

**Key Messages from the Meeting of Council
on 6 July 2026**

Strategic Items

Budget	Council noted that the Budget showed an underlying operating deficit of £6.8m, representing a £4.3m improvement compared against the approved medium-term forecast. The University's financial position for 2026-27 would not be fully confirmed until student recruitment numbers were finalised in October. Student recruitment, in particular international student recruitment, remained a significant financial and strategic risk. Scenarios had been developed through the student number setting process, including the recommended base case financial planning assumption for the 2026-27 Budget, and additional mitigations available in the event of further downside risk. Council approved the one-year budget for 2026-27, and the proposed fee levels for 2027 entry.
Cyber Programme and Information Governance Programme	The aim of the Information Security Programme was to provide treatments to address Strategic Risk 11 (failure to accurately create, securely manage, store, and protect data against information security risks). The Information Governance Programme had been structured into three phases and the first phase had commenced through a project managed jointly between the Information Governance and Cyber Security teams with assistance from NUIT Platforms and Services.

Approvals

Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedure	Council approved the University's updated Public Interest Policy and Procedure.
Report from Finance Committee	Council approved the policy landscape proposals and the updated Financial Regulations.
Report from Nominations Committee	Council approved the recommendations in the report.
Senior Appointments	The future leadership structure of both the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Research Culture (RC) portfolios were under consideration, and it was proposed the University revert to the previous model of two separate and dedicated Deanships. Council approved the recommendations in the report.

Reports

Vice-Chancellor's Business	Council received updates on: ▪ Death of former Vice-Chancellor, James Wright CBE ▪ University Rankings ▪ Higher Education Student Outcomes and Quality ▪ BEACON ▪ Government Investment in Defence Education ▪ Office for Students – Teaching Excellence Framework ▪ The Coimbra Group ▪ North East Spinout Inspire Fund ▪ Discover Festival ▪ Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences ▪ Honorary Professor of Practice
Additional reports considered by Council	▪ Summary of the meeting of Senate on 24 June 2026 ▪ Acceptance of Donation