SOUTH WEST COLLEGE GOVERNING BODY

Minutes of a meeting of the **Projects Oversight Committee**
held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 4:30 pm
in the Boardroom, Omagh Campus

PRESENT:	Mrs Maureen Brunt (*via MS Teams*) Dr Frances Campbell, Committee Chair Mrs Maria Hackett (*via MS Teams*) Mr Brian Ingram Mr Ryan Kearney Ms Celine McCartan, Principal & Chief Executive
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr Charlie Farrell, PRISM Development & Delivery Manager (*Items 1.0 – 4.0*) Mrs Fiona McCauley, Secretary to the Governing Body Ms Noreen McGirr, Head of Apprenticeships (*Items 1.0 – 4.0*) Mr Ciaran McManus, Director of Development & Support Ms Laura Owens, GRASP Administrative Officer (*Items 1.0 – 4.0*)

1.0 APOLOGIES

It was noted that all members were present.

2.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No declarations of interest were made.

3.0 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

PREVIOUSLY ISSUED to all members:

- Paper 03 Minutes of 5 November 2025 Projects Oversight Committee Meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4.0 DEMONSTRATION OF PROJECTS' POWER BI DASHBOARD

PRESENTED AT THE MEETING:

- Paper 04 PeacePlus Power BI Reporting.

Ms McGirr began by providing an overview of the College's four PeacePlus funded projects and defining the need for a dashboard to provide real-time financial and performance data relating to these projects. Assisted by Mr Farrell and Ms Owens, she then went on to provide a demonstration of the Power BI reporting tool developed. The demonstration used the financial and KPI data for the GRASP project to provide an overview of the model which will be used to support all projects on completion.

In response to questions from members, staff provided further details of the functionality of the dashboard, advised of the source and security of the data used, commented on its operational value for projects' staff and management, and outlined its role in the governance framework of projects upon full implementation.

Members commented on the assurance provided through the report presented.

Mr McManus thanked Mr Farrell, Ms McGirr and Ms Owens for their presentation to the Committee and commended the wider projects team for their contribution and commitment in supporting the success and governance of externally funded projects.

Mr Farrell, Ms McGirr and Ms Owens were thanked for their presentation and withdrew from the meeting at this juncture.

5.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT

PREVIOUSLY ISSUED to all members:

- Paper 05 Management Report
- Paper 05.01 GRASP Delivery Schedule
- Paper 05.02 GRASP Development Workshop Agenda
- Paper 05.03 GRASP Development Workshop Action Plan
- Paper 05.04 STRIDE Project Board Presentation
- Paper 05.05 Youthscape+ Project Board Presentation
- Paper 05.06 GRASP Project Board Presentation
- Paper 05.07 PRISM Project Board Presentation
- Paper 05.08 Youthscape+ Risk Register
- Paper 05.09 STRIDE Risk Register
- Paper 05.10 GRASP Risk Register
- Paper 05.11 PRISM Risk Register
- Paper 05.12 GRASP Industrial Advisory Board Presentation
- Paper 05.13 PRISM Newsletter
- Paper 05.14 Draft PRISM Company Decarbonisation Report.

5.1 Performance Against Targets

Ref: Management Report Section 2.0 and Papers 05.01 – 05.03

Mr McManus provided recruitment statistics in relation to the Youthscape+, GRASP and STRIDE projects and outlined the interventions put in place to support recruitment to meet targets. It was noted that the PRISM project is at an early stage of implementation.

5.2 Financial Management

Ref: Management Report Section 3.0

Mr McManus referenced value of the Projects Power BI Dashboard in financial management, drew attention to the claims data for each project provided in the Management Report, and apprised the meeting of the focus placed on appropriate maximisation of expenditure to support the Managing Authority, SEUPB, in meeting its N+3 obligations, noting the key importance of high staff occupancy and progress in capital developments in achieving expenditure targets. He also commented on the impact on expenditure of the ongoing issue in relation to procurement and advised of the associated mitigations in place as well as those planned.

5.3 Risk Management

Ref: Management Report Section 4.0 and Papers 05.04 – 05.11

Mr McManus outlined the framework in place for governance of projects to include financial, performance and risk management, highlighting the project and partnership board structures and regular meetings thereof. He referenced the project risk registers provided and commented on their developing maturity and continuous evolution.

5.4 **Programme Compliance**

Ref: Management Report Section 5.0

Mr McManus advised of the minimal error rate recorded following the verification of claims by the External Controller, KPMG.

5.5 **Staffing**

Ref: Management Report Section 6.0

Mr McManus reminded the meeting of the staff occupancy challenges encountered and advised of the current, more stabilised, staffing status, including the pending appointment of Finance and IT specialists as well as two Graduate Programme Officers.

He commented on the continuing staff occupancy challenges in ATU and of the direct correlation with participant recruitment challenges resulting in the reallocation of funding to partner organisations.

5.6 **Partnerships**

Ref: Management Report Section 7.0 and Paper 05.12

Mr McManus advised of the support provided to partner organisations to develop curriculum to address industry need and to achieve performance and budget targets. He also commented on the importance of relationship building and partnership working in fostering sustainable partnerships to exploit future opportunities.

With reference to the outstanding action to consider opportunities for committee members to engage with projects' participants and partners, Mr McManus undertook to extend an invitation to members to attend a forthcoming GRASP Masterclass.

5.7 **Impact**

Ref: Management Report Section 8.0

Mr McManus referenced the statistics provided in the Management Report on the impact of interventions to date and the progression of participants.

5.8 **Exit Strategy**

Ref: Management Report Section 9.0

Mr McManus advised of strategic engagements in relation to the design of a future Peace Programme.

5.9 **Project Evaluations**

Ref: Management Report Section 10.0

The update in the Management Report on Project Evaluations was noted by the Committee.

5.10 **Identification of Areas of Unmet Social and Economic Need**

Ref: Management Report Section 11.0

The update in the Management Report on Areas of Unmet Social and Economic Need was noted by the Committee.

5.11 Funding Opportunities

Ref: Management Report Section 12.0

Mr McManus apprised the meeting of the potential to secure funding to extend the STRIDE project to include all six FE colleges and provided an update on opportunities in relation to the DISC, Mid-Ulster Lean Learning Factory and SPARC projects. He also advised of the conceptualisation of early proposals in relation to a sectoral bid for funding from the next Peace Programme.

During the discussion held on conclusion of the Management Report, capital expenditure within the GRASP project, recruitment to the Youthscape+ project, procurement and partnership management were identified as areas for focus in the forthcoming period. Management also provided details of the likely solution to the procurement issue, spoke of the complexity and responsibilities of managing partnerships and acknowledged the benefit of the College's systems and experience in the management of projects in securing funding for future projects.

6.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2026/27

PREVIOUSLY ISSUED to all members:

- Paper 06 Schedule of Meetings 2026/27.

AGREED: acceptance of the proposed schedule of Projects Oversight Committee meetings for 2026/27.

7.0 REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

PREVIOUSLY ISSUED to all members:

- Paper 07 List of Outstanding Actions.

It was noted that the actions listed had been addressed.

8.0 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

No further business was raised.

9.0 REFLECTION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MEETING

Members commented on the value of the presentation received.

CONFIRMED AND ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY AT A MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2026

GB CHAIRPERSON ________________________________ DATE ________________