



**Minutes of the online meeting of the Board of Governors held on Thursday 15 May 2025
at 1pm at Barnsley College**

Present: Simon Perryman (Chair)
David Akeroyd (Principal and CEO)
Kayleigh Bell (Staff Governor)
Billy Cowley (Student Governor)
Gavin Day (Governor)
Tracey Johnson (Governor)
Marie Lang (Vice Chair)
Kalam Neale (Governor)
Carly Speechley (Governor)
Carrie Sudbury (Governor)

In attendance: Hayley Allsopp (Vice Principal – Students)
Gavin Batty (Deputy CEO)
Shaun Cook (Vice Principal – Curriculum)
Heather Jackson (Director of Governance and Clerk to the Board)
Tony Johnson (Vice Principal – Corporate Services)
Laila Lawton (Vice Principal Finance)
Sue Slassor (Vice Principal – Quality)

Part I

Minute	
PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
B25/044	Agenda Item No. 1: Quoracy The meeting was quorate.
B25/045	Agenda Item No. 2: Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Matt Mills, Jo Mallows, Carol Cooper-Smith, Steven Burkinshaw and George Graham

B25/046	<p>Agenda Item No. 3: Declarations of interest</p> <p>Helen Jaggard declared her interest as a Director of ITS and Smartstyle. Carol Coop-Smith declared her interest as a Director of ITS, Smartstyle, BCDC and Think. David Akeroyd declared his interest as a Director of ITS, Smartstyle, BCDC, ITrust and Think. Hayley Allsopp declared her interest as a Director of iTrust, Gavin Batty declared his interest as Director of Think. Heather Jackson declared her interest as Company Secretary of ITS, Smartstyle, BCDC, iTrust and Think. Tracey Johnson declared her interested as her role was funded by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.</p>
B25/047	<p>Agenda Item No. 4: Register of Interests</p> <p>The Board noted the register of interests.</p>
B25/048	<p>Agenda Item No. 5 – Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March and notes from the meeting held on 29 April 2025.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March and the notes from the meeting held on 29 April which were not for publication.</p>
B25/049	<p>Agenda Item No. 6: Matters arising from the last meeting.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
B25/050	<p>Agenda Item No. 7: Rolling Action List</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to update and note the Rolling Action List.</p>
B25/051	<p>Agenda Item No. 8: Assurance Based Governance</p> <p>Governors noted the update to the Assurance Based Governance monitoring table and noted the assurance that it provided in relation to the instruments and articles of Government and performance against the Code of Good Governance.</p>
B25/052	<p>Agenda Item No. 9: Notification of items of any other business</p> <p>There were no other items of business.</p>

B25/053	<p>Agenda Item No. 10: Capital Update</p> <p>The Chief Financial Officer provided an update on the Capital Projects.</p> <p>Governors noted the challenges with the IoT project, particularly around costs and progress with a significant discrepancy between the contractor's valuation and the assessment undertaken by the College's consultants. The College also believes that the contractors are further behind than they are currently advising. The College had tendered for Phase 2 of the project and Governors noted the risks around new contractors working with the existing company and the need for good project management. Governors noted that there would be minimum disruption as most of the works would have been completed. It was noted that the DfE IoT Capital team were being kept abreast of the situation and remain supportive.</p> <p>Governors noted that two key issues had become known once the work at Eastgate commenced including issues with the roof and with the fixed wire tests remedial work required.</p> <p>Governors noted the proposed changes to the Sports Academy reception work.</p> <p>Governors noted that the college had been allocated £1m from the College reclassification capital fund. And £2.8m from the College Capital Transformation Fund in 2023. The transformation fund must be spent by March 2026 and funds have already been spent at the CUBE and Sixth firm, the remainder would now be allocated to Eastgate. Honeywell building issues would be financed through cash reserves or the £2.2m recently allocated Further Education College Capital Allocation grant alongside a Clean Energy Centre covered in a separate paper.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the update.</p>
B25/054	<p>Agenda Item No. 11: Financial Approvals</p> <p>The Chief Financial Officer presented the financial approvals report.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the transactions contained in the report and appendix including departures from standard procurement.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to renew the contract with MHR for the continuation of its existing iTrent HR system for a period of three years at a total cost of £381k.</p>

	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve the implementation of a new backup and disaster recovery solution for the College, offered as a managed service for a three-year agreement at a total cost of £132k.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to give approval to the College to sign a guarantee for the lease at Mansfield to transfer the lease to VWN, if the surrender of the lease does not happen.</p>
B25/055	<p>Agenda Item No. 12: Management Accounts</p> <p>The Chief Financial Officer presented the Management Accounts.</p> <p>Governors noted that financial performance continues to be strong this year and all three financial targets are projected to be met. Governors noted that agency staff costs and that these were never budgeted for.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the Management Accounts.</p>
B25/056	<p>Agenda Item No. 13: Sustainability Update</p> <p>The Chief Financial Officer presented an update on the College's Sustainability Strategy.</p> <p>Governors noted that there had been an increase in sustainability engagement including solidifying the College's position in the curriculum and the formation of two new working groups.</p> <p>Governors noted the very comprehensive update and actions being undertaken across the college.</p> <p>It was agreed that all new governors would also be asked to take part in the carbon literacy training.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the Sustainability Update</p>
B25/057	<p>Agenda Item No. 14: Subcontracting and Partnership Arrangements</p> <p>The Deputy CEO presented the subcontracting and partnership arrangements for 2025/26.</p> <p>Governors noted that the College subcontracts a small proportion of income each year. Any activity focuses on developing strategic relationships and specialist provision which adds value to the College's core offer.</p>

	<p>Governors discussed the report and agreed that it be retitled to more accurately reflect the data contained within it.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the report and approve the proposed subcontracting activity for 2025/26.</p>
B25/058	<p>Agenda Item No. 15: Qualification Achievement Rates (QAR) and Apprenticeships</p> <p>The Vice Principal Quality presented the Qualification Achievement Rates (QAR).</p> <p>At headline level, the College secured achievement rates that were above national rates for young people and adults. The achievement rate for young people increased but declined for adults although it remains high. The overall national achievement rate increased by c.1.3 percentage points from 84.2% to 85.5%. The College's overall achievement rate increased from 89.4% to 89.8%.</p> <p>For apprenticeships, the college was slightly above the improved national rate. The national rate increased significantly and the College's apprenticeships achievement rate decreased. Advanced and Higher level apprentices performed better than those on Level 2 apprenticeships.</p> <p>Governors discussed the results and the colleges plan to address the decline in some areas.</p> <p>It was agreed that volumes would be added in future report to present a clearer picture of the impact of some results.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the report and the assurance that it provides.</p>
B25/059	<p>Agenda Item No. 16: DfE Performance Tables</p> <p>The Vice Principal Quality presented the DfE performance tables.</p> <p>Governors noted the results and improvements in some areas as well as areas where more focus was required including students, especially those who leave after completing a Level 2 programme, need to be better prepared to remain in employment, Apprenticeships, or other educational settings.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to note the report and the work planned to enable students to remain in productive destinations.</p>

B25/060	<p>Agenda Item No. 17: Duty to Review – Annual Accountability Statement</p> <p>Governors noted the updated targets and accountability statement alongside the updated curriculum pathways. The final version would be uploaded onto the website and to the DfE before the end of June.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the annual accountability statement.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the Principal/CEO and Chair to sign the statement on behalf of Governors.</p>
B25/061	<p>Agenda Item No. 18: HE Fees Policy</p> <p>The Vice Principal Students presented the HE Fees Policy for approval.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the HE Fees Policy.</p>
B25/062	<p>Agenda Item No. 19: 19+ Learner Support Fund Policy</p> <p>The Vice Principal Students presented the 19+ Learner Support Fund Policy for approval.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the 19+ Learner Support Fund Policy.</p>
B25/063	<p>Agenda Item No. 20: HE Student Support Fund Policy</p> <p>The Vice Principal Students presented the HE Student Support Fund Policy for approval.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the HE Student Support Fund Policy.</p>
B25/064	<p>Agenda Item No. 21: 14-19 Learner Support Fund Policy</p> <p>The Vice Principal Students presented the 14-19 Learner Support Fund Policy for approval.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the HE Fees Policy.</p>
B25/065	<p>Agenda Item No. 22: Data Protection Policy</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Executive presented the Data Protection Policy</p>

	It was RESOLVED to approve the Data Protection Policy.
B25/066	Agenda Item No. 22: Subcontracting Policy The Deputy Chief Executive presented the Subcontracting Policy It was RESOLVED to approve the Subcontracting Policy.
B25/067	Agenda Item No. 24: Board Calendar, Annual Work Plan and Assurance Based Governance Model It was RESOLVED to approve the Board Calendar, Annual work plan and updates to the Assurance Based Governance Model.
B25/068	Agenda Item No. 25: Minutes of the ITS Board meeting held on 18 March 2025. It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the ITS Board meeting held on 18 March 2025.
B25/069	Agenda Item No. 26: Minutes of the BCDC Board Meeting held on 18 March 2025. It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the BCDC Board meeting held on 18 March 2025.
B25/070	Agenda Item No. 21: Link Governor Reports Governors noted the GDPR link governor report and how the various departments were working closely together. It was RESOLVED to note the Link Governor report and the assurance that it provided.
B25/071	Agenda Item No. 22: Regulatory Update Governors discussed the implications of the Weston College report. Relevant terms of reference would be reviewed and a more detailed discussion would be scheduled into the next Audit & Risk Committee.

	It was RESOLVED to note the regulatory update.
B25/072	Agenda Item No. 24: Good News Report It was RESOLVED to note the Good News Report.
B25/073	Agenda Item No.25: Date and time of next meeting of the Board 20 May 2025

The meeting closed at 13:35