



**Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors held on 18 March 2025 at 3pm at  
Barnsley College**

---

**Present:** Simon Perryman (Governor and Chair of Board)  
David Akeroyd (Principal and CEO)  
Kayleigh Bell (Staff Governor)  
Steven Burkinshaw (Staff Governor)  
Carol Cooper-Smith (Governor)  
Billy Cowley (Student Governor)  
Gavin Day (Governor)  
George Graham (Governor)  
Donovan Hutchinson (Governor)  
Helen Jaggard (Governor and Vice Chair)  
Tracey Johnson (Governor)  
Marie Lang (Governor and Vice Chair)  
Kalam Neale (Governor)  
Jo Mallows (Governor)  
Matt Mills (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)  
Tony Johnson (Vice Principal Corporate Services)  
Laila Lawton (Vice Principal Finance)  
Sue Slassor (Vice Principal Quality)

Part I

Minute	
<b>PROCEDURAL MATTERS</b>	
<b>B25/006</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 1: Quoracy</b>  The meeting was quorate.
<b>B25/007</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 2: Apologies for absence</b>

Minute	
	There were no apologies.
<b>B25/008</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 3: Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>Helen Jaggar declared her interest as a Director of ITS and Smartstyle. Carol Cooper-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. Gavin Batty declared his interest as Director of Think. Heather Jackson declared her interest as Company Secretary of ITS, Smartstyle, BCDC, iTrust and Think. Carly Speechley declared her interest in Part II as an employee of Barnsley Metropolitan District Council. Tracey Johnson declared her interested as her role was funded by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.</p>
<b>B25/009</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 4: Register of Interests</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Register of Interests</p>
<b>B25/010</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 5: Minutes of the meeting held on 5 &amp; 10 December 2024 and 21 January 2025</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 and 10 10 December 2024 and 21 January 2025.</p>
<b>B25/011</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 6: Matters arising from the last meeting.</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>
<b>B25/012</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 7: Rolling Action List</b></p> <p>The Clerk noted that the CSTEM update was covered as an agenda item and all other items were ongoing.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Rolling Action List.</p>
<b>B25/013</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 8: Assurance Based Governance</b>

Minute	
	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.
<b>B25/014</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 9: Any other business</b>  There was no other business.
<b>B25/015</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 10: Principal's report</b>  The Principal presented his report and noted the wide range of stakeholder engagement recently conducted. Governors also noted that staff were now being offered free breakfasts and free enrolment on any courses offered by the College.  The Principal updated governors on the Ofsted inspection (see Part II)  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Principal's report.
<b>B25/016</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 11: Balanced Scorecard Q2</b>  The Deputy CEO presented the Balanced Scorecard for Quarter 2.  Governors noted the positive performance with some measures requiring additional attention. All strategic goals are on track to be achieved by year end.  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Balanced Scorecard Q2.
<b>B25/017</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 12: Management Accounts</b>  The Chief Financial Officer presented the Management Accounts.  Governors noted that the College is marginally missing two of its three financial targets but is projected to achieve the EBITDA budget amount, maintaining good financial health as per the target grade.

Minute	
	<p>Total income was projected to exceed budget due to an increase in the Adult Skills Fund. Staff costs are also expected to be higher than budgeted due to agency costs and additional variable hours. It was noted that this was mainly due to supporting high needs income lines which were currently unconfirmed. Governors noted the impact of the pay award and national minimum wage increases.</p> <p>Governors noted that the College expected to receive an in-year allocation for distribution of the government's £50m and some cover for the increased costs of National Insurance.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Management Accounts.</p>
<b>B25/018</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 13: Financial Approvals</b></p> <p>The Chief Financial Officer presented the Financial Approvals report.</p> <p>Governors noted the proposed energy contract renewal for 12 months which was procured through an approved framework.</p> <p>Governors discussed the approach and its alignment with sustainability targets and it was agreed that the College would always have dilemmas on where to allocate money whilst ensuring the best possible student experience. It was agreed that the college should continue to look for green gas options but at this moment in time they agreed with the revised proposal from the Chief Financial Officer to source an energy contract without green gas options but with green electricity.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy contracts for a 12 month period up to an estimated £1.5m</li> <li>• The transactions contained in the report and appendix including departures from standard procurement.</li> </ul>
<b>B25/019</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No 14: Capital Update</b></p> <p>The Chief Financial Officer presented the Capital Update.</p> <p>It was noted that the IoT project was on schedule and within budget although some intervention from the college was needed to maintain the project programme. The College remains confident that it can reach agreement for the Phase 2 works to be complete with GF Tomlinson by</p>

Minute	
	<p>August 2025 but was undertaking contingency planning as detailed costs had yet to be received.</p> <p>The Eastgate refurbishment project had been tendered with STM360 selected as the preferred supplier and the Board was asked to approve their appointment and budget of £3m subject to programme agreement. The Board were also asked to approve STM360 to undertake minor reconfiguration work at the sports centre subject to the price being within the previously agreed £600k budget.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Capital Update.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the total Eastgate budget of £3m</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the appointment of STM360 as the main contractor on the Eastgate project subject to the agreement of a programme.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to instruct STM360 to carry out minor reconfiguration at the sports centre under the Eastgate contract, subject to the price being within the previously approved budget of £600k</p> <p>Carly Speechley joined the meeting at 15:46</p>
<b>B25/020</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 15: Strategic Seminar Feedback</b></p> <p>The Deputy CEO presented the Strategic Seminar Feedback.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Student Voice sessions had worked more effectively this year.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Strategic Seminar Feedback.</p>
<b>B25/021</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 16: Student Voice Seminar Feedback</b></p> <p>The Student Governor (FE) presented the Student Voice Seminar Feedback. Overall the feedback had been positive, students felt listened to and found it fun, they wanted more snacks and likes the 'bougie' venue. Students felt that Governors should ensure everyone had the opportunity to speak and that their views should be valued.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Student Voice Seminar Feedback.</p>

Minute	
<b>B25/022</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 17: Quality Improvement Plan</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the progress against the Quality Improvement Action Plan.</p>
<b>B25/023</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 18: GCSE maths and English November results</b></p> <p>GCSE maths and English November results had seen a 42.2% improvement in GCSE English and 26.9% in Maths with further improvements expected in the summer.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the outcomes of the November results.</p>
<b>B25/024</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 19: Staff Survey Results</b></p> <p>The response rate was consistent with recent surveys and higher than would usually be expected for a workplace staff survey. Average satisfaction has increased from the last survey and now sits at 92%, exceeding the balanced scorecard target.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Staff Survey Results.</p>
<b>B25/025</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 20: CSTEM Update</b></p> <p>Governors discussed performance and complaints and noted that it had been agreed that Governors would continue to monitor progress on CSTEM until the results session in October.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the update on progress across CSTEM.</p>
<b>B25/026</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 21: Subcontracting Performance</b></p> <p>The Deputy CEO presented an update on the current performance for College subcontractors.</p>

Minute	
	<p>It was noted that the College continues to subcontract a small proportion of overall funding, focusing on strategic relationships and specialist provisions that enhance its core offerings.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve a contract of £100k with T3 Training &amp; Development Ltd related to the Modern Methods of Construction Apprenticeship programme.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve an additional contract of £50k for rapid Response Telecoms for the Telecoms Field Operative Apprenticeship.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the current performance of subcontracted work.</p>
<b>B25/027</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 22: Appointment of External Auditors</b></p> <p>The Chair of the Audit Committee noted that a tender process had been undertaken and two companies had been invited to present to a small group including staff from the finance team as well as member of the audit and risk committee. The Committee proposed that Beever and Struthers be appointed for an initial period of two years up to a maximum of five years.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the appointment of Beever and Struthers as external auditors for an initial period of two years up to a maximum of five years.</p>
<b>B25/028</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 23: Risk and Audit Committee Minutes 4 March 2025</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the minutes of the Risk and Audit Committee held on 4 March 2025.</p>
<b>B25/029</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 24: Regulatory Update</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Regulatory Update.</p>
<b>B25/030</b>	<p><b>Agenda Item No. 25: Link Visit Report</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Link reports into Equality and Diversity. Apprenticeships, Sixth Form and Safeguarding and the assurance that they provided.</p>

Minute	
<b>B25/031</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 26: Good News Report</b>  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Good News Report.
<b>B25/032</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 27: Balanced Scorecard – outcome of the Strategic Seminar</b>  The Deputy CEO presented the Balanced Scorecard noting the new measures agreed at the seminar and their alignment to the strategic priorities.  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the Balanced Scorecard for 2025/26
<b>B25/033</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 28: Special Educational Needs Provision</b>  The Vice Principal Students presented an update for Governors on the range of special needs provision that the College offered.  Governors noted that the largest priority currently was autism and all staff were now required to undertake Autism awareness training.  Governors commended the work that the College does, they were surprised at the numbers and the spread across the college and discussed challenges around resources and funding in the future. It was also noted that there were lots of students with undiagnosed support needs.  Governors noted the funding differences and that high needs top up funding needs to be evidenced through an EHCP in Barnsley.  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to note the Special Educational Needs Provision Update.  Donavan Hutchinson left the meeting at 16:32
<b>B25/034</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.29: Date and time of next meetings of the Board</b>  <b>4pm 29 April 2025 – Creative Session – Accountability Statement and Duty to Review</b> <b>4pm 20 May 2025 –Policies</b> <b>4pm 8 July 2025 – Budget Approval</b>



