



## Minutes of the Estates Policy Committee Meeting of 15 October 2021

### Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Ms R. Mathews-McKay (Chair); Bursar & Director of Strategic Innovation (Secretary to the Committee); Interim Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer (CFO); President of the Graduate Students Union; Mr C. O'Connor; Director of Campus Infrastructure

**In Attendance:** **For item 4:** Librarian, Ms Helen Shenton (Project Sponsor for OLRP), Head of Capital Projects & Planning, Mr Greg Power

**Apologies:** Prof. C. Casey; Mr T. Payne; Prof. S. Waldren

**Statement of Interest:** None declared.

**EPC/21-22/009** **Minutes of 28 September 2021 meeting**  
The minutes were approved.

**EPC/21-22/010** **Matters arising**  
**EPC/21-22/003 Waste Management Policy:** the draft one-page memo (which will accompany the Waste Management Policy when it is submitted to Board) has been circulated to the Committee; approval and/or feedback is requested via email by 20 October 2021.

### Section A

**EPC/21-22/011** **Old Library Redevelopment Project – Interim Exhibition**  
Librarian, Ms Helen Shenton (Project Sponsor for OLRP), Head of Capital Projects & Planning, Mr Greg Power joined for this item.  
The Bursar presented the item, and then invited questions or comments from the Committee.

- The tight timeline of the project was noted.
- Support for the proposal was expressed by some of the Committee.
- An objection was raised on behalf of postgraduate student athletes, noted as one of the larger user groups of College Park, the area proposed as the location of the Interim Exhibition. It was noted that this user group has not yet been consulted regarding this proposed use of College Park, and student athletes are raising their concerns with the Graduate Students Union. In response, it was noted that the Provost has engaged with the Dublin University Central Athletic Club (DUCAC), Trinity Sports, the Students Union and the Graduate Students Union, and a further stakeholder meeting with the Provost and Bursar is being planned. The need to include the members of the sports teams/clubs in the messaging on this project was



acknowledged. The potential for the proposed changes to have serious impact on the wellbeing of student athletes, particularly after the long period of Covid restrictions, was raised; in response to this point, the timeline of the construction of the Interim Exhibition space was noted – the changes to College Park are not scheduled to happen until Spring 2023. The Bursar offered to meet with the Presidents of the Graduate Students Union and Students Union to discuss concerns, and discuss how best to engage with students on this matter. The correlation between the Interim Exhibition project and the conservation aims of the Old Library Redevelopment Project was noted. The Librarian offered to take sports stakeholders on a tour of the Long Room.

- A request was raised regarding the potential for a broadened-out consultation on alternative locations for the Interim Exhibition; in particular, the area to the rear of the Ussher Library facing onto Nassau Street was mentioned. In response, it was noted that the area to the rear of the Arts Building was previously longlisted as a potential location for the Interim Exhibition; analysis of this space determined that use of this space for the Interim Exhibition would entail significant logistical issues and prohibitive cost. It was further noted that Dublin City Council have suggested College Park as a location for the Interim Exhibition, and proposing alternative locations at this stage would endanger the tight timeline of the project. The positive working relationship with Dublin City Council on the Old Library Development Project was noted.
- A query was raised regarding why New Square was not selected as a location for the Interim Exhibition. In response it was noted that Dublin City Council's planners took the historic context and significance of New Square into consideration when looking at this option and deemed it unsuitable for planning permission.
- The longevity and sustainability of the investment in the Interim Exhibition was raised, with a query on whether it would be possible to create a permanent exhibition. In response it was noted that the sustainability aspects of the proposed Interim Exhibition are well-documented. It was further noted that if planning permission for the Interim Exhibition structure is granted, it is likely that a time limit will be set on the use of the structure.
- Library staff were mentioned as a stakeholder group that will be consulted; this was noted as positive. The potential impact on Library staff and users was noted. It was proposed that the presentation to Board include detail on aspects related to traffic control and crowd control, impact on security, and potential noise pollution, as well as details on the proposed height of the structure. It was further noted as an opportunity to address some existing issues in the surrounding area e.g. the drawbridge. In response, it was noted that a light survey is being conducted to assess potential impact on the Library; Estates & Facilities are awaiting the results of this survey, and if available, these results will form part of the report to Board.



The Chair requested that the Committee decide whether to approve this project to proceed to Board. One dissent was recorded.

The Chair thanked the attendees and the Committee, and closed the meeting.

**Action** The project is approved to proceed to Board, with the recommendation that the presentation to Board include:

- detail on how aspects such as traffic control and crowd control, impact on security, and potential noise pollution will be examined and addressed.
  - details on the proposed height of the structure.
- One dissent was recorded.

**EPC/21-22/011/001** The Bursar to propose a follow-up meeting with the Presidents of the Graduate Students Union and Students Union to discuss concerns and discuss how best to engage with students on this matter.

**EPC/21-22/011/002** The Librarian to propose a tour of the Long Room to sports stakeholders.

**Section B – no items**

**Section C – no items**

**EPC/21-22/012** **Next meetings**  
Upcoming meetings are scheduled for  
09 December 10.00-12.00  
14 March 14.00-16.00  
09 June 14.00-16.00

**EPC/21-22/013** **AOB**

**Rachel Mathews-McKay – Chair**