Update on the DE Transformation Programme

James Hutchinson spoke to his paper and provided members with an update on the DE Transformation Programme, which covered:

- Vision for Transformation;
- Programme Design;
- Funding Position;
- Risk Management;
- Stakeholder Management;
- Strategic Partner;
- Challenges; and
- Priorities and Next Steps.

DE 2018/19 Corporate Risk Register & Risk Management

Fiona Hepper spoke to her paper and provided an update on risk management. The status of each risk was discussed, and there was agreement that a separate risk should be prepared to cover the two ICT projects being led by the Education Authority (EA), given the importance of these to the wider system.

Mid-Year report on 2018/19 Business Plan

Fiona Hepper presented the mid-year report on the DE Business Plan.

The Board discussed and noted the red and amber flagged actions.

It was noted that work on the mid-year position for NDPBs was underway; any issues that come to light will be included in the next paper to the Board on progress with Business Plans.
**HR Report**
Sarah Wilson presented the HR Report; the following key points were discussed.

- In November 2018, DE will be asked to forecast recruitment and trawl/interest circular competitions for 2019/20, and in early 2019 a new process to support workforce planning and forecasting will be introduced.

- DE sickness absence is on the upward trend. The following new NICS initiatives are being introduced to try to address the increasing level of sickness absence: improved accessibility of resources relating to Mental Health illness; enhancing early intervention measures; prioritisation of cases referred to OHS.

- Work is underway in NICS HR to standardise Employee Relations policies and procedures.

**Director of Finance Report**
Gary Fair spoke to his paper and provided members with an update on key financial issues, which included:

- The current NI Affairs Committee inquiry into education funding in Northern Ireland;
- 2018/19 Resource Budget;
- EA Block Grant Pressures;
- Earmarked Allocations;
- 2018/19 October Monitoring;
- 2018/19 Capital Budget;
- Fresh Start Programme 2018/19;
- 2019/21 Budget Information Gathering Exercise;
- Update on Annual Accounts;
- DE Contracts;
- DE Direct Award Contracts; and
- High Risk EA IT Projects

**Report from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) Meeting on 26 September 2018**
Joan McEwan updated members on the key areas discussed at the ARAC meeting on 26 September 2018.

**Impact of the UK leaving the EU on Education in NI**

The Board noted the update paper.