



Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on Tuesday, 11 November 2025 at 4.00 pm in A325 at Old Mill Lane

Present:

Marie Lang (Chair)
David Akeroyd (Principal and CEO)
Carol Cooper-Smith (Governor)
Samantha Dixon (Governor)
Leon Etherington (Governor)
George Graham (Governor)
Tracey Johnson (Governor)
Jo Mallows (Governor)
Matt Mills (Governor)
Kalem Neale (Governor)
Megan Orrow (Student Governor) via Teams
Carrie Sudbury (Governor)
Steven Birknshaw (Staff Governor)

In attendance:

Hayley Allsopp (Vice Principal Curriculum and Student Experience)
Gavin Batty (Deputy Chief Executive)
Geraldine Hulley (Interim Clerk to the Corporation)
Tony Johnson (Vice Principal Corporate Services)
Laila Lawton (Chief Financial Officer)
Sue Slassor (Vice Principal Quality)

Minute	
PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
B25/163	Agenda Item No 2: Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Carly Speechley, Gavin Day, Ethan Sumner, Donavan Hutchinson, Kayleigh Bell and Leo Hibberd.
B25/164	Agenda Item No 3: Governor Appointment Following a recommendation from the Governance and Search Committee, the appointment of Kalem Neale for a second term of office was approved. It was RESOLVED to appoint Kalem Neale as an independent governor for a second term commencing 11 November 2025. Kalam Neale joined the meeting
B25/165	Agenda Item No 4: Declarations of Interest There were no additional declarations of interest to those noted previously.

B25/166	Agenda Item No 5: Minutes of previous meetings It was RESOLVED to approve the Corporation minutes from 3 and 8 July; and, 7 October 2025.
B25/167	Agenda Item No 6: Matters Arising There were no matters arising.
B25/168	Agenda Item No 7: Rolling Action List The Governors noted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B25/038 – Deep dives: Areas had been agreed in October. A light touch approach to C-STEM had also been agreed. - B25/130a – Link Governors: Responsibilities had been allocated and the Director of Governance would make contact once in post. Governors who were not a link governor were encouraged to be involved in the proposed deep dives. - B25/130 – Careers Programme: this would be discussed at future meetings. - All other actions had either been completed or were in progress. It was RESOLVED to note the Rolling Action List.
B25/169	Agenda Item No 8: Notification of any other items of business No additional items of business had been requested.
MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION	
B25/170	Agenda Item No 36: Principal/CEO's Report Governors noted the Principal/CEO's Report and extended their congratulations to everyone on the College's achievements in the UK Green Gown Awards. The College had won the Student Engagement category and was Highly Commended for two other Awards: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Sustainability; and, Campus Health, Food and Drink. It was agreed that the presentation from the Annual Strategic Conversation would be made available in the document library. It was RESOLVED to receive the Principal/CEO's Report.
B25/171	Agenda Item No 37: Learner Recruitment Update The Deputy Chief Executive presented the Learner Recruitment Update. Governors noted the current position for student recruitment against targets as at 13 October 2025. FE applications from Barnsley Schools remained high. Adult Skills Activity was on track; the Adult Learner Loan target was also expected to be met albeit there had been a slow start. Apprenticeship recruitment numbers were behind quarter one profile, but additional apprentices were in the pipeline. Higher Education recruitment was below target but numbers were higher compared to the previous year.

	<p>Governors noted the opportunities available to increase numbers through alternative delivery methods which may be more attractive to certain subjects. This would be explored over time.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the Learner Recruitment Update.</p>
B25/172	<p>Agenda Item No 38: Quarterly LSIP Update</p> <p>The Deputy CEO presented the Quarterly LSIP Update. Governors noted the report and agreed it provided a suitable update on the closure of the 2-year project and associated assurances.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive the Quarterly LSIP Update.</p>
B25/173	<p>Agenda Item No 39: Capital Projects Update</p> <p>The Chief Financial Officer presented the report on the Capital Projects Update.</p> <p>Governors were informed that the College had been successful in securing a capital funding application to the Officer for Students (OfS) of £1.8m for phase 2 works and equipment. This would provide an opportunity to improve the specification of some areas in the original phase 2 project. The cost of the works and additional equipment was £650k and would increase the original budget to £3.15m.</p> <p>Governors noted progress with the other projects.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the change to the scope and approved the revised budget of £3.15m.</p>
B25/174	<p>Agenda Item No 40: 2024-25 Draft Financial Outturn</p> <p>Governors noted the report on the Draft Financial Outturn for 2024-25. It was agreed to hold a separate discussion in Part 2.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive the Draft Financial Outturn 2024-25</p>
B25/175	<p>Agenda Item No 41: Balanced Scorecard 2024-25 (Closure)</p> <p>Governors noted the Balanced Scorecard 2024-25 and agreed that it provided a review of the Quarter 4 performance and year-end closure against objectives in the Balanced Scorecard.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the Balanced Scorecard 2024-25.</p>
B25/176	<p>Agenda Item No 42: Board Assurance Framework (Quarter 4)</p> <p>The Vice Principal Corporate Services presented the Board Assurance Framework for Quarter 4. Governors noted the report and agreed that it provided assurance against objective 4.1: regularity and propriety requirements – risk management.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the Board Assurance Framework.</p>
B25/177	<p>Agenda Item No 43: Student Surveys - FE</p> <p>The Vice Principal Quality presented the report on Student Surveys FE.</p>

	<p>Governors noted the student surveys completed in 2024-25. Particular highlights included: the achievement of top quartile results in all induction categories; and, departmental analysis which highlighted consistently high performance in a number of areas. Governors also noted that student satisfaction had improved year-on-year. Survey completion was excellent at 92% plus.</p> <p>Governors noted that for the small number of areas that had scored less well in the exit survey, responses had been scrutinised and discussed with Heads of Department. Governors received assurance that there were no underlying issues; actions had been identified for each area and noted in Quality Improvement Plans.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the Student Surveys – FE.</p>
B25/178	<p>Agenda Item No 44: Student Surveys 2025 – NSS Report</p> <p>The Vice Principal Quality presented the Student Surveys 2025 – NSS report.</p> <p>The report presented an overview of student feedback on academic experience for a small number of HE students in their final year. There were 68 eligible students and a response rate of 89%. All main topic categories remained above the sector average with the exception of one area.</p> <p>Governors noted the positive results. Governors received assurance of the proactive approach the College would take to gather feedback in real time including student panels and committees. There was a whole range of ways in which HE students could have their voice heard and see that actions were being taken.</p> <p>The Vice Principal Quality agreed to complete further research into those students with a reported disability, mental health which had negative positivity compared to the sector.</p> <p>Governors noted the internal actions being taken for the wider HE student group who were not eligible for this survey. Confirmation was received that further work would be completed in relation to a small number of areas to fully understand the rationale.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the Student Survey 2025 – NSS report.</p>
B25/179	<p>Agenda Item No 45: Learner Destinations Report</p> <p>The Vice Principal Quality presented the report on Learner Destinations.</p> <p>The report presented a positive picture of destinations of 16-18 year olds. Over 85% of students secured positive destinations; 83% of sixth form students who achieved their first-choice university; and, 29% gaining places at Russell Group universities.</p> <p>Governors noted the definition of neutral destination which was often led by student choice. This could be due to a gap year, travelling or a change in</p>

	<p>personal circumstances. Although neutral as a destination, governors agreed this was also a positive for an individual.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the Learner Destinations report.</p>
B25/180	<p>Agenda Item No 46: Graduate Outcomes</p> <p>The Vice Principal Quality presented the report on Graduate Outcomes for the HE students who completed studies in 2022-23. The report confirmed that 170 students were eligible and responses were broadly in line with national trends. Progression data was strong.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive the report on Graduate Outcomes.</p>
B25/181	<p>Agenda Item No 47: Analysis of External Verifier Reports</p> <p>The Vice Principal Quality presented the Analysis of External Verifier Reports.</p> <p>Governors noted assurance from the report that the College's assessment and internal quality assurance processes met national standards. This was verified by 100 external quality assurance and moderation reports received in the academic year 2024-25. All eligible qualifications achieved maintaining Direct Claim Status and there were no awarding organisation blocks or sanctions in place.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive the Analysis of External Verifier Reports.</p>
B25/182	<p>Agenda Item No 48: Complaints</p> <p>Governors noted the Complaints' report commenting it was very positive especially in relation to Apprenticeships. In response to a question about the process for complaints, governors were informed that induction covered the complaints' process. Advice to students was very much about talking to their tutors and, if necessary, at department level.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to receive the report on Complaints.</p>
B25/183	<p>Agenda Items No 49 and 50: Review of Board Effectiveness; Student Voice and Link Governors</p> <p>Governors noted that the Director of Governance would be starting in her role on 24 November 2025. At that point, both agenda items would be picked up at that time. In the meantime, Link Governors could liaise with Sarah Fox to arrange any visits. The Chair highlighted the importance of accessing existing information and data on the Team engine for the purposes of pre-reading for an area.</p> <p>The Corporation noted that for those governors who would be involved in deep dives, the Chair and Principal/CEO would discuss priorities and timings.</p> <p>Governors also noted that the Board effectiveness review would now begin at the strategic away day. This would be confirmed in December 2025.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the report on Review of Board Effectiveness; and, Student Voice and Link Governors.</p>

B25/184	<p>Agenda No 51: Reflections</p> <p>Governors noted that the meeting on the 6 November was chaired very well and found the pace of the meeting to be acceptable. There was a need to give consideration to the December meetings in terms of having sufficient time for discussions.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the Corporation's reflections.</p>
B25/185	<p>Agenda item No 52: Northern College Update</p> <p>The Principal/CEO and Chair confirmed that a meeting had been held with the Northern College Corporation at the end of October 2025. This had been an ideal opportunity for Barnsley College to set out its vision for the merged College in terms of vision, culture and to outline the specific work of the 6FC. This was particularly helpful to bring to life the operational workings of a Department. As a result of the meeting, further discussion was held around any remaining points of clarification in relation to the Memorandum of Understanding. The Northern College Corporation approved the MOU at its Board meeting later that day.</p> <p>Transition Board meetings had been held; the public consultation was launched and due to close on 17 November. The Corporation noted progress that was being made with: TUPE consultation due to start on 24 November; financial and legal due diligence work being undertaken on both sites; discussion with BMBC in relation to the main house; options for underwriting the USS pension as BC or NC would not be paying this debt. The operational workstreams were working well and giving NC staff opportunities to find out about the benefits of the merger. The BC Principal/CEO would be involved in any announcement about changes at a senior level and to answer any questions from staff.</p> <p>Any future Board approvals would require any red lines to be resolved be given in principle agreement subject to an acceptable solution to any unresolved issues.</p> <p>In response to a question about communications, Governors noted the current work of the marketing workstream which was leading on communications together with the future plans to manage this effectively.</p> <p>Governors noted the arrangements for the formal response to any feedback received from the public consultation. This would be published by 17 January 2026.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the report on the merger update.</p> <p>Carol Cooper-Smith, Stephen Burkinshaw and Megan Orrow left the meeting.</p>