

## EXTRACT of report to the Board of Governors

### HARPER UNIVERSITY

#### Board of Governors

#### Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

**Purpose:** To present a summary report of the meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 26 February 2020

1. The Committee was updated on bids for projects relating to carbon reduction that had been made to the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.
18. Members received and noted reports on the annual review of treasury management and the University's ethical investment policy. No major changes were proposed to either document. Members agreed to approve the Treasury Management Policy for 2019 20 but to ask that the Ethical Investment Policy be benchmarked against those used by other HEI's with a view to ascertaining whether or not further updates to the policy would be useful. The Board is asked to **ENDORSE** the Committee's decision.
19. Members welcomed the head of Estates and Facilities and the Environment and Sustainability Manager to the meeting to make a presentation on progress with the University's existing carbon management plan and proposals for a new Carbon Management Plan for the period 2020 to 2025. Members were pleased to note that the University had achieved a carbon reduction of 36% to date. This compared to a baseline aim of 20% and a stretch target of 42%. The focus of the next carbon management plan would be to address smaller scale projects which in some instances were likely to be eligible for salix loan funding which could be repaid over a reasonable period of time.
20. The University's performance remains comparable to other HEI's and it was recognised that managing student growth and development of the campus continued to be a challenge and it was therefore commendable that reductions had been achieved. Some HEI's were currently targeting zero carbon however they had not yet published clear plans to achieve this. It was also recognised that the Office for Students had recently been discussing whether it might reintroduce a similar approach as that taken by HEFCE to expecting HEI's in receipt of capital funding to be effectively achieving carbon savings. The University would need to report under SECR in its forthcoming annual report for year ending July 2020. Work to refresh the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and the work of the ESS group was also in hand. It was further recognised engagement with the farm team was key and the recently published toolkit for farms announced by NFU would be reviewed and discussed with the Farm Manager. The Committee agreed to approve the proposals for the revised Carbon Management Plan 2020 – 2025 noted that a formal copy of the document would be circulated via the Governors' Document Library in due course. Meanwhile, the presentation would be shared with Mr Bailey and Mr Tweed as Lead Governors for sustainability matters. The Board is asked to **ENDORSE** the Committee's decision.

Dr C E Baxter  
University Secretary  
March 2020