response to the recent external review of governance. It was noted that a number of actions had already been completed, and the plan would be updated regularly and considered by the Committee.
- The annual report on compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. This detailed the University's approach to research integrity and its research environment, and confirmed that income received from research grants had been spent in accordance with the specified activity. The report had also been considered and recommended by Senate.

Council members resolved to **approve** the governance action plan and Research Concordat.

6.3 University Council further resolved to **approve** four nominations for honorary awards as recommended by the Honorary Awards Committee and Senate.\* Members were asked to keep the names of those proposed as strictly confidential until formally announced by the University.

## GROWTH AND EFFICIENCY

### 7. HESES RETURN, HOME APPLICATIONS, ENROLMENTS AND RETENTION

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7.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor provided members with a report on September 2022 enrolments, the HESES return 2022, and applications for September 2023 entry. [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

7.2

[REDACTED]

**8. SOUTHGATE DEVELOPMENT**

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8.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor briefed Council members on recent developments regarding the Southgate proposal, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

8.2

[REDACTED]

8.3 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor talked members through the revised business case and project costings as presented.\* It was noted that any approved increase in the project’s budget would not impact upon the University’s position within the upper quartile of the financial sustainability index.

8.4 Council noted that the revised costings and business case had been considered at the recent meeting of Estates and Finance Committee, which had recommended approval of the revised budget. Members agreed that the project was an essential strategic initiative for the University, and resolved to **approve** the final budget as presented. Regular future project progress updates would be received by Estates and Finance Committee.

Professor Alistair Sambell left the meeting, and the external auditor representative joined.

**FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**9. YEAR END ACCOUNTS AND PROCEDURES**

9.1 The Director of Finance presented the highlights of the draft Financial Statements to 31 July 2022. The detailed scrutiny of the different aspects of the Financial Statements by both the Audit and Estates and Finance Committees was also highlighted by the respective Chairs. Council noted the following:

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- Financial Strength - the University remained in the upper quartile for financial security amongst all UK universities based on 2020/21 data.
- Loss for the Year – a loss of -6.4% after pension adjustments, which represented a decrease on the previous year.

- Published Deficit - the University was returning a published deficit of £(11.7m) against a surplus in 2021 of £14.1m.
- Income for the Year - the University's total income had increased by 1.98% which included an increase in international tuition fee income to offset the reduction in home tuition fees, and research income of 13.7%.
- Expenditure for the Year - total expenditure had increased by 10.13% largely due to increased staffing costs. Other operating expenses stood at 27% of total income.
- Reserves and Balance Sheet Movements – total reserves had increased from £325m to £498m mainly due to increases in the value of fixed assets and reduction in the pension liability.
- Borrowings – the University continued to maintain its debt-free status.
- Cash generation – cash generation was 12.8% against the Strategy Map target of 7%.

**Financial Statements for the year to 31 July 2022:** Members noted that two queries remained outstanding prior to the completion of the final Financial Statements. These related to pension adjustments and the valuation of the estate. The Director of Finance confirmed that these would not affect the final cash position as presented in the draft Statements.

- |            |   |                    |
|------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>9.2</b> | <b>Financial Statements for University subsidiaries:</b> the accounts for the University of Huddersfield Enterprises Ltd and the Huddersfield Enterprise and Innovation Centre Ltd (HEICL) were noted. Council agreed to continue the University's financial support for HEICL until at least November 2023 and <b>authorised</b> the Chair of Council to sign a letter addressed to KPMG to that effect.   | UC_2022_11_23_P9.2 |
| <b>9.3</b> | <b>Financial Guarantees:</b> members reviewed the financial guarantees for the year to 31 July 2022, which remained in line with the previous year.   | UC_2022_11_23_P9.3 |
| <b>9.4</b> | <b>External Audit Findings:</b> the external auditor presented their audit findings for the University and its subsidiaries (including the University's responses). It was noted that some minor updates had been incorporated into the report since it had been considered by Audit Committee, and outstanding issues were in the process of being resolved.   | UC_2022_11_23_P9.4 |
| <b>9.5</b> | <b>Letter of Representation:</b> members received the draft letter to KPMG on management representations, which would be signed by the Chair following the completion and authorisation of the financial statements.  | UC_2022_11_23_P9.5 |
| <b>9.6</b> | <b>Internal Audit Annual Report and Review of the University's Financial Statements for 2021/22:</b> members considered the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2021/22, noting its endorsement by Audit Committee at its November meeting.  | UC_2022_11_23_P9.6 |
| <b>9.7</b> | <b>Audit Committee Annual Report:</b> the Chair of Audit Committee presented the Committee's draft Annual Report for the 2021/22 academic year, acknowledging the support of the external and internal auditors. The positive opinions on management responses to external and internal audit findings, risk management, control and governance, arrangements for financial sustainability, value for money, and management quality assurance of data were noted. Council resolved to <b>authorise</b> the Chair to sign the Audit Committee Annual Report once the final financial statements had been received and further revisions incorporated into the report, as required. | UC_2022_11_23_P9.7 |

- 9.8 Council members **agreed** that consideration and approval of the finalised financial statements, final external auditor report, letter of representation and Audit Committee Annual Report for 2021/22 be delegated to the Chair of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, and the Chairs of Audit and Estates and Finance Committee for authorisation, prior to the completion of final checks by the external auditors.

The representative from KPMG left the meeting.

- 9.9 Members agreed that further reflection around the approach to property valuation be considered by Audit Committee and Estates and Finance Committee as required.

## 10. FINANCIAL FORECAST AND FINAL BUDGET FOR 2022/23

- 10.1 The Director of Finance reminded Council of the provisional budget for 2022/23 previously agreed at the July 2022 Council meeting and confirmed that no revisions had been made to the budget since that time. UC\_2022\_11\_23\_P10

- 10.2 The Chair of the Estates and Finance Committee confirmed that the Committee had considered the Financial Forecast in detail at its meeting on 10 November 2022 and had been supportive of the proposed budget.

- 10.3 Council resolved to **approve** the Financial Forecast 2022/27 for onward submission to the OfS.

## 11. STUDENTS' UNION ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 JULY 2022 UC\_2022\_11\_23\_P11

- 11.1 University Council received the Huddersfield Students' Union (SU) Financial Statements and congratulated the SU for its financial performance.

## 12. MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT UC\_2022\_11\_23\_P12

- 12.1 Members received the statement, noting that it had been considered by Audit Committee at its September meeting. The Director of Finance confirmed that the statement had been reviewed with minor revisions incorporated. Council members **approved** the statement, which would be published on the University's website.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 13. INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS, ENROLMENTS AND RETENTION UC\_2022\_11\_23\_P13

- 13.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor reported that there had been an increase in international student enrolments in September 2022 in comparison with the previous academic year.

## INSPIRING

### 14. STUDENTS' UNION REPORT

- 14.1 The SU President presented the highlights in SU activity since the last UC\_2022\_11\_23\_P14



Council meeting, namely:

- The success of the annual Welcome Festival in September 2022.
- The launch of the Safety Bus, a resource available to students on nights out in Huddersfield town centre.
- Continued work on the anti-racist project.
- Securing project funding from the charity AVA: Against Violence and Abuse to deliver training and guidance for students on the impact of sexual violence and misconduct, and to schedule weekly drop-ins for students seeking support.
- Continuing to work in partnership with the University to provide cost of living support for students.

14.2 The Vice-Chancellor congratulated the SU on the various work undertaken to date.

## 15. ANNUAL REPORT ON ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE

15.1 Members considered the annual Academic Governance Report, which had been prepared in accordance with OfS Quality Assessment requirements and considered by Governance and Membership Committee and Senate. The report provided assurances that the University was meeting its responsibilities for the regulation, quality assurance and enhancement of educational provision through its academic governance structures, and outlined the various mechanisms in place for doing so, including:

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- professional statutory and regulatory body reports
- external examiner scrutiny
- annual evaluations
- quality appraisals
- thematic reviews
- continuous review of the academic portfolio
- student feedback and engagement
- trends in student casework.

University Council resolved to **approve** the report.

## PEOPLE FIRST

### 16. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT

16.1 The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Teaching and Learning, introduced the report which provided data essential for regulatory requirements, as well as an overview of actions taken in 2020/21. Members were informed that the University would aim to make its final Race Equality Charter submission to Advance HE in March. Members congratulated the team for the comprehensive report and agreed to **approve** the annual report.

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### 17. ANNUAL PREVENT REPORT

17.1 The Deputy Vice-Chancellor provided a short update report to Council, detailing the institutional processes and policies in place to ensure due regard for the UK Government's Prevent Duty requirements.

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17.2 Council reviewed and **approved** the Annual Prevent Report and **authorised** the Chair of Council to sign the Prevent annual accountability statement for onward submission to the OfS, together with the data return.



## OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

### 18. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

- 18.1 In line with the Audit Committee's recommendation, Council resolved to **approve** the appointment of KPMG for the year ending 31 July 2023. UC\_2022\_11\_23\_P18

The Vice-Chancellor and the University Secretary stepped out of the meeting at this point.

### 19. COMMITTEE MINUTES

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- 19.1 Members considered and **approved** the Annual Remuneration Statement from the Senior Post Holder Remuneration Committee, which provided assurance to Council that the Committee had discharged its responsibilities, having had sight of detailed comparator information, and that the remuneration of the Vice-Chancellor was set at an appropriate level.

The Vice-Chancellor and University Secretary re-joined the meeting.

- 19.2 The minutes of the following meetings were noted:

Audit Committee, 22 September and 11 November 2022  
Estates & Finance Committee, 30 September and 10 November 2022  
Governance & Membership Committee, 15 November 2022  
Honorary Awards Committee, 4 October 2022  
Senior Post Holder Remuneration Committee, 17 October 2022  
Senior Staff Remuneration Advisory Committee, 17 October 2022  
A summary of the Senate meeting on 2 November 2022.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 20.1 There were no further items of business.

### 21. AVAILABILITY OF AGENDA, PAPERS AND MINUTES

- 21.1 **Resolved:** to exclude the following papers from the open version under Standing order 11.8.

Agenda item 6	Governance Action Plan Report on the Concordat to Support Research Integrity Honorary Award Nominations	UC_2022_11_23_P6
Agenda item 7	HESES return, Applications, Enrolments and Retention	UC_2022_11_23_P7
Agenda item 8	Southgate Development	UC_2022_11_23_P8
Agenda item 9	Financial Statements – summary and commentary only Letter of Support for HEICL Financial Guarantees External Audit Findings Internal Audit Annual Report and Review of Financial Statements Audit Committee Annual Report	UC_2022_11_23_P9.1 UC_2022_11_23_P9.2 UC_2022_11_23_P9.3 UC_2022_11_23_P9.4 UC_2022_11_23_P9.6
Agenda item 10	Financial Forecast	UC_2022_11_23_P9.7
Agenda item 11	Students' Union Accounts for the Year to 31 July 2022	UC_2022_11_23_P10
Agenda item 13	International Applications, Enrolments and Retention	UC_2022_11_23_P11
Agenda item 15	Annual Report on Academic Governance	UC_2022_11_23_P13

Agenda item 16	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report	UC_2022_11_23_P16
Agenda item 17	Prevent Duty Annual Accountability Return 2022	UC_2022_11_23_P17
Agenda item 18	Appointment of External Auditors	UC_2022_11_23_P18
Agenda item 19	Annual Remuneration Report	UC_2022_11_23_P19

## **22. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday 23 February 2023, Council Strategy Day (exact details to be confirmed)

Thursday 23 March 2022, 13.00 in the McClelland Suite

(\* = Further details in the Confidential Supplement to these minutes, excluded under Standing Order 11.8)