

EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL
CYNGOR Y GWEITHLU ADDYSG

MINUTES OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

DATE: 7 August 2023

LOCATION: Microsoft Teams

Present:

Members:

Nicola Stubbins (<i>Acting Chairperson</i>)	Bethan Thomas
Kathryn Robson	Rosemary Jones
David Williams	Kelly Edwards
Geraint Williams	Gwawr Taylor
Jane Jenkins	Theresa Evans-Rickards

Officers:

Elizabeth Brimble	<i>Director of Qualifications, Registration and Fitness to Practise</i>
Lisa Winstone	<i>Director of Finance and Corporate Services</i>
Beverley Curtis	<i>Corporate Governance Officer (minutes)</i>

Apologies:

Eithne Hughes	<i>Chairperson</i>
Hayden Llewellyn	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Sue Walker	

1. Welcome and preliminaries

- 1.1 Nicola Stubbins (*Chairperson of the Registration and Regulation Committee*) informed members that she would be chairing the meeting in the absence of Eithne Hughes (*Council Chairperson*). Apologies had also been received from Sue Walker and Hayden Llewellyn (*Chief Executive*) who was currently on a period of sickness absence leave. Liz Brimble (*Director of Qualifications, Registration and Fitness to Practise*) was in attendance as the EWC's Deputy Chief Executive.
- 1.2 The Chairperson welcomed members and officers to the thirtieth meeting of the Education Workforce Council (EWC) and thanked the Council for convening the special meeting on account of a national delay in annual audits being undertaken following the introduction of a new auditing standard.
- 1.3 No declarations of interest were received.

2. Draft minutes of the Council Meeting of 6 July 2023

- 2.1 The Chairperson guided members through the minutes of the previous Council meeting on 6 July 2023 and asked the members to approve them as an accurate record of discussions.

2.2 Council ratified the minutes.

3. Draft Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 and ISA 260 report **EWC 44/23**

3.1 Lisa Winstone (*Director of Finance and Corporate Services*) presented the draft Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year 2022-23, and the accompanying ISA 260 report which summarised the audit of the draft Accounts.

3.2 She noted that the draft annual performance report had been recommended to Council for approval by the Executive Committee after being discussed at its meeting on 23 May 2023. The draft annual Accounts had been discussed and scrutinised by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee at their single item agenda meeting on 4 August 2023. The Committee had subsequently recommended the Report to Council for approval.

3.3 Referring to the Financial Statements on page 71, she noted that the Accounts had reported a surplus of £247,000 contrary to the expected budgeted deficit for the year. Lisa Winstone explained the three main areas which had contributed to the surplus result as previously discussed at the Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

3.4 The audit had identified three corrections which had been resolved upon its conclusion as outlined at Appendix 3 of the ISA 260 report. Lisa Winstone reported that Audit Wales had concluded an unqualified audit opinion with a materiality level of assurance set at 2%.

3.5 It was explained that upon the Council's approval, the Annual Report and Accounts would be signed by the Chief Executive and presented to the Auditor General for Wales on 8 August 2023 for signature. They would then be laid at the Senedd by 31 August 2023 in accordance with the Council's legislative duty and subsequently be published on the EWC's website.

3.6 Alongside the Chief Executive, the Chairperson of Council would usually be an accompanying signatory on the submission of the Annual Report and Accounts. Given the absence of the Chairperson from the meeting due to ill health, Lisa Winstone asked members to agree that Nicola Stubbins, as Chairperson of the Registration and Regulation Committee, sign the Annual Report and Accounts on behalf of Council. The Council agreed to this proposal.

3.7 Gwawr Taylor (*Chairperson of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee*) noted assurance to the Council that the Committee had robustly scrutinised the Accounts at their last meeting and heartily recommended the Annual Report and Accounts to Council for approval.

3.8 The Council positively noted the EWC's position. Members noted that they felt assured that stringent processes were in place and congratulated officers on the achievements outlined. The Council approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2022-23.

4. Any other business

4.1 No other business was raised and the public meeting was closed.

Council moved into private session