# UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

## Summary Report of Council 1: 20 November 2019

The University Council met on 20 November 2019. The meeting was preceded by a presentation from Dr Sahdia Parveen, Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Applied Dementia on the Caregiving HOPE study: https://www.bradford.ac.uk/dementia/research/caregiving-hope/

This paper provides a high-level summary of the business considered by Council, which will be published on the University website. This is not a formal record of the Council meeting but presents an update on matters discussed by the University's governing body.

Baroness Ann Taylor
Chair of Council

### 1 Institutional Key Performance Indicators

Council considered a report on the latest performance against the University's agreed KPIs. Council noted that a new set of KPIs would be developed to support the new University Strategy.

### 2 University financial results 2018/19 and annual financial statements 31/07/2019

Council considered and approved the consolidated Annual Financial Statements for the University for the year ended 31 July 2019 noting these were compliant with the Office for Students Accounts Direction. Council noted that the Financial Statements had been through an iterative process and had been subject to considerable scrutiny by Executive Board and the Finance and Audit Committees.

### 3 Updated Financial Strategy 2019/20-2022/23

Council considered and approved the University's Financial Strategy 2019/20-2022/23 which had been updated to reflect 2018/19 performance and developments over the last 12 months. The Financial Strategy was focussed on supporting the continued viability and sustainability of the University.

### 4 Prevent Update and Accountability and Data Return

Council considered and approved the University's Prevent statement and data return for submission to the Office for Students and authorised the Chair of Council to sign the statement of declaration on its behalf.

### 5 Academic Quality and Standards: Institutional Overview

Council considered a report on the University's current framework and processes for monitoring, assuring and enhancing academic quality and standards and agreed that it provided appropriate assurance on the robustness of the University's current management of academic quality and standards as required by its ongoing conditions of registration with the Office for Students. Council also discussed the work being undertaken to enhance the

monitoring and reporting on academic quality lead indicators under the regulatory framework, how any risks around managing academic quality at the University were being mitigated, and the priority action required to ensure the University could continue to demonstrate compliance with the regulatory framework.

**6      Research Concordat**

Council considered a report on the University's current and future activities which demonstrated compliance with the Universities UK Concordat to support Research Integrity, a national framework for good research conduct and governance. Compliance with the Concordat was part of the University Annual Accountability Return to the Office for Students.

**7      Modern Slavery Statement**

Council considered and approved the University's Modern Slavery Statement for the 2019/20 academic year. The Statement was made pursuant to Section 54, Part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and set out the steps the University had taken and would take to mitigate any risk of modern slavery and human trafficking. Council noted that the statement would be published on the University website.

**8      Update on Ongoing Conditions of Registration and Enhanced Monitoring Arrangements**

Council received a report from the University Secretary which set out how the University was able to demonstrate compliance with its ongoing conditions of registration with the Office for Students. The University Secretary advised that the University's compliance would be kept under ongoing review and that regular reports to Executive Board, Audit Committee and Council would provide this assurance.

**9      Student Recruitment**

Council considered a report which provided an update on enrolment numbers of full-time undergraduate and postgraduate taught Home/EU and international students for the 2019/20 entry cycle. The paper showed an overall positive position against planned new intake numbers and provided the estimated financial impact of variances to budget targets.  There was a significant focus on challenges and plans for the 2020 recruitment cycle and Council requested further detail. This would be presented to the Council in February.

**10     Risk Management Policy**

Council approved the University's Risk Management Policy for the 2019/20 academic year. The adequacy and effectiveness of risk management, control and governance was referenced in the Audit Committee Annual Report 2018/19 which formed part of the Annual Accountability Return to the Office for Students.

**11     National Student Survey 2020**

Council considered a report on the NSS and endorsed the proposals for delivering on the University's ambition to enhance the student experience in 2019/20. The Executive

reaffirmed its commitment to deliver a consistent and high-quality student experience; this was welcomed by Council.

**Standing Items**

**12      Report from the Chair of Council**

The Chair provided a brief oral report on the volatile external environment and the challenges that continued to face the sector in relation to the current political turmoil and its impact on Higher Education.

**13      Report on Chair's Actions**

Council received a report which confirmed the action taken by the Chair of Council, Treasurer and Vice-Chancellor in relation to the completion of the new arrangements for The Green accommodation in accordance with the previous delegated authority by Council.

**14      Vice-Chancellor engagement and activities update**

Council received a report which summarised the Vice-Chancellor's engagement approach and activities (internal and external) since the last meeting of Council.

**15      Report from the University Secretary**

Council received an update from the University Secretary which summarised ongoing work relating to areas of governance pertinent to the work of Council and the University. Council noted the update and approved delegated authority for the Chair of Council and Treasurer to sign off the final form of submission for the annual financial and student number returns to the Office for Students in December 2019.

**16      Report from the Students' Union 2019/20 Student Leadership Team**

Council received a report from the UBU Student Leadership Team on current issues and recent activities which included an update on freshers' week, the election and training of Faculty and student representatives, and a new initiative which aimed to engagement undergraduate students in UBU projects.

**17      Business from Committees of Council, and Senate**

Council noted summary reports from Audit Committee, Finance Committee, Governance and Nominations Committee, Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee, Honorary Degrees Committee, Remuneration Committee, University Ethics Committee and Senate on issues discussed since the last meeting of the Council. In addition, Council approved:

- the Audit Committee Annual Report which covered the work undertaken by the Committee in its fulfilment of terms of reference and compliance with Office for Students requirements for the year to 31 July 2019 which would be submitted to the Office for Students;
- proposed revisions to the Scheme of Delegation;

- eight candidates for the receipt of honorary awards and the removal of one honorary award.

**18    Council received the following reports, for information:**

- Minutes from the Council meeting held on 10 July 2019;
- Implementation of the Access and Participation Plan;
- The Times Good University Guide and THE World University Rankings 2020 Edition;
- Draft Council 2 agenda;
- Council terms of reference and membership 2019/20;
- Council schedule of business for 2019/20;
- Industrial action update.

**19    Date of next Council meeting:**
Wednesday 26 February 2020

Jacqui Holgate, Assistant Head (Governance)
21 November 2019