

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes from the Meeting of the Building Committee held on 2 November 2011

Present: Mr G Howells, Mr L Boe, Professor A Caesar, Professor R Critoph (until item 9/11-12{part}), Mr D Elmes, Professor P Thomas, Mr G Whitworth.

Apologies: Ms V Cooke, Mrs V. Heywood, Mr J Higgins, Professor K Lamberts, Professor M E Smith.

In Attendance: Mr G Bennett, Mr J Cardinal, Mr C Carrington, Ms R Drinkwater (until item 9/11-12{part}), Ms P Glover, Ms S Foster-Ogg, Ms N Owen (until item 9/11-12{part}), Ms L Pride, Mr M Stacey, Mr R Wilson.

1/11-12 Membership and Terms of Reference

RECEIVED:

The Membership and Terms of Reference of the Building Committee and its Sub-Committees for the Academic Year 2011/12, (paper BC.1/11-12).

RESOLVED:

That the Membership and Terms of Reference of the Building Committee and its Sub-Committees for the Academic Year 2011/12 be approved noting that the Building Committee's remit covered all building developments, including those of a commercial and residential nature.

2/11-12 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Building Committee held on 9 June 2011 be approved.

3/11-12 Declarations of Interest

REPORTED (by the Chair):

That, should any members or attendees of the Committee have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the CUC Guide for members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK.

NOTED:

No declarations were made.

4/11-12 Matters Arising

(a) People and Planet Green League (minute 16a(i)/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Environment Manager providing analysis of the University's performance in the People and Planet Green League, that noted in particular areas in which the University could improve its performance (paper BC.2/11-12, previously considered by the Environment and Amenities Committee as paper EAC.6/11-12).

REPORTED (by the Director of Estates):

- (i) That visibility of relevant University policies on the University website was important to the institution's performance in the People and Planet Green League;
- (ii) That in areas in which the University performed less well there were no potential changes that could effect an immediate positive outcome or markedly impact on the following year's scores, noting that the benchmarking against other institutions needed to be viewed in the context of the campus based nature of the University and of its research portfolio.

RESOLVED:

That the Estates Office should work with the Communications Office to ensure that the University's website was being used effectively to communicate how the University was responsibly managing its environmental impact.

- (b) Estates Management Statistics Annual Report 2011 (minute 18/10-11 referred)

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Director of Estates summarising the key highlights and concerns from the most recent EMS Report.

REPORTED (by the Director of Estates);

- (i) That expenditure on the University's estate was lower than might be expected of a research intensive university which could suggest the University's estate was more affordable than its competitors;
- (ii) That expenditure per bed was high, which could imply that income in this area could be increased and expenditure reduced;
- (iii) That alternative recycling contractors were being investigated which could have a significant positive impact on related metrics;
- (iv) That a more detailed and contextual analysis of the space-related EMS data would be considered by the CPARG at its December meeting, noting that the top level data indicated that research and core teaching space was low compared to similar

universities, and that academic and non-academic office space was comparable;

- (v) That the process of refreshing the Estates Strategy would commence shortly, noting that the last refresh had taken place in 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Estates would present a paper setting out measures the University might use to consider the effectiveness of its estates management to the March meeting of the Building Committee;

5/11-12 Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Registrar

REPORTED (by the Chair):

That the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, who had both made considerable contributions to the University, were leaving to pursue new opportunities in the New Year.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee extend its thanks and best wishes to them both.

6/11-12 Reports from the Sub-Committees of the Building Committee

(a) Environment and Amenities Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 18 October 2011, (paper BC.4/11-12).

REPORTED (by the Director of Estates):

- (i) That the report from the thematic ASDAR on Sustainability noted that the University may wish to consider whether a University-wide sustainability champion would help to address the perceived issue of a lack of institutional leadership in the area;
- (ii) That institutional sustainability was a very complex and nuanced area, noting that the impact of international staff and student travel on Scope 3 carbon emissions needed to be considered;
- (iii) That any embedding of sustainability in the curriculum would need to be led by the academic community.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That any suggestions from committee members for a University-wide sustainability champion to support the increasing importance of this issue should be brought to the attention of the Secretary.
- (ii) That the Membership of the Environment and Amenities Committee be approved, noting that Mr Alexander Wright and Mr Leo Boe would be the two student representatives appointed by the Union of Students.

(b) Capital Planning and Accommodation Review Group

CONSIDERED:

A report summarising the main items of business from the meetings of the Capital Planning and Accommodation Review Group held since June 2011 (on 29 June, 5 July and 11 October 2011), (paper BC.5/11-12).

REPORTED (by the Chair):

That the interrelationship between the new Life Sciences Bio-interface Building and the new glasshouses needed to be managed to maximise University investment in these major projects.

RESOLVED:

That consideration would be given by the Chair and Secretary as to whether the establishment of a sub-group of the Building Committee to consider issues relating to the planning of buildings that arose between meetings would be beneficial.

(c) Estates Management Committee

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Director of Estates regarding the most recent Estates Management Committee meeting, noting that projects were running on time and to cost and that congratulations had been extended to the estates team.

(d) Carbon Challenge Group

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

That a report of the key items of business considered by the Carbon Challenge Group during its first year of operation would be brought to the March meeting of the Building Committee.

7/11-12 Estates Key Performance Indicators

CONSIDERED:

A paper detailing the status of the Estates Key Performance Indicator, noting that it would be reported to Council as part of the suite of institutional KPIs at its meeting to be held on 30 November 2011, (paper BC.6/11-12).

RESOLVED:

That the status of amber-green assigned to the Estate KPI be approved.

8/11-12 HEFCE Revolving Green Fund 2

RECEIVED:

The University's RGF2 submission to the HEFCE, as submitted on 17 October 2011 (paper BC.10/11-12).

9/11-12 Energy Report 2010/11

CONSIDERED:

An executive summary of the University's Energy Report for 2010-11, (paper BC.7/11-12).

RESOLVED:

That a paper be brought to the March meeting of the Building Committee explaining the work being undertaken to reduce energy consumption and associated carbon emissions.

10/11-12 Capital Projects

CONSIDERED:

A paper detailing progress on major capital projects and associated issues with programme delivery, (paper BC.8/11-12), noting that additional student bed places at Lakeside were being considered for 2014.

REPORTED (by the Senior Assistant Registrar, Space Management and Timetabling):

That the CPARG had established a working group, chaired by the Chair of the Faculty of Arts, to consider potential solutions to issues associated with the Humanities Building.

RECEIVED:

A presentation from the University Architect, providing an update on progress in relation to the campus bus terminus, noting that:

- (i) The proposed new bus terminus would need to function effectively for bendy buses and that traffic lights may be needed to manage congestion;
- (ii) That the associated other developments, including the roundabout on Gibbet Hill Road and the shared surface between the Students' Union

and the Arts Centre could be designed to both manage the flow of traffic and to be a usable space when traffic levels were low.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) would discuss with the Director of Student Support the impact that improvements to the footpaths around Coventry House and the Arts Centre could have on the multi-faith Chaplaincy and Muslim Prayer Room, noting that it was considered desirable for faith provision on campus to be integrated.

11/11-12 Finance Report

CONSIDERED:

The Estates Office Finance Report, (paper BC.9/11).

RESOLVED:

That the expenditure on capital projects against plan at Quarter 4 of Financial Year 2010 was noted.

12/11-12 Any Other Business

REPORTED (by the Director of Estates):

That the University had received a HEFCE letter relating to the monitoring of Capital Investment Framework 2 (CIF 2) metrics (copy tabled) noting that the metrics flagged in red were being managed accordingly and were not significant causes for concern at this point.

12/11-12 Date of the Next Meeting

REPORTED:

That the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 15 March 2012 at 2pm in the Council Chamber, University House.