

Finance and General Purposes Committee – Terms of Reference – 2026/2027

Purpose:

The purpose of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is to assist the Corporation Board in its oversight role of the Finance, IT, Sustainability, Subcontracting, Estates, Partnership, Data Protection / Cyber Security, and Brand, Marketing and Communications functions to ensure that the College's strategic objectives are achieved. The Committee must be assured that all relevant legal and compliance requirements are being met.

The Committee's role is to provide assurance and challenge, rather than operational oversight.

Authority:

The Committee is established in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Articles of Government, known as "The Finance and General Purposes Committee".

The Committee's actions are open to scrutiny and approval by the full Corporation. The delegation of functions does not absolve the Corporation from accountability for the conduct and decisions of its committees. The Corporation remains responsible for the proper conduct of the College for undertaking its duties under the instruments and articles of government and for complying with the other legislation to which it is subject. The Terms of Reference of the Committee may be varied at any time by the Corporation.

Where there is delegated authority for approval, this must be in line with the Board approved College Strategy and relevant underpinning strategies, any deviation from this must be referred to the Board.

Remit:

The Board has delegated responsibility to the Committee to:

Finance

Recommend:

- The Finance Strategy for Board approval. **Reporting: Finance Strategy.**
- The Procurement Strategy for Board approval. **Reporting: Procurement Strategy.**
- The annual budget for Board approval and the College Financial Forecasting Return. **Reporting: Annual Budget.**

Have strategic oversight of:

- The management accounts, ensuring all committee members are able to digest and understand the information provided, ensuring that progress is being made towards securing the approved budget and monitoring cash flow. **Reporting: Management Accounts.**

- Medium and long term financial sustainability, efficiency and value for money and financial resilience under different scenarios. **Reporting: Management Accounts, Budget Preparations, Tender / Project Approvals and Budget.**
- Compliance with loan covenants. **Reporting: Management Accounts.**
- The development, implementation and delivery of the College's Financial Strategy (following recommendation and Board approval) and associated delivery plans, and monitoring of relevant KPIs. **Reporting: Various reporting.**
- The development, implementation and delivery of the College's Procurement Strategy (following recommendation and Board approval) and associated delivery plans, and monitoring of relevant KPIs. **Reporting: Procurement Annual Report.**
- Financial matters including, pensions, purchasing, investment and borrowing, ahead of seeking Board approval where required. **Reporting: Various Updates.**
- The budget setting process and progress, including understanding the key assumptions and risk factors. **Reporting: Update on Draft Budget.**
- In-year and future assumptions relating to Learner Recruitment and the financial impact of this. **Reporting: Management Accounts, Learner Recruitment.**

Annual Financial Statements and Accounts

Recommend:

- The annual financial statements and accounts, and assessment of Going Concern, scrutinising the judgements and assumptions underpinning the annual accounts, including going concern and ensuring appropriate financial management and compliance with the Colleges Accounts Direction and the Framework for auditors and reporting accountants of colleges, for Board approval. **Reporting: Draft Financial Statements.**

Partnership (including Subcontracting and Brand and Marketing)

Recommend:

- The Subcontracting Plan and Policy for the next academic year, ahead of recommending for Board approval. **Reporting: Subcontracting Plan and Policy.**
- The Brand and Marketing Strategy for Board approval. **Reporting: Brand and Marketing Strategy.**

Have strategic oversight of:

- Levels of subcontracting against the approved plan. **Reporting: Subcontracting Updates.**
- The development, implementation and delivery of the College's Brand and Marketing Strategy (following recommendation and Board approval) and associated delivery plans, and monitoring of relevant KPIs. **Reporting: Brand and Marketing Strategy (including annual reports) / Brand, Marketing and Communications Updates.**
- Strategic partnerships, subcontracting and commercial activity. **Reporting: Subcontracting Updates, Brand and Marketing Reporting, Management Accounts.**

Estates

Recommend:

- The Estates Strategy for Board approval. **Reporting: Estates Strategy.**

Have strategic oversight of:

- The development, implementation and delivery of the College's Estates Strategy (following recommendation and Board approval) and associated delivery plans, and monitoring of relevant KPIs. **Reporting: Estates Strategy (including annual reports) / Estates Updates.**

Sustainability:

Recommend:

- The Sustainability Strategy for Board approval. **Reporting: Sustainability Strategy.**

Have strategic oversight of:

- The development, implementation and delivery of the College's Sustainability Strategy, (following recommendation and Board approval) and associated delivery plans, and monitoring of relevant KPIs. **Reporting: Sustainability Strategy (including annual reports) / Sustainability Updates.**
- Compliance with Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting. **Reporting: Streamlined Energy and Carbon Annual Report.**

IT and Digital

Recommend:

- The Digital Strategy for Board approval. **Reporting: Digital Strategy.**

Have strategic oversight of:

- The development, implementation and delivery of the College's Digital Strategy (following recommendation and Board approval) and associated delivery plans, and monitoring of relevant KPIs. **Reporting: Digital Strategy (including annual reports) / Digital Updates.**

Data Protection and Cyber Security

Have strategic oversight of:

- The College's arrangements for data protection, information governance and cyber security, ensuring appropriate controls are in place to protect information assets and digital infrastructure. **Reporting: Information Governance Annual Report.**
- The effectiveness of policies, systems and controls relating to:
 - compliance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018;
 - cyber security, digital resilience and business continuity (in liaison with relevant committees where appropriate);
 - prevention and management of data breaches and cyber incidents. **Reporting: Information Governance Annual Report.**
- Reports on significant data protection or cyber security incidents, including regulatory engagement, lessons learned and actions taken to strengthen controls. **Reporting: Information Governance Report / Cyber Security Updates (as appropriate).**
- Investment and resource decisions relating to IT, digital security and resilience, ensuring alignment with the College's Digital Strategy and value for money considerations. **Reporting: Management Accounts, Digital Reporting, Tender / Project Approvals.**

Policies

Recommend:

- Relevant policies relating to the remit of the Finance and General Purposes Committee which require Board / Committee approval, ensuring alignment to the College strategy. **Reporting: Policies.**

Risk

Have strategic oversight of:

- The Strategic Risk Register in relation to those risks under the Committee remit. **Reporting: Strategic Risk Register.**

Other

- To carry out matters in line with the above not specifically referenced, or as the Corporation refers.

Reporting:

The Director of Governance and Compliance will share Chair approved Committee minutes as part of the next Board Meeting for information. This shall be alongside the Chair's update, highlighting key points from the meeting.

Composition:

The Committee shall comprise a minimum of 5 members, the majority of which must be Corporation Members. The Committee are able to appoint co-opted members.

The Committee may invite the Corporation's advisers or other third parties to attend meetings as appropriate (such persons shall be entitled to speak at the meeting, but not to vote).

Those not eligible to be members are:

- Members of the Audit Committee

Frequency of Meetings

The Committee will meet not less than 3 times per year.

Quorum:

The quorum for meetings shall be 3 members, including Co-opted members – the majority of whom shall be Corporation members.

If the number of Committee members falls below the quorum, the remaining members may temporarily co-opt additional member(s) to restore quorum, provided the Director of Governance and Compliance is notified immediately. If a member's absence is expected to last beyond one meeting, the Governance Committee will be asked to recommend a suitable governor for temporary appointment to the Committee, subject to Board approval.

Chair:

The Chair of the Committee will be appointed by the Corporation.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Committee will appoint another member to act as Chair for that meeting.

Vice Chair:

A Vice Chair will be appointed by the Committee at the first meeting of each academic year.

Clerk:

The Director of Governance and Compliance (or their nominee in their absence) shall act as Clerk to the Committee.

In the absence of the Clerk, the Committee shall agree temporary arrangements to fulfil the role.

Term of Office:

Appointment of members of the Committee will cease either; at the end of their term of office as a governor or following a review of Committee Membership approved by the Board.

Members may terminate their membership by notice of resignation to the Director of Governance and Compliance.

Other Arrangements:

The Committee is authorised by the Corporation to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with the relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary.

Papers, unless confidential / where appropriate, will be circulated to all meeting invitees in advance of a meeting.