



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 an experienced National Leader of Governance appointed by the office of the FE Commissioner. The review started in April 2024 and was concluded at the Board meeting in July, when the findings were presented to Governors.

The review involved a Governor survey, one to one interviews with Board members, members of the Executive Management Team and the Head of Governance; observation of a number of Board, Committee and Task & Finish Group meetings and an extensive review of relevant documentation.

The review concluded that 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 A good mix of skills and experience on the Board with finance, health and housing being particular strengths.	Address the current gender imbalance.
Governors are curious, express commitment to the college and are ambitious for students.	Progress the recruitment of a governor with FE experience and another from the local business community. The recruitment of a second student governor would also benefit the Board.
Board Structure Key documentation relating to governance practice is in place and well written.	Policy or process needed to address consistent non-attendance.

Minutes, including notes of support and challenge are easy to understand with decisions taken and action points made very clear.

Explore how to reduce the volume of papers.

Board Interaction

Good examples of scrutiny and challenge. Board and executive team work well together, as do governors.

Challenge could be more widespread on the Board.

Interactions between governors are good-natured, respectful and courteous.

The college's strategic plan needs to be clearer to governors.