



# Chair's Report to 19<sup>th</sup> AGM, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The 18<sup>th</sup> AGM was held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Woburn House in London. That AGM reviewed the first full year of operation of the LMN-sponsored UCISA London Group and considered the options for the future of LMN. A straw poll of members gave a unanimous endorsement for the following option:

*when current commitments are complete, wind up the company and transfer the remaining assets to another organisation that can continue LMN's mission in a more efficient manner (an option considered by members in 2011 but rejected because no suitable organisation was found)*

Since that AGM, the LMN Board has considered in some detail how this aspiration might be implemented, resulting in two Special Resolutions that are before the membership today:

1. A proposal to enter into a Grant Agreement with UCISA:

[https://www.lmn.net.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-03-01\\_LMN-UCISA\\_Grant-Agreement.pdf](https://www.lmn.net.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-03-01_LMN-UCISA_Grant-Agreement.pdf)

2. That, subject to Special Resolution 1 being approved, the London Metropolitan Network Limited company limited by guarantee is liquidated by 30th September 2019.

Members have been provided with a copy of the Grant Agreement and a vote will be taken on these two resolutions, during this meeting.

The Board recommends these proposals to the members. The UCISA London Group is proving to be a successful initiative, supporting good practice in ICT in London education institutions; networking between ICT professionals in those institutions; and good collaboration between HE, FE and SFC members of the group. UCISA, as a Charity, is a sound organisation to take over LMN's remit, using its strategic reserves and there is no obvious benefit to continuing to run LMN as a separate organisation, incurring an administrative overhead of around £16,000 p.a.

## Continued operation of the UCISA London Group

The London Group met six times in 2018: January; March; April (including AGM); June; September; and November. It has already met once in 2019 (January) with

further meetings today (following the AGM); May; June; September; and November. A break-out session will be held at the UCISA19 Leadership Conference for attendees interested in the development of UCISA regional groups.

Attendance at the meetings has been good, with a wide range of topics covered. Full details of the meetings are held on the UCISA web site (<https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/groups/london>).

LMN also co-sponsored (with UCISA) a "CIO+1" meeting at City, University of London, part of a well-received series of events led by Claire Priestley (City, University of London CIO) to encourage senior IT leaders to bring along their rising stars, especially from under-represented groups to meet others and gain confidence to move up the management ladder.

## London Group governance

In line with the agreement between LMN and UCISA, the operation of the London Group is overseen by a Steering Group. This group includes members of the LMN Board, the UCISA Trustees and UCISA staff. The group met twice in 2018 and more recently members of UCISA have met with the whole LMN Board to negotiate the proposed Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement sets out the proposed new governance arrangements for the London Group.

## Signing off

If the proposals in front of members today are approved, this will likely be the final LMN AGM. There may be members here today who were at the first AGM of LMN, held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2000 at Birkbeck College, Malet Street London or who have followed the progress of the company over the ensuing 19 years. If so, perhaps there will be time for reminiscences at the drinks reception that follows today's London Group meeting.

By passing the baton to UCISA, UCISA London will be in good hands. We have seen over the past year how membership has increased from a wider section of the London education community and the level of engagement at each event has demonstrated the need for this shared network of expertise. The Grant Agreement assures members that the objectives of the LMN remain, and the representation on the UCISA governance will ensure that the needs of the UCISA London Group have an effective voice at the highest levels of UCISA.

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members and Steering Group Members for giving up their time freely to help plan this transition for the benefit of the London Further and Higher Education IT community.

Darren Tysoe

Chair

20<sup>th</sup> March 2019