NOTE OF KEY POINTS

- In an update on developments around Machinery of Government changes to date, Council logged concerns around: Local Authority engagement and capacity; the potential for a “confused landscape”; the danger of delayed decisions leading to stasis
- 500 applications had been received for membership of the new Regional Councils and 80 applications for Chairs
- The Finance and Performance report revealed that underspend was up marginally at 4.5%, although it was expected to reduce to around 0.5% by the end of the financial year following management action and significant work with the Departments. Remaining underspend would be reapplied to programmes in the current year
- Council noted that a Train to Gain trajectory action plan was to be submitted to Ministers. As there was some concern around the feasibility of achieving the trajectories despite the huge amount of hard work which had been going on around the country, members asked that these concerns be reflected in the submission to Ministers
- An update on the many positive developments around Apprenticeships was well received, and members asked to see a draft structure for the NAS as soon as possible
- In a discussion on risk management, Council welcomed Verity Bullough’s appointment as Chair of the Risk Management Board. She planned to refresh the way in which risks are identified and managed and to make greater use of the management structure, ensuring risks are owned by the appropriate executive board
- Council noted a report giving a brief history and position statement about the Adult Learning and Skills Strategy
- A report on Learner Support and related issues was very well received but time constraints meant that the item was not discussed in detail. It was agreed that Council would return to the issue at a later meeting
- Council approved two detailed and five in principle capital applications.