

External Board Review 2024

An External Board Review was carried out during 2023/24 by Rob Lawson OBE using the AoC review framework. Rob is the Chair of Hull College and a National Leader of Governance appointed by the office of the FE Commissioner.

The review concluded:

- There is evidence the Board is proficient and has some impact on college strategy, effectiveness and outcomes

The following table summarises some of the headline strengths and areas for development identified in the review:

	STRENGTHS	AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT
BOARD COMPOSITION		
	<p>Excellent chairs and strong representation in terms of HR and estates/property</p> <p>A senior independent director as a governor gives the Board an extra level of independence, supports the Chair and acts as an intermediary for other governors if/when needed</p>	<p>An additional qualified accountant is needed on the Board.</p> <p>The Board needs to be more diverse to increase the knowledge of students' life experiences.</p>
BOARD STRUCTURE		
	<p>Effective and well-developed committee structure</p> <p>Agendas, minute reporting and particularly good cover sheets</p> <p>Evaluation and processes of governance</p> <p>Approach to risk</p>	<p>Governors would like more opportunities to meet students</p> <p>Attendance at some committees could be improved, particularly by the associate governors</p>
BOARD INTERACTION		
	<p>Great examples of scrutiny and challenge</p> <p>Good induction programme</p>	<p>Triumvirate relationship between Chair, Director of Governance and incoming CEO/Principal will need to be developed.</p>

Following the review an action plan was drawn up which encompassed the recommendations from the External Board Review and the College's own self-assessment. Progress on this was reviewed by the Board's Governance Remuneration and Search Committee and assessed in the Board's Self-Assessment.

A follow up of the External Board Review will be carried out by Rob Lawson in the Autumn Term of 2024/25.