



**COUNCIL BRIEFING DAY**  
**MINUTES AND ACTIONS – APPROVED**

22 February 2023

1300-1700hrs

Exchange Lecture Theatre, Penryn Campus (Cornwall)

**CONTENTS:**

Council Meeting

**No:    Item:**

23.01	Welcome and Introduction
23.02	Strategy for Exeter's Work in Cornwall
23.03	Student Union's Update
23.04	Global Reflections and Opportunities
23.05	Briefing on Mining
23.06	The Academic Vision and Ambition for the ESI Extension Project

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Quentin Woodley	Pro-Chancellor and Chair
Professor Lisa Roberts	Vice-Chancellor
Sir Richard Atkins	Pro-Chancellor
Sarah Buck	Pro-Chancellor
Nicholas Cheffings	Independent Member
Shades Chaudhary	Professional Services Representative
Professor Barrie Cooper	Senate Representative
Professor Alex Gerbasi	Senate Member
Andrew Greenway	Independent Member
Professor Janice Kay	Provost
Georgi Griškevičienė	President, Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union
Professor Sue Prince	Senate Representative
Professor Tim Quine	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)
Alison Reed	Independent Member
Glenn Woodcock	Independent Member

**SECRETARY**

Mike Shore-Nye	Registrar and Secretary
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**MEMBERS APOLOGIES**

Jo Binding	Independent Member
Graham Cole	Independent Member
Louette Dyer	Independent Member
Salam Katbi	Independent Member
Amoetsoe Mkwena	Independent Member
Malcom Skingle	Independent Member

## STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Linda Peka	Deputy Registrar
Professor Richard Follett	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement)
Professor Martin Siegert	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Cornwall)
Amie Fulton	Director of Cornwall Operations
Imelda Rogers	Executive Divisional Director of Human Resource
Professor Frances Wall	Professor of Applied Mineralogy (item 5)
Dr Jeremy Diaper	Assistant Director, Governance (minutes)

## ACTIONS:

Reference	Action	Responsible	Deadline
4.8	<b>ACTION:</b> the International Student Growth Plan, including recruitment and cohort rebalancing targets would be scheduled for consideration at the Council Away Day in April 2023.	Chair	Next meeting 13/04/2023

### 1. Welcome and Declarations of Interest

1.1. The Chair welcomed members to the Council Briefing Day. There were no declarations of interest in relation to items under discussion.

### 2. Cornwall Delivery of Strategy 2030

- 2.1 Council received a tabled presentation from Professor Martin Siegert (DVC Cornwall) on the Delivery of Strategy 2030 in Cornwall which was circulated to members of Council following the meeting and had been filed with the record of the meeting;
- 2.2 Strategy 2030 provided an opportunity for the University to build on current areas of excellence in Cornwall and ensure the institutional strategic vision (Greener, Fairer, Healthier) was reflected in all departments in Cornwall;
- 2.3 a number of key achievements at Cornwall were highlighted including: new UG and PGT programmes; expanded research groupings such as Exeter Marine (which was focused on understanding all aspects of the marine environment); and strengthened external partnerships with Cornwall County Council, SpacePort Cornwall and Falmouth University;
- 2.4 the delivery of Strategy 2030 in Cornwall would help ensure that there was collaboration across teaching and research between all campuses and that the University was playing a role as a Civic University in Cornwall's future, including a sustainable transition to Net Zero;
- 2.5 the range of regional drivers which would help support delivery of Strategy 2030 were extensive and significant, including: Cornwall Plan; Offshore Floating Wind; Critical Minerals; Spaceport Cornwall and Cornwall Devolution Deal.
- 2.6 in relation to the Offshore Floating Wind Project:

- 2.6.1 the project would build on Cornwall and Plymouth's excellence in offshore renewables energy to fast-track the construction of large scale floating offshore windfarms, with ambition to deliver up to 4 GW of new clean energy capacity by 2035, and another 20GW by 2045. It was estimated that for every megawatt of energy, the project could create c. 3,000 jobs across supply chains, which had the potential to significantly contribute to the economic regeneration of the region;
- 2.6.2 as there were such a wide-ranging number of industry related issues to consider as part of the delivery of the Offshore Floating Wind Project it would be important for the University to reflect and consider the specific areas where it could contribute expertise;
- 2.6.3 it was recognised that collaboration would be critical to the successful delivery of the project and that the majority of the manufacturing and construction would be undertaken in South Wales. The University would offer specific expertise in relation to moorings and cables;
- 2.6.4 there could also be emerging opportunities for the University to contribute its expertise in relation to tidal power and solar energy, but the current impetus in relation to renewable energy was on floating offshore wind and this was the area Cornwall Council were particularly engaged with;
- 2.7 Cornwall was the only non-nation Wales had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with;
- 2.8 the DVC Cornwall had produced an initial 10 point plan for each Head of Department to reflect on and consider how their Department could contribute towards delivery of Strategy 2030, which included:
- i) *research+*: with a focus on interdisciplinary programmes, including Spaceport, Critical Minerals, Marine Ecology/Environments;
  - ii) *student numbers*: including growth and diversification of PGT international recruitment and recruiting students from non-traditional backgrounds;
  - iii) *Skills*: enhancing student outcomes through excellence in training of essential employability skills;
  - iv) *Net Zero*: ensuring Departments were aligned with Cornwall Council ambition to reach Net Zero and ensure the development of a Net Zero campus;
  - v) *EDI*: enabling a tolerant, safe, respectful and inclusive working and learning environment. The University was in the process of drafting a framework agreement as part of the Civic University partnership agreement to ensure a holistic approach to EDI issues. The framework agreement was anticipated to be signed-off with Falmouth University by Easter 2023;
  - vi) *Cornwall*: understanding the University's place in Cornwall and enhancing institutional visibility. Efforts would be undertaken to support Cornish Culture by ensuring Institute of Cornish Studies is actively involved in wide range of projects to consider impact on heritage, place and community and enable a clear interface between social sciences and regional studies;
  - vii) *Networking*: enhancing connection with public, alumni, funders, policy & decision makers, and businesses;

- viii) *Innovation*: supporting innovation, especially in key areas of growth for Cornwall;
- ix) *Collaboration*: increasing collaboration with Falmouth University and other regional Universities;
- x) *Policy*: informal government, local and national policy on matters relating to institutional expertise

2.9 in relation to the local community, the importance of the following was noted in discussion: identifying opportunities to support and engage with Cornwall's tourism industry as part of Strategy 2030, including the development of regenerative and sustainable tourism; considering areas where the University could help to address the social economic disadvantage and deprivation in Cornwall and local coastal towns, including working in partnership with local school communities;

2.10 in relation to the enhancing the growth and diversification of the PGT international community in Cornwall: the need to create a clear outward facing and welcoming environment for the University of Exeter to help attract a more diverse and international student body to Cornwall; the importance of working in partnership with Falmouth and Cornwall Council as part of the Civic Universities agreement to enhance accommodation in the local area and attract a higher demographic of postgraduate international students; developing a strong portfolio of postgraduate programmes that would appeal to the international student community, the need to enhance communications and marketing information to create a more clearly visible presence for the University of Exeter within Cornwall.

### **3. Student Unions' Update**

- 3.1 Council received a tabled presentation from President Exeter which has been filed with the record of the meeting;
- 3.2 the key updates from the Students' Union, Truro campus and overview of the sabbatical teams shared priorities around key areas, including: Cost of Living; Accommodation; Sustainability, Academic Support, Wellbeing and Sense of Belonging;
- 3.3 the Student Union had supported the creation of People's Assemblies to facilitate conversations on the ecological crisis and the first student-led assembly had recently taken place in December 2022, which had brought together staff and students to discuss the climate and ecological crises;
- 3.4 the latest discussions surrounding the President Exeter's manifesto "Exeter Connect" had highlighted the importance of enhancing the parity of experience and opportunities for students on the Cornwall campus and identified that the campus would benefit from better co-ordinated communications and social media channels between Streatham and Penryn, particularly around careers fairs and job opportunities;
- 3.5 the first phase of the Democracy Review focused on reviewing the roles of the President Team had been completed following a process of engagement with students. In the forthcoming Academic Year 2023/24, the President team would be comprised of a President Exeter, President Falmouth and two Vice-Presidents with open portfolios;
- 3.6 the following was noted in discussion: the branding refresh of the Exeter Students' Union had recently been launched; improvements had been made in ensuring greater levels of engagement between students in Truro and Penryn, but further opportunities would continue to be explored to enhance levels of connectivity and transportation between both campuses; the FX Plus Board

would be considering the possibility of introducing the £2 meal deal on the Falmouth campus; the Cornwall Disability Network had been introduced to provide a support system for staff and students on the Penryn campus.

#### **4. Global Reflections and Opportunities**

- 4.1 Council received a tabled presentation from Professor Richard Follett (DVC Global Engagement) which has been filed with the record of the meeting;
- 4.2 a new institutional Global Strategy was being developed to deliver the global ambitions of Strategy 2030 and to enhance Exeter's status as an international leader and partner of choice for education, research, and knowledge exchange;
- 4.3 the University was currently 20<sup>th</sup> in UK for overseas recruitment which would provide a strong basis from which to develop its global ambitions;
- 4.4 delivering the target of 40% international students by 2030/31 was a significant challenge and would require the University to take market share from across the Russell Group and other comparator institutions;
- 4.5 the core elements of the Global Exeter Strategy included: Global partnerships; Global Student Recruitment; Global Experiences; Global Reputation;
- 4.6 key global ambitions included development of off-shore scalable TNE delivery, global strategic partnerships (including Africa and India) and the leveraging Exeter's research and interdisciplinary reputation to improve ranking in international league tables;
- 4.7 the importance of the following as noted in discussion: ensuring that there were requisite levels of support available to align with the planned growth in international student numbers, including in key areas such as student wellbeing, academic and sessional English language support; continuing to enhance the onboarding support and language support provided to postgraduate students transitioning to conversion degrees to provide them with the best opportunity to excel in both their education and development of employability skills; maintaining the variety of robust measures in place to maintain high-quality and standards in educational provision, including: accreditation from professional regulatory bodies; external examination; and annual performance monitoring in PGT programmes of conditions and completion;
- 4.8 there were further opportunities to learn from other institutions who had successfully increased the international student population in regional coastal towns, including: Bangor and Aberystwyth.

**ACTION:** that the International Student Growth Plan, including recruitment and cohort rebalancing targets would be scheduled for consideration at the Council Away Day in April 2023.

#### **5. Briefing Session on Rare Earths and Critical Minerals**

- 5.1 Council received a tabled presentation from Professor Frances Wall (Professor of Applied Mineralogy) which has been filed with the record of the meeting;

- 5.2 The UK Government had unveiled a new strategy in July 2022 aimed at bolstering the resilience of supply chains for critical minerals to support the development of green industries and transition towards more sustainable practices. There was an increasing focus on accelerating the UK's domestic capabilities and considering the environmental impact of mining minerals and improving the resiliency and sustainability of current practices;
- 5.3 the demand for the production of critical minerals was expected to continue to rise, with the International Energy Agency predicting in 2021 that by 2040 there would be a need for 40 times more lithium, 7 times more rare earth minerals and 20 times more graphite;
- 5.4 the Camborne School of Mines (CSM) was a world-class combined geoscience and mining department, which hosted a unique combination of scientific and engineering expertise in geology, mining and minerals processing;
- 5.5 a number of successful start-ups and spin offs had emerged from the Camborne School of Mines, including the NERC funded SoS RARE project to investigate more environmentally friendly ways to extract and recover rare earth elements, and E-tech resources, a Canadian rare-earth element company;
- 5.6 the Northern Limb 4D research project was being undertaken by the Camborne School of Mines in collaboration with the Universities of Leicester and Cardiff in conjunction with industry;
- 5.7 there were a number of opportunities surrounding the Circular Economy in Cornwall, including granite-related development of technology metals and renewable energy;
- 5.8 the Camborne School of Mines was continuing to contribute to the growing worldwide need for skills in mining, with the development of a postgraduate degree programmes and Degree apprenticeships.

## **6. The Academic Vision and Ambition for the ESI Extension Project**

- 6.1 Council received a tabled presentation from Professor Martin Siegert on the ESI Extension which has been filed with the record of the meeting;
- 6.2 The ESI (Environment and Sustainability) was an interdisciplinary centre leading cutting-edge research into the problems of and solutions to environmental changes;
- 6.3 The ESI was critical to securing and building global reputation, with 7% of University grant income generated from 10 PIs within the ESI.

## **6.4 Closed Minute**