



University of Exeter

COUNCIL

MINUTES AND ACTIONS – APPROVED BY COUNCIL

26 February 2026

09.00am-1.30pm

Council Chamber, Northcote House

NB text in BLACK for publication; text in BLUE has been redacted for publication

CONTENTS:

Council Meeting

No: Item:

- 25.64 Chair's Welcome, Introduction and Declarations of Interest
- 25.65 Minutes from the meeting held on 9 December 2025
- 25.66 Action Log 2025-26
- 25.67 Chair's Business and Matters Arising
 - a) FX Plus Debt Refinancing
- 25.68 Council Business Schedule 2025-26
- 25.69 President and Vice-Chancellor's Report
- 25.70 Second Financial Forecast 2025-26
- 25.71 Penryn 2.0: Full Business Case
- 25.72 Geoffrey Pope Replacement Windows and Fin Repairs: Full Business Case
- 25.73 Phase 2 LED Lighting Replacement Programme: Full Business Case
- 25.74 Heat Supply Decarbonisation Update
- 25.75 Long Term Maintenance Programme Outturn Report
- 25.76 Admissions Update – Stage 2 Spring (Late Acquisition and Early Conversion)
- 25.77 Transnational Education (TNE) Strategy and Development: Introductory Overview
- 25.78 TNE China: Full Business Case
- 25.79 TNE Egypt: Updated Outline Business Case
- 25.80 TNE India: Strategic Update
- 25.81 TNE Athens: Outline Business Case
- 25.82 Saudi Arabia: MA Applied Security & Strategy (MStrat) Programme
- 25.83 Final University Terms and Academic Calendar 2026-27
- 25.84 Chair's Closing Remarks
- 25.85 Part II – Items (For Decision) Endorsed by Council
- 25.86 Part II – Items (For Information)

Attendees:**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Quentin Woodley (Chair)	Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Council
Professor Lisa Roberts	President and Vice-Chancellor
Professor Dan Charman	Senior Vice-President and Provost
Professor Liz Jones	Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience)
Professor Malcolm Skingle	Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair of Council
Sally Cabrini	Pro-Chancellor and Senior Independent Governor
Damaris Anderson-Supple	Independent Member (<i>online</i>)
Lauren Aste	Independent Member
Rebecca Boomer-Clark	Independent Member
Nigel Cain	Independent Member
Adrian Harris	Independent Member
Karime Hassan	Independent Member
Salam Katbi	Independent Member
Gareth Mostyn	Independent Member
Sarah Matthews-Demers	Independent Member
Tim Weller	Independent Member
Glenn Woodcock	Independent Member
Dr Sarah Hodge	Senate Representative
Professor Maisha Reza	Senate Representative
Professor Karen Knapp	Senate Representative
Elaine Cordy	Professional Services Representative
Izzy Brinkley	President Exeter, Falmouth and Exeter Students' Union
Seb Racisz	Guild President, Exeter Students' Guild
SECRETARY	
Mike Shore-Nye	Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary
STANDING ATTENDEES	
Imelda Rogers	Executive Divisional Director of Human Resources, Assurance and Culture
Dave Stacey	Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Executive Divisional Director of Finance, Infrastructure and Commercial Services
Dr Jeremy Diaper	Director of Governance Services (<i>minutes</i>)
Alison Chambers	Chief Executive Officer, University of Exeter Guild of Students

IN ATTENDANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS**Minute Item 71: Penryn 2.0**

Alicia O'Grady	Executive Divisional Director of External Engagement and Global
----------------	---

Minute Item 76: Admissions Update

Alicia O’Grady Executive Divisional Director (External Engagement and Global)
Professor Richard Follett Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement)

Minute Item 77 – 82: TNE Projects

Professor Richard Follett Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement)
Peter Clack Director of Global

64. Chair’s Introduction, Welcome and Declarations of Interest

64.1 The Chair welcomed Council members to the meeting and invited any declarations of interest. There were no new declarations of interest in relation to items on the agenda.

64.2 The Chair noted that no apologies had been received but that Damaris Anderson-Supple was joining the meeting online.

65. Minutes from the Meetings held on 9 December 2025 (CNL/99/25-26 and CNL/99a/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

65.1 Council **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting on 9 December 2025, subject to inclusion of minor typographical amendments highlighted outside of the meeting.

66. Action Log (CNL/100/25-26 and CNL/100a/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

66.1 Council received the Action Log for information which had been updated to incorporate the most recent actions from the Council meeting on 10 July 2025. The current status of the actions were noted.

67. Chair’s Business and Matters Arising

67.1 The Chair provided an update on the following Matters Arising:

a) Refinancing FX Plus Loan Debt

67.2 The Chair invited the Chief Financial Officer to provide a verbal update on refinancing the Falmouth Exeter Plus (FX Plus) Loan and ongoing discussions with Lloyds about restructuring the FX Plus financing arrangements. It was noted that FX Plus was a subsidiary that operated as a service delivery partner for the University of Exeter and Falmouth University and managed student accommodation and other services on the Penryn campus, including catering, retail and IT support.

67.3 The Chief Financial Officer noted as follows:

67.3.1 FX Plus, the University of Exeter and Falmouth were each party to four facility letters made with Lloyds Bank plc, pursuant to which Lloyds makes certain facilities available to FX Plus. Both the University of Exeter and Falmouth provided guarantees to Lloyds guaranteeing FX Plus’s liabilities under the FX Plus Facility letters on a joint and several basis;

67.3.2 The University and Falmouth University had jointly and equally guaranteed four loan

facilities to FX Plus Ltd as follows:

67.3.2.1 A loan from Lloyds TSB Bank plc of £18.6m for 30 years at a fixed rate of 5.89% which was drawn down in September 2004;

67.3.2.2 A loan from Lloyds TSB Bank plc for £12.1m for a term of 30 years at a fixed rate of 5.215% which was drawn down in December 2006;

67.3.2.3 A loan from Barclays Bank Plc of £20.5m for new residences. The loan is repayable over 30 years, at a variable rate linked to SONIA plus 0.275% margin and was drawn down in July 2010;

67.3.2.4 A loan of £8m for new residences, £4m from the European Investment Bank (EIB) at a fixed rate of 2.4% and £4m from Lloyds TSB Bank at a fixed rate of 2.1%. The loan was repayable over 16 years. The EIB loan was drawn down in May 2012 and the Lloyds loan was drawn down in various stages from June 2012 – Oct 2013.

67.4 The total FX Plus Ltd debt as at 31 July 2025 was c. £29.9m and the University has guaranteed 50% of this balance totalling £15m. The University was in the process of renegotiating the terms of agreement on basis that half of the outstanding balance was repaid now.

67.5 Pursuant to the terms of the FX Plus Facility Letters, the University was required to comply with certain financial covenants. The University had been in discussion with Lloyds about restructuring the FX Plus financing arrangements including prepayment and cancellation of certain facilities under the FX Plus Facility Letters and amendment of the FX Plus Facility Letters to remove the obligations on the University to comply with the financial covenants therein.

67.6 Work was being undertaken in consultation with Pinsent Masons to enable lender to sign-off off on the process and a full paper would be presented to Council in February. There was ongoing dialogue surrounding whether it was sufficiently material to require permission from or notification of pension schemes.

67.7 That a Council Standing Committee meeting will be utilised in March 2026 to enable discussion and endorsement of the drafts of the following documentation (including the University FXP Facility Agreement; the Charge over Cash Deposit; the Deed of Subordination; the Deed of Contribution; the FXP Facilities Amendment Letter and direction of travel) prior to final Council approval in Part II (30 April 2026).

AGREED: To endorse the direction of travel and associated FX Plus transaction for endorsement by the Council Standing Committee and approval by Council on 30 April 2026.

68. Council Business Schedule 2024-25 (CNL/101/25-26 Confidential and CNL/101a/25-26 Confidential)

68.1 Council received for information the Business Schedule for the Academic Year 2025-26.

69. President and Vice-Chancellor's Report (CNL/102/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

69.1 The *TIME Magazine* had recently published a new world universities rankings table in which Exeter had been ranked 314th in the world and 38th in the UK. Following further investigation, the global and planning teams had uncovered a material data attribution issue whereby a substantial volume of Exeter's research outputs had been incorrectly attributed to 'Phillips Exeter Academic' (a second school in the US). Time Magazine had acknowledged that there was clearly a misattribution issue and the University was waiting to receive an update on the new ranking.

Secretary's Note: Following the correction of the data misattribution issue, Exeter was subsequently placed 122nd in the TIME Magazine's publication of the inaugural World's Top Universities of 2026, which highlighted the strength and breadth of its academic excellence across a range of metrics. The ranking placed Exeter 23rd in the UK and 21st in the Russell Group ahead of several key national peer institutions.

69.2 Exeter City Centre had been awarded Purple Flag accreditation, which was a nationally-recognised mark that celebrated towns and cities which offered a safe, well-managed and vibrant evening and night-time economy. The accreditation reflected a deep level of partnership-working by the University with key partners including Devon and Cornwall Police, Exeter City Council, Exeter College, transport providers and others.

69.3 The University had recently launched the new Mental Wellbeing Strategy which was being introduced alongside the Mental Health Charter action plan and presented an ongoing commitment to supporting the wellbeing of the entire University community.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

69.6 The Choral Evensong aired on BBC radio 3 on 25 February 2026 had been recorded from the University of Exeter's Mary Harris Memorial Chapel and featured the University's Chapel Choir.

69.7 The Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of Falmouth University had announced their intention to retire in early 2027 after a 5-year period of leadership at the University.

70. Second Financial Forecast for 2025/26 (CNL/103/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

70.1 The Chief Financial Officer presented an update on the second financial forecast for 2025-26 (based on 5 months of actual results and 7 forecast periods).

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

70.10 University-wide communications and all staff talks continued to highlight the challenging financial position facing the institution and that the current staff cost ratio was unsustainable in light of the reduction in the University's declining teaching and research income. Senior leaders, Heads of Department and middle-management were increasingly cognisant of the financial pressures facing the University, but there were still some areas of the institution where there remained a lack of understanding and awareness of the challenges, albeit the recent recruitment freeze had served to raise visibility of the current position;

70.11 The University remained alert to the need to retain talent during a challenging period for the organisation and reassurance was being provided to world-leading academic staff of their valued contribution to the University and the continued commitment to investing in areas of strategic growth and areas of high performance aligned with Strategy 2030. There were less challenges to staff retention as the majority of organisations outside of the Top 50 were facing similar challenges and not actively recruiting staff in certain areas.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

71. Penryn 2.0: Full Business Case (CNL/104/25-26 and CNL/104a/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

The Chair invited Professor Martin Siegart (Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Cornwall) to join the meeting.

- 71.1 Penryn 2.0 was a capital initiative of Strategy 2030 designed to fulfil the University's ambition to grow research, education and partnership activities in Cornwall, aligning with regional priorities and building on its reputation for sustainability.
- 71.2 The project would support infrastructure investment in key pillars of microbiology and life science, environment and sustainability, law and business and enable modification of existing office, laboratory and learning spaces on the Penryn campus. Other key benefits also included:
- 71.3.1 Enhancement and connection of Business and Law space to underpin efficient growth in student numbers and improvements to student and staff experience;
 - 71.3.2 Enabling the improvement and expansion of research facilities for microbiology and life sciences to support growth in research and philanthropic income;
 - 71.3.3 Remodelling of teaching laboratory facilities to enable larger student cohorts delivery, responding to student module demand and supporting teaching efficiency;
 - 71.3.4 Development of the Graduate School of Environment and Sustainability to support continued growth in areas of distinctive research and reputational strength;
 - 71.3.5 Supporting growth of institutional reputation and driving improvements in league table performance.
- 71.4 Leading philanthropic organisations had shown strong interest in supporting these distinctive research strengths in Microbes and Molecular research, with awards of £1.45m already secured from the Garfield Weston and Wolfson Foundations to fund specialist equipment that would be based within the remodelled research spaces delivered through Penryn 2.0.
- 71.5 Council noted that the previous visit to the facilities on the Penryn campus in February 2025 had clearly reinforced the importance of the investment and need for the modification of existing office, laboratory and learning spaces to enable more efficient space utilisation by multiple departments to improve the student experience, enhance NSS scores and assist with

talent retention.

71.6 It was also noted that the project had been focused on the reuse and modification of existing buildings in line with approach being adopted through Project Tardis.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

APPROVED: The Penryn 2.0 Capital Development proposal.

The Chair thanked Professor Martin Siegert (Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Cornwall) for their contribution to the meeting and invited them to leave.

72. Geoffrey Pope Replacement Windows and Fins Repairs: Full Business Case (CNL/105/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

72.1 The Geoffrey Pope building was one of the University's principal STEM assets and essential for delivering teaching and research for Biosciences. Ensuring the Building's operability was sustained remained essential to academic continuity, research integrity and institutional reputation.

72.2 The exposed concrete fin façade to the north block was exhibiting structural defects and the original single glazed windows had reached their end of life. Following endorsement by UEB (22nd January 2026) and Finance and Investment Committee (18th February 2026), the Full Business Case was presented to Council for approval to proceed with remedial works, comprising stripping, repair and re-coating of the concrete fins and full replacement of the windows.

72.3 Proposed remedial works would maintain the façade for at least the next 15 years, improve energy efficiency and mitigate any potential health and safety risks posed by spalling concrete.

72.4 The estimated project costs, represented a saving of £3.7m against the previous placemaker within the capital plan approved by Council in October 2025.

72.5 Anticipated LTM works would be delivered in parallel but would be excluded from the project costs and funded separately.

72.6 The programme of works had been carefully scheduled to avoid disruption to teaching and potential impact on the student experience as well as removing ongoing safety and reputational risks.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

APPROVED: The proposed option for the Geoffrey Pope Replacement Windows and Fins Repair Project.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

73. Phase LED Lighting Replacement Programme (CNL/106/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

73.1 The multi-phase LED replacement programme had been initiated in 2023 to ensure the University's buildings remained operationally safe and compliant in response to the UK Government directive which banned the manufacture and import of fluorescent lights.

73.2 Following endorsement by UEB (5th February 2026) and Finance and Investment Committee (18th February 2026), the Full Business Case for Phase 2 of the LED Lighting Replacement Programme was presented to Council for approval to enable the prioritised programme of LED lighting upgrades to 17 builds across the Exeter campuses to continue between March 2026 – July 2027.

73.3 Phase 2 of the programme would deliver an annual energy saving of c. £0.19m and carbon emissions savings of 93 tCO₂e, equivalent to a 1.3% reduction against the University's baseline Scope 1 and 2 emissions.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

APPROVED: Phase 2 of the LED Lighting Replacement Programme.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

74. Heat Supply Decarbonisation Update (CNL/107/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

74.1 The Heat Supply Decarbonisation project aimed to transition the University's Exeter campuses from fossil-fuel heating to low-carbon alternatives in line with the Climate Strategy and commitment to a 26% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 and elimination of fossil-fuel heating before 2040.

74.2 The preferred solution for the Exeter campuses had been to connect key campus buildings to the emerging Exeter Energy Network, a privately funded and city-wide heat network solution, with the University's costs supported by an £8.6m Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant.

74.3 In spite of negotiations with the supplier and best efforts to progress the project, it had been confirmed that the Exeter Energy Network would not be available to connect buildings on the Streatham campus as it was too far away from the source of heat.

74.4 Alternative heat network delivery models had been previously explored and considered commercially unviable. The University was now reassessing alternative solutions including Air Source Heat Pump solutions, which were considered the best option to preserve as much of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant and enable significant progress toward decarbonisation targets.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

AGREED: To schedule an Outline Business Case for the revised approach to Heat Supply Decarbonisation.

75. Long Term Maintenance Outturn Report 2024/25 (CNL/108/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

75.1 The five-year Long-Term Maintenance Programme was previously approved by the Capital Management Group in June 2024 with a total budget for 2024/25 of £10.298m (comprising £9.798m of revenue and £0.5m of capital funding).

75.2 In response to the current sector-wide financial pressures, in-year revenue savings of £2m were identified in August 2024, although the revenue budget was subsequently increased by £2.4m in June 2025. Following the release of further funding, a prioritised list of projects was identified that could be brought forward and delivered in the required timescales to the financial year end.

75.3 Of the £2.4m additional funding allocated in June 2025, the top five categories prioritised were fire precautions, internal look and feel, accessibility, Health and Safety, and Roads and footpaths. The additional funding had enabled a significant increase in fire precaution works, reducing the category risk score from the maximum score of 64 to 48.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

75.5 The University continued to prioritise health and safety and there was a mature risk framework approach maintained to ensure regular oversight of long-term maintenance issues by the Capital Management Group along with clear routes of escalation through the Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary. The prioritisation of the long-term maintenance programme was overseen by Capital Management Group and UEB.

75.6 A comprehensive independent condition survey of all buildings was undertaken on a quinquennial basis, with the next full survey scheduled to be undertaken in 2026-27. The progress of maintenance was regularly reviewed against the full survey and other areas identified to be addressed as necessary.

75.7 The following was noted in discussion:

75.7.1 In addition to the long-term maintenance budget, there was also a distinct FX Plus Long-term maintenance budget and separate core maintenance budget for regular essential works (eg gas engineers, electricians, fire testing, asbestos and legionella monitoring and assessments) and an ongoing cycle of remediation work in place;

75.7.2 There was a separate fund (c. £4m) for enabling ongoing enhancements into learning spaces, including AV and furniture. A strategic update was also scheduled to be presented to Council in April 2026 on Project Tardis and the approach to optimising the existing estate through targeted refurbishment and repurposing of space;

75.7.3 That there was a regular review of the condition of buildings across the estate and clear classification system to identify buildings at risk of failure or that may present a significant health and safety risk. For any buildings identified as presenting a high risk or high probability of immediate failure a more detailed risk assessment was undertaken. There were 5 elements that had recently been rated at the highest risk score of 64, which had been reduced to 4 (including emergency light, alarm points, Harrison fire safety, and BMS alarms in cold

room temperature settings). This had resulted in a detailed condition surveys, along with operational and risk assessment being undertaken which were then monitored and mitigated through relevant teams;

75.7.4 The University also had a compliance framework which monitored legal, regulatory and health and safety compliance, including fire safety management. The Framework was overseen by the Compliance Committee (a UEB Sub-Committee) and an annual report was presented to Audit and Risk Committee. In addition to this there were periodic reviews via internal audit. The University also had a dedicated team of trained fire safety officers who were responsible for ensuring the safety and compliance of fire safety measures within the university and trained to handle fire emergencies, conduct fire risk assessments, handle emergencies and provide fire safety training to staff and students;

75.8 The University maintained a sufficient team of in-house engineers and operatives who had the requisite levels of technical knowledge to undertake routine work and ensure suitable levels of training and appropriate levels of compliance when utilising outsourced specialist suppliers.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

ACTION: That following completion of the next Independent condition survey in 2026-27 a further assurance report would be provided to Council on the approach and timeframe to managing the backlog maintenance.

76. Admissions Update – Stage 2: Spring (Late Acquisition and Early Conversion) (CNL/109/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

The Chair invited Professor Richard Follett (Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global Engagement) and Alicia O’Grady (Executive Director, External Engagement and Global) to the meeting. A brief introduction to the paper was provided and a tabled presentation was delivered with the latest up-to-date admissions data (CNL/109a/25-26) which has been filed with the record of the meeting.

76.1 Home Undergraduate demand remained strong, with applications up c. 5% and sustaining the momentum of 2025-26 which was helping to offer partial mitigation against the significant and sustained contraction in Postgraduate Taught international demand driven by structural shifts in key overseas markets.

76.2 Recruitment targets had been rebalanced in light of the significant declines in international applications at this stage of the cycle, with an expanded UG home target and a reduced PGT international target.

76.3 The University had maintained a focus on prioritising Widening Participation pools, with prospective state school students accounting for c. 76.9% of applications and 75.7% of offers.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

76.13 The following in discussion:

76.13.1 It could be helpful to undertake further analysis on the level of resourcing required to recruit Degree Apprenticeship students to measure the level of cost and differentials in cost recovery between undergraduate home recruitment;

76.13.2 That it would be important to remain alert to the additional recruitment challenges in the near future posed by the significant shift in the 18-year old demographic post 2030, the increasing questioning of the value of a University-level education among current second school students, and the government focus in the post-16 education White Paper on providing a deeper understanding of local and national opportunities, enabling more informed choices and supporting transitions from secondary education into training and employment.

76.13.3 That there were further opportunities to strengthen academic engagement and networking to help support international recruitment activity across Faculties.

76.14. In relation to postgraduate research recruitment:

76.14.1 There had been a global downturn in the number of students enrolling on postgraduate research programmes in light of the absence of tenured faculty positions at the end of the degree.

76.14.2 That sector-wide guidance on 2 Year Masters by Research (MRes) programmes were expected to be published soon. A number of institutions had enhanced their level of MRes provision as a mechanism to enable international students to study in the UK while bringing dependents with them following the student visa restrictions introduced on 1 January 2024.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

The Chair thanked Alicia O’Grady (Executive Director, External Engagement and Global) for their contribution and invited them to leave the meeting.

77. Transnational Education (TNE) Strategy and Development: Introductory Overview

(CNL/109/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

The Chair invited Peter Clack (Director of Global Exeter to join the meeting.

77.1 Council previously endorsed the University’s overarching strategy for Transnational Education (TNE) – ‘Think Global, Act Local: Exeter’s TNE Strategy 2030’ (CNL/19/25-26) in October 2025, which set out the University’s two-tier approach to TNE. This included the ambition to establish three to five Tier 1 (large-scale institutional) TNE projects and three Tier 2 (mid-scale, faculty driven) projects by 2030, located in global markets where there were growth opportunities.

77.2 An ambitious strategic approach to TNE was being progressed to enable Exeter to make a rapid step-change in becoming a Global and Transnational University by implementing a portfolio of major projects (with no capital investment) in key strategic and growth geographies.

77.3 The current TNE opportunities were being supported by a rapidly developing team who were developing a shared portfolio approach to project management and development to minimise effort and resource cost.

78. Exeter-Zhejiang University of Technology Joint Education Institute (China) (CNL/111/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

78.1 Council were presented with the Full Business Case for the proposed Joint Education Institute with Zhejiang University of Technology (ZJUT), which would deliver five dual degree programmes to 1,200 students at capacity, with a contract of 10 years from September 2026.

78.2 In April 2025, the Council Standing Committee approved signing the final Joint Education Institute contracts which were part of the University's application to the Chinese Ministry of Education. Following approval from the Ministry of Education in September 2025, Council were requested to approve the Business Case to proceed for approval to progress towards launch in September 2026. There had been no substantive changes from the Outlines Business Case approved by Council in October 2024 (CNL/23/24-25) or the update in February 2025 (CNL/89/24-25).

78.3 As the University was awaiting Zhejiang Province Pricing Bureau approval of tuition fees, Council were requested to approve progressing within a proposed acceptable minimum tolerance of approved fee as outlined in Section 3.1 of the paper.

Closed Minute – Commercial in Confidence and Strictly Confidential

APPROVED: The minimum tolerance for student fees proposed by the TNE Oversight Group and UEB

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

79. Exeter Ain Shams Transnational Education: Updated Business Case (CNL/112/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

79.1 Council were presented with an updated and revised Outline Business Case for the establishment of a Tier 1 Exeter TNE project at Ain Shams University's (ASU) International Campus in New Cairo to start in September 2027.

79.2 The Teaching Institute 'Branch Campus' would be established as part of a larger new campus development for Ain Shams University and would be the first Russell Group Branch Campus in Africa. A new and innovative approach to TNE in Egypt was being developed with the Ministry of Education and Ain Shams University leadership alongside the strong support of the Egyptian and UK governments.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

AGREED: That the Heads of Terms and written confirmation of the University of Exeter's position regarding tax, legal status and repatriation of income (including legal advice from Mills and Reeve) would be presented to Council or the Council Standing Committee for approval to sign and to enable continued development of the Joint Staffing Agreement and operating model.

AGREED: To schedule a Full Business Case to Council for approval in July 2026.

AGREED: To schedule a strategic discussion on the Global Hub approach and opportunities to leverage the University's global presence to grow its international reputation and to identify opportunities to expand networks to build education, research and business engagement partnerships, and expand executive education.

80. Exeter International Branch Campus (TNE) in India (CNL/113/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

80.1 Council were presented with an update on progress with developing an Exeter managed international branch campus in India.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

AGREED: That Council would be provided with the Heads of Terms and Business Case for approval prior to signature.

81. TNE Athens: Exeter Joint Medical School Programme – Outline Business Case (CNL/114/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

81.1 Council were presented with a proposal to approve a Tier 2 TNE Project to develop a joint undergraduate dual medical degree programme.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

81.3 The UK Government's Medical Training (Prioritisation Act) was a significant piece of legislation aimed at ensuring a sustainable medical workforce in the UK. The legislation was expected to fundamentally change the current landscape for UK and overseas graduates by prioritising UK medical graduates for foundation training and provided preference to UK graduates and doctors with significant NHS experience for specialty training. The Act would come into effect immediately in March 2026 and would affect recruitment for all foundation and specialty training programmes starting from August 2026. It would also ensure that those with a UK medical link were more likely to progress their careers within the NHS.

81.4 In spite of the recent UK government legislation, the Faculty remained keen to progress with the partnership on the basis it would enable the creation of a globally-recognised programme which would help enhance global rankings and provide a regional hub for growing research and business links, including capacity to grow surgical and public health research.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

AGREED: To continue to explore progressing the Exeter Joint Medical School Programme Development, but recognising that there would need to be a substantive level of assurance that recruitment into programmes and progression could be successful in light of the recent UK government legislation on Medical Training Prioritisation.

AGREED: That an updated business case proposal would include a detailed level of analysis in terms of market research and engagement with the partner to explore the levels of student

demand.

AGREED: That further input and consultation would be undertaken with Professor Adrian Harris (Independent Member of Council) to inform the develop of the proposal and to ensure he was supportive of the revised proposal before presenting to Council.

82. TNE Proposal and Partnership Approval for MA Applied Security and Strategy (CNL/115/25-26 Strictly Confidential)

82.1 Council was presented with a proposal to establish a formal partnership to deliver the Strategy and Security Institute's MA Applied Security & Strategy (MStrat) programme as an integrated part of a new 'Global Strategy and Strategic Leadership' Programme from the academic year 2026-27.

82.2 The Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences was fully supportive of the proposal and it had also received endorsement from UEB and Finance and Investment Committee.

Closed Minute – Strictly Confidential and Commercial in Confidence

APPROVED: Establishing a partnership with the KSA National Defence University (NDU) to deliver the MA Applied Security and Strategy (MStrat) programme as Transnational Education (TNE) as the academic component of NDU's new 'Global Strategy and Strategic Leadership Programme' starting in academic year 2026-27.

83. University Terms and Academic Calendar 2026-27 (CNL/116/25-26 Confidential)

83.1 The University Terms and Academic Calendar 2026-27 would be finalised following Senate endorsement on 11 March 2026 and Council approval on 30 April 2026. The minor amendments to the schedule of Council committee meeting dates for Academic Year 2026-27 were noted as detailed in paragraph 3.3 and Appendix 2.

ENDORSED: The University Terms and Academic Calendar 2026-27, subject to inclusion of any final amends presented to Council on 30 April 2026.

84. Chair's Closing Remarks

84.1 The Chair of Council thanked members for their contribution to the meeting and advised that the next meeting of Council would be held on 29 and 30 April 2026.

85. Part II – Items (For Endorsement)

85.1 In accordance with agreed practice, the Chair confirmed that the following items in Part II (For Decision) had been formally **ENDORSED** by Council, including:

Enabling Strategy 2030:

85.1.1 Enabling Strategy 2030 (CNL/117/25-26)

Closed Minute – Commercial in Confidence and Strictly Confidential

86. Part II – Items (For Information)

The following items were received in Part II by Council for information and assurance:

Governance Documentation

Exeter Students' Guild Financial Statements for the year ending 31st July 2025 (CNL/118/25-26)

Delegation Framework 2025-26 (CNL/119/25-26)

Affixing the Seal (CNL/120/25-26)

Exeter University Foundation (EUF) Accounts and Annual Report (CNL/121/25-26)

Environmental Sustainability

Annual Report on Environmental Sustainability (CNL/122/25-26)

Minutes and Reports

Capital Management Group Report (CNL/123/25-26)

Strategic Investment Committee Report (CNL/124/25-26)