UNRESERVED MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

COUNCIL (1030)

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

5 JULY 2017

Present: Mr C Graham, Vice-President (in the Chair); Mr D McDonnell, Pro-

Chancellor; Professor J Beer; Vice-Chancellor; Mr P Hackett; Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Professor D Birch, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact; Professor G Brown, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education; Mrs C Booth; Professor S Dawson; Dr P Johnson; Dr R Platt; Dr A Scott; Mrs P Young; Professor F Beveridge; Dr F Marret-Davies and

Professor R McGrath

Apologies: The Earl of Derby, President; Sir Colin Lucas; Dame Lorna Muirhead;

Mrs A Pointing; and Mr S Turner, President of the Guild of Students.

In attendance: Ms J Heaps (Minute Secretary) and Mr D Soutter, Interim Director of

Finance.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

1.1 Disclosures of Interest

Members were invited to disclose any potential conflicts of interest they had in relation to the items on the agenda. Any such conflicts are noted under relevant minute headings.

MINUTES/COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

AGREED:

The minutes of the meeting held 17 May 2017 should be approved as an accurate record.

2.2 Matters Arising on the Minutes

a. <u>Liverpool Online</u> (minute 2.2a refers)

REPORTED:

i. Contractual terms for the renewal of the partnership agreement with Laureate Inc. to collaborate on the development and delivery of Liverpool Online degrees had been agreed.

2.3 Vice-Chancellor's Communications

a. VC's Engagements

REPORTED:

i. Since the last meeting of Council, the VC had visited, met with, hosted or attended meetings regarding the following:

22-25 May	Going Global Conference and British Council Round Table, London			
1 June	REF Equality and Diversity Advisory Panel, HEFCE, London			
6 June	British Council Board of Trustees, Cardiff			
9 June	UUK Executive Committee			
12 June	Launch of the University's Social and Economic Impact Report			
14 June	British Council EU-UK Culture and Education Series, London			
15 June	UUK Enhancing the International Student Experience Conference -			
	"Effective Strategies for 2017 and Beyond" – opening speech			
16 June	Rolls-Royce Women Network (including alumni), Derby – keynote			
19/20 June UUK Delegation to Paris: meetings with French research and				
	university stakeholders.			
21 June	Downtown Liverpool in Business KQ dinner			
22 June	UUK dinner for new vice-chancellors			
23 June	Meeting with Matt Hutnell, Director of Santander Universities, London			
	UUK UK Board and talk from Sir Michael Barber, Office for Students,			
	London			
	House of Lords University of Liverpool alumni reception and dinner			
28 June	Dinner with Mr Daniel Mulhall, Ambassador of Ireland, London			
29 June	Meeting with Miles Dunnett, Director Funds, Grosvenor Europe re the			
	Knowledge Quarter, London			
	Russell Group Board, London			
	Independence of the United States of America 21st anniversary			
	reception, London			
4 July	UCAS Board, Cheltenham - this was the last meeting as the term			
	had now ended.			

b. Appointments

REPORTED:

- i. Professor Anthony Hollander had been appointed as the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact.
- ii. Ms Karen Banks had been appointed as the Director of Strategic Change.
- iii. Ms Nicola Davies had been appointed as the Director of Finance.
- iv. Dr Alison Fairclough had been appointed as the Director of Strategic Planning and Governance
- v. The new Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Health and Life Sciences would be announced on 6th July 2017.
- vi. Congratulations were expressed to the Vice-Chancellor, who had been appointed to the Metro Mayor's advisory team.

c. Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

RECEIVED:

i. A presentation on the TEF from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education.

REPORTED:

- ii. The TEF that had been conducted was Year 2, which had comprised three ratings: gold, silver and bronze, and the University of Liverpool had received bronze. The bronze rating was consistent with the University's metrics but was nevertheless a disappointment.
- iii. The TEF had benchmarked three years of data across the sector from 2013-14 to 2015-16. The three years of data had then been combined and benchmarked to achieve an overall score.
- iv. TEF 3 would run in January 2017, most likely in the same way as TEF 2. The University would be able to be assessed again for TEF 3, although the current bronze rating was for three years.
- v. A 15-page report had been submitted by the University as part of the submission. However, the TEF assessors had looked at the metrics and report along with contextual data and confirmed its final decision of bronze.
- vi. The six metrics of the TEF were: teaching on the course (NSS); assessment and feedback (NSS); academic support (NSS); non-continuation (HESA and ILR data); employment or further study (DLHE); and highly skilled employment or further study (DLHE).
- vii. The University had received two negative flags, which had led to the bronze rating, in the areas of academic support and highly skilled employment. The University had been steadily improving year-on-year, but the TEF did not take trajectory into consideration. The University had argued for trajectory data to be included in the TEF, but had been unsuccessful.
- viii. The key positive points the TEF panel had noted from the University's submission had included:
 - academic stretch for students;
 - employability enhancement opportunities;
 - the work to invest in the estate and in digital resources:
 - a 'developing approach' to research-engaged teaching;
 - a culture which enabled and rewarded teaching excellence.
- ix. The first of the three years of data had been particularly poor and had negatively affected the metrics.
- x. The benchmarks had been calculated by HEFCE and were not entirely transparent.
- xi. Originally, six Russell Group universities had been in the bronze category, and three had been raised to silver.

- xii. Possible consequences of the bronze rating might include damage to the University's reputation and decreased student recruitment.
- xiii. There was an issue with the transparency and fairness of the TEF, but nevertheless, improvements would have to be made. Even small improvements in metrics could have a significant impact in terms of the number of students it affected.
- xiv. The communication strategy would be to focus on the positive and on mitigation. Initiatives included a summer conversion recruitment campaign for those hoping to join the University in September 2017 which would focus on the positive aspects of the University. Prospective students were interested in recent metrics and current stories were more important.
- xv. The University of Liverpool had a high number of WP students, which influenced its employment metrics. The University would need to understand why a University with the highest number of WP students had such a high benchmark for employment. The University of Liverpool's overall score for graduate employment was 77.9 per cent, whereas The University of Leeds and the University of Oxford had received 76 per cent, and the University of Exeter 75.3 per cent. All of the HEIs in Liverpool had received negative flags for employment metrics.
- xvi. Questions regarding the TEF had generally not been raised by prospective students at recent open days. Information on TEF, however, would be published on the UCAS website and on Unistats.
- xvii. The University had submitted a formal appeal against the bronze rating based on insufficient consideration of geographical context in relation to employment. However, preparations were being made to enter the TEF 3, for which results would be expected in July 2018. In TEF 3, the poorest year (2013/14) would not be included, and based on data currently known, a silver rating would be hoped for.
- xviii. Current strategic priorities included enhancing employability and employment, curriculum review, supporting student successes and improving virtual infrastructure.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL/DISCUSSION

3.1 Appointment of a New Clerk to Council

AGREED:

i. The appointment of Dr Alison Fairclough as Clerk to Council with effect from 1 August 2017 should be approved.

3.2 Plan 2017-2020

[Mr David Soutter was in attendance for this item.]

RECEIVED:

 The Strategic and Operational Plans and the Three-Year Budget Plan, 2017-2020

REPORTED:

- ii. The Plan had been built on the aspirations set out in Strategy 2026. It responded to an increasingly challenging and constantly moving external environment and was reflective of priorities that would have the biggest impact on achieving the 2026 targets.
- iii. Given the changes that would be implemented within this Plan, there would be modifications to the KPI targets set for future years.
- iv. Key assumptions underpinned the expectations relating to student numbers. The inflationary increase in fees for Home/EU students for the latter two years of the three-year period had been factored into the figures but the exposure had been quantified. In paragraph five of the Financial Commentary, the impact of the reduction in fees due to inflationary increases not being permitted would be £3-4 million for 2018/19 and £6-8 million for 2019/20.
- v. The figures maintained the assumption of an average 4 per cent year-on-year uplift, which covered the cost of living increases and grade inflation. In future, the cap on public sector pay might be lifted.
- vi. An operating surplus of an average of 5.9 per cent over the next three years was in place to support the investment programme.
- vii. Due to changes from FRS 102 in the financial forecasts, there was a degree of 'lumpiness' to the income and surplus figures into the future as the University took large grants on a performance basis.
- viii. The growth assumed over the next three years was lower than what had historically been the case in the University over recent years. Recent drops in recruitment was one of the factors behind this. There was growth in student numbers over the three-year period from just over 24,000 to just under 27,000.
- ix. It had been assumed that there would be a modest year-on-year increase in research income over the three year period, reflecting an intensely competitive environment.
- x. The challenges facing Health and Life Sciences included the clinical review and associated financial review. Good contributions had been made by the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE) and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS), and FHSS had shown the strongest growth in the three-year period. A key feature of the planning for central Professional Services had been balancing significant investment in parts of the service with making efficiencies.

- xi. Risks had been flagged but it had not been possible to quantify these risks at present. The most significant financial impact was potentially from pensions and the revaluation of USS. The deficit would increase but the detail would not be known for two financial years.
- xii. With the level of uncertainty in the environment, financial contingency plans had been built into planning to allow the opportunity to support new initiatives and react to opportunities.
- xiii. Beyond the period of considerable investment, longer term planning for the 2020 period onwards was being looked at to enable cash generation to support activities to support ambitions for ongoing capital development. This planning would take account of the need for better, earlier information to help the University be more agile.

NOTED:

- xiv. A 10 per cent fall in student recruitment without corrective action would in three years eliminate the surplus. The achievement of recruitment targets was therefore critical. Different ways the University might grow other than through standard recruitment channels were being considered. XJTLU and Liverpool International College were both growing.
- xv. Under the One Professional Services initiative of the Change Programme, more efficient ways of delivering Professional Services activity would be introduced. In the current three-year plan, resources were being reprioritised in order to invest in priority areas to support key projects. The One Professional Services initiative would focus on delivering the University's Strategy while avoiding creating an environment where senior management was only seen as trying to cut costs. The Change Programme, with Karen Banks as the Director, would see the rolling out of change projects and enabling of staff to prepare for change.
- xvi. The increase in FTE staff was related to increases in research support as agreed at the Strategy and Investment Meetings (SIM) earlier in the year, reflecting the fact that support for research had previously been under-resourced. This investment had resulted in a higher rate of success in funding applications through the establishment of such initiatives as the Peer Review College that worked with academic colleagues to help the submission of higher quality bids.
- xvii. The Interim Director of Finance was thanked for the comprehensive and useful Plans.

AGREED:

xviii. The Strategic and Operational Plans and the Three-Year Budget Plan, 2017/2020, should be approved.

3.3 Scheme of Delegation

RECEIVED:

Minor amendments to the Scheme of Delegation.

AGREED:

ii. The minor amendments to the Scheme of Delegation should be approved.

ITEMS FOR NOTE

4.1 HEFCE's Annual Provider Review 2016-17: Outcomes

RECEIVED:

i. The Annual Provider Review (APR): Outcomes letter from HEFCE.

REPORTED:

- ii. The APR letter had replaced HEFCE's annual assessment of institutional risk letter. The outcomes were as follows:
 - Financial sustainability, good management and governance matters not at higher risk.
 - Quality and standards matters meets requirements.
- iii. No action was required in respect of either judgement.
- iv. Management commentary had been provided on the benchmarking data included in the letter.
- v. The Office for Students (OfS) would take over from HEFCE from 2017/18.

4.2 Guild Annual Report

NOTED:

- i. The end of year report from the Guild of Students, including agreed KPIs and a presentation delivered to the Senior Executive Group on 19 June 2017.
- ii. Representatives of the Guild of Students were unable to attend the meeting as the NUS Student Unions' conference was being held in Birmingham at the same time.

PLANNING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

5.1 Report of the Meeting of the Planning and Resources Committee held 21 June 2017

[Mr P Hackett declared a conflict of interest with regard to the University of Liverpool Pensions Fund (ULPF).]

RECEIVED:

- i. A report on the meeting of the Planning and Resources Committee held on 21 June 2017, covering:
 - Final Plans 2017-2020 (item 3.2 on the agenda)

- ULPF Consolidation of Scheme Rules and Additional Amendments
- ULPF and the Guild Section 75 Employer Pension Debt
- Key Infrastructure Investment Mandate 193
- Condition Mandate 194
- Update Report on Staff Grievances

AGREED:

- ii. The following should be approved:
- a. <u>ULPF Consolidation of Scheme Rules and Additional Amendments</u>, as follows:
 - The consolidation of the Rules for ULPF dated 19 May 2008 and subsequent Deeds of Amendment.
 - The inclusion of a reference to the Contracting-out Deed of Resolution dated 18 May 2016.
 - Amendments made to reflect regulatory pension changes.
 - Amendments to Rules that may be deemed to be age discriminatory.
 - The addition of a power to enter into an apportionment arrangement when an employer ceases to participate in ULPF to facilitate the impending pension debt position faced by the Guild of Students when their last active member leaves ULPF.

b. <u>ULPF and the Guild Section 75 Employer Pension Debt</u>

Subject to carrying out a due diligence exercise on the financial position of the Guild, the taking over of responsibility for the pension liabilities associated with ULPF members who were once employed by the Guild of Students, when their last contributing member draws their pension benefits triggering a Section 75 employer pension debt.

c. Key Infrastructure Investment Mandate 193

The proposed investment of £9m over the next three years on key infrastructure investment (work focussed on mechanical, electrical, and fire system improvements and also significant plantroom heating improvements).

d. Condition Mandate 194

The proposed investment of £8.6m over the next three years to significantly enhance the condition of the University's buildings.

iii. For both of the above mandates, the investment was a rolling programme of work which directly supported Estates Strategy 2026+ and the associated KPIs. The investment would be funded from the Capital Plan.

5.2 Q3 Performance Report

RECEIVED:

i. The Q3 Performance Report.

REPORTED:

- ii. The Q3 Performance Report was reported by exception. The report contained information on Education and Research.
- iii. Institutionally, staff recording a teaching qualification was 5.7% ahead of the current target at more than 40 per cent of academic staff.
- iv. KPI 4a (field-weighted citation impact, used for THE league table measure) was in line with the target for this year, up 0.02.
- v. KPI 4b (highly cited papers in the top 10% of their field) was higher than the target of 2650, with 3065 articles, reviews and conference proceedings in the top 10%. However, other Russell Group institutions were also performing well and the University's overall research rating had not improved.
- vi. New programmes would be introduced in 2017/18 at the London campus, which would be connected to the three clusters of Design, Business and Management, and Health Leadership. More consideration would be given to how the London campus could be used more effectively to improve the experience of students based in Liverpool. An agreement with Kaplan in London was imminent that would provide pathway programmes into the London campus in a similar way that the London International College provided pathways into the University of Liverpool.

SENATE

6. Report of the Meeting of the Senate held 21 June 2017

RECEIVED and **NOTED**:

- i. A report on the meeting of the Senate held on 21 June 2017, covering:
 - Safe and Welcoming Campus Environment Project: End of Phase 1 Report and Recommendations (Revisions to the Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline)
 - Proposal to Divide the Economics, Finance and Accounting Group (EFA) in ULMS into Two Groups
 - Changes to the University Ordinances
 - Research and Impact Plan
 - Education Plan
 - Statement of Expectations: Principal Investigators and Research Staff

AGREED:

- ii. The proposed revisions to the Policy on Student Conduct and Discipline should be approved and Phase 2 of the Safe and Welcoming Campus Environment Project should be initiated.
- iii. The proposal to divide the Economics, Finance and Accounting Group (EFA) in ULMS into two groups should be approved.
- iv. The following proposed changes to Ordinances and the new Ordinance should be approved:

- A revised Ordinance 20 (Assignment of Degrees to the Faculties and Affiliated Institutions).
- A revised Ordinance 54 (Master of Laws by Research LLM).
- A new Ordinance for the new award of Integrated Doctor in Philosophy and Master of Science.

OTHER COMMITTEES

7.1 Audit Committee

RECEIVED:

- i. A report on the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 12 June 2017, covering:
 - Draft Internal Audit Risk Assessment and Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20 and Charter
 - Updated KPMG Audit Planning Memorandum and Independence Letter
 - Example Enhanced Audit Report
 - Strategic Risk Register and Process Update
 - Annual Report on Fraud
 - Reports of the Internal Auditors

REPORTED:

- ii. The draft Internal Audit Risk Assessment and Plan 2017/18 reflected discussions on risk that were held at the Council Away Day.
- iii. Whistle blowing would now be reported into the Audit Committee.

AGREED:

iv. The draft Internal Audit Risk Assessment and Plan 2017/18 to 2019/20 and Charter should be endorsed.

7.2 Health and Safety Governance Committee

RECEIVED:

- i. A report on the meeting of the Health and Safety Governance Committee workshop held on 22 June 2017, covering:
 - Minor amendments to the University Policy on Health and Safety
 - Policy and Code of Practice on Preparing and Implementing Local Emergency Arrangements
 - Policy and Code of Practice on Statutory Inspection, Testing and Examination of Work Equipment
 - Policy and Code of Practice for Health and Safety Monitoring, Auditing and Review
 - Health and Safety Strategy Implementation Framework 2017-19.
 - Available KPI Information.

AGREED:

- ii. The following should be approved:
 - Minor amendments to the University Policy on Health and Safety
 - Policy and Code of Practice on Preparing and Implementing Local Emergency Arrangements
 - Policy and Code of Practice on Statutory Inspection, Testing and Examination of Work Equipment
 - Policy and Code of Practice for Health and Safety Monitoring, Auditing and Review
 - Health and Safety Strategy Implementation Framework 2017-19.

7.3 Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees

REPORTED:

- Further to the recommendations approved by the Council at its July 2016 meeting:
 - Ms April Ashley, Mr Peter Cresswell and Professor Phil Scraton had received their honorary degrees in December 2016. Miss Catherine Jones had received her honorary fellowship in December 2016.
 - The following were scheduled to receive their honorary degrees at ceremonies in July 2017:

Mr Elkan Abrahamson Mr Paul Brett Ms Thelma Handy Admiral Sir Philip Jones Dame Georgina Mace Mr David Olusoga

ii. In accordance with the provisions of Ordinance 30 (Honorary Degrees), the Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees had met to consider nominations which had been received for the conferment of honorary degrees and other honorary awards, and had made a number of recommendations.

AGREED:

iii. The recommendations of the Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees in relation to the conferment of honorary degrees and an honorary fellowship, as endorsed by Senate on 21 June 2017, should be approved.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL FROM THE STRATEGIC COMMITTEES

8.1 Nominations Committee

a. Annual Report of the Nominations Committee to Council

RECEIVED:

i. An annual report of the Nominations Committee.

NOTED:

- ii. Professor Ella Ritchie's Effectiveness Review report recommended that Council should annually discuss Council composition and the way that new members were recruited and that it should consider the diversity of Council members and the skills and knowledge needed. This item provided the opportunity for Council to have such a discussion.
- iii. It was recognised that more work needed to done regarding the diversity of committee members. The role of the Lay Officer and representation of Professional Services would also be further considered.
- iv. The recruitment process for lay members had been more wide ranging than previously. Alumni had been approached and a significant number of expressions of interest had been received. Ways of involving younger alumni in committees in order to build their experience were being explored.

AGREED:

- v. The reappointment of the Earl of Derby as President of Council should be approved.
- vi. The reappointment of Dr Andrew Scott as a Lay Officer should be approved.
- vii. The reappointment of Dr Paul Johnson and Dr Roger Platt as lay members should be approved.
- viii. The appointment of Mr Ed Fishwick and Mr Sam Butler as lay members should be approved.
- ix. All appointments would be for the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2020.

b. Report of the meeting held 7 June 2017

AGREED:

i. The following appointments/reappointments should be approved:

Committee	Nominee	Period of appointment
Audit Committee	Dr Roger Platt	1.8.17-31.7.20
Audit Committee	Dr Andrew Scott	1.8.17-31.7.20
Discipline – Board of	Dr Roger Platt	1.8.17-31.7.20
Appeal		
Education Committee	Dr Paul Johnson	1.8.17-31.7.20

Health and Safety Governance Committee	Dr Andrew Scott	1.8.17-31.7.20
Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees	Mrs Carmel Booth	1.8.17-31.7.19
Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees	Mr Sam Butler	1.8.17-31.7.20
Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees	Dr Roger Platt	1.8.17-31.7.20
Investments Sub- Committee	Mr Ed Fishwick (Chair)	1.8.17-31.7.20
Investments Sub- Committee	Mr Peter Tod	1.8.17-31.7.20
Remuneration Committee	Dr Paul Johnson	1.8.17-31.7.20
Research and Impact Committee	Dr Roger Platt	1.8.17-31.7.20
Research and Impact Committee	Dr Andrew Scott	1.8.17-31.7.20
Committee on Research Ethics	Dr Roger Platt	1.8.17-31.7.20
Committee on Research Ethics	Mr Christopher Graham (Vice-Chair)	1.8.17-31.7.19
Research Governance Committee	Ms Sue Thomas	1.1.17-31.7.19 (retrospective)

REPORTS TO COUNCIL FROM THE STRATEGIC COMMITTEES

9.1 Education Committee

a. Report of the meeting held 2 June 2017

RECEIVED:

- A report on the meeting of the Education Committee held on 2 June 2017, covering:
 - Education Action Plan
 - Summary of External Projects/Matters
 - Final Recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on Safety of and Support for Students Abroad
 - Diversity and Equality Annual Report 2015-16

NOTED:

ii. The University had only had a 43 per cent response rate in the NSS this year, which was below the 50 per cent threshold for publication. It was not known how this would be handled in the TEF and league tables. On the Unistats website, the institution score would be absent but subjects with a 50 per cent response rate or higher would be shown. A higher number of negative responses in this year's NSS across the sector was expected.

b. Annual Report of the Education Committee

RECEIVED:

- i. An annual report of the Education Committee, 2016/17, covering:
 - Governance matters
 - Items discussed by the Committee during 2016/17
 - Key activities 2016/17
 - Key issues 2017/18
 - Performance
 - Diversity and Equality

9.2 Research and Impact Committee

a. Report of the meeting held 9 June 2017

RECEIVED:

- i. A report on the meeting of the Research and Impact Committee held on 9 June 2017, covering:
 - Statement of Expectations: Principal Investigators and Research Staff
 - Sensor City Project Update
 - Initiatives and Plans for Growing 4* Items
 - Revision of the Process for the Next Annual Assessment Programme
 - UK Scholarly Communications Licence
 - Chair's Report on UKRI, the Global Challenges Fund and the Industrial Strategy

NOTED:

- ii. The Statement of Expectations was the outcome of a long consultation process and a move towards providing better support for post-docs and research staff across the University.
- iii. There was a significant gap to close with regard to the creation of 4* outputs for REF, which different sections of the University were working hard to achieve.

b. Annual Report of the Research and Impact Committee

RECEIVED:

i. An annual report of the Research and Impact Committee, 2016/17, covering:

- Key issues discussed by the Committee over the course of the session
- Key issues for the University in areas cognate to those of the Committee over the last session, and the challenges anticipated for next session
- A summary of the last full year's performance
- A summary of equality and diversity activity/issues related to the Committee's area of responsibility

ROUTINE ITEMS

10.1 Use of the University Seal

RECEIVED and **NOTED**:

i. A summary of uses of the University Seal since the last meeting.

10.2 HR Summary Report of Action Taken Under Delegated Powers

RECEIVED and **NOTED**:

i. A summary of HR related actions taken under delegated powers since the last meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

11.1 Thanks

AGREED:

- i. Sir Colin Lucas and Mr David McDonnell should be thanked for their excellent contributions, and wished well for the future. Sir Colin Lucas had been a member of Council since October 2008. Mr David McDonnell, who had served the University for 14¹/₂ years, had been appointed as a lay member in December 2002, as Treasurer from January 2004, as President from January 2007 and as Pro-Chancellor from January 2015.
- ii. Thanks should also be given to Professor Dinah Birch and Dr Fabienne Marret-Davies.

11.2 Dates of Next Meetings

NOTED:

- i. Meetings during the 2017-18 academic session would be held, as follows:
 - Wednesday 4 October 2017 (Away Day)
 - Thursday 23 November 2017 at 2.30pm
 - Wednesday 7 February 2018 at 2.00pm
 - Wednesday 18 April 2018 (Away Day)
 - Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 2.00pm
 - Wednesday 4 July 2018 at 2.00pm