Barnsley College Corporation Meeting Minutes

Date:	14 May 2026
Time:	13:00-14:00
Location:	Microsoft Teams

Attendance (Governors)	**Role**
David Akeroyd (DA)	Principal & CEO
George Graham (GG)	Independent Governor – Vice Chair
Kalam Neale (KN)	Independent Governor
Carrie Sudbury (CS)	Independent Governor
Matt Mills (MM)	Independent Governor
Sue Horner (SH)	Independent Governor
Tracey Johnson (TJ)	Independent Governor
Kayleigh Bell (KB)	Staff Governor

In Attendance	
Hayley Allsopp (HA)	Vice Principal - Curriculum and Student Experience
Jean-Paul Lawrence (JPL)	Vice Principal – Partnerships and Growth
Tony Johnson (TJo)	Vice Principal - Corporate Services
Laila Lawton (LL)	Chief Financial Officer
Jessica Melling (JMe)	Director of Governance

Apologies	**Role**
Marie Lang (ML)	Independent Governor – Chair
Leon Etherington (LE)	Independent Governor
Jo Mallows (JM)	Independent Governor
Carol Cooper-Smith (CCS)	Independent Governor – Vice Chair
Sam Dixon (SD)	Independent Governor
Gavin Batty (GB)	Deputy CEO

Absence	
Gavin Day (GD)	Independent Governor
Steven Burkinshaw (SB)	Staff Governor
Megan Orrow (MO)	Student Governor
Leo Hibberd (LH)	Student Governor

Procedural Matters	
1. Quoracy It was confirmed the meeting was quorate. It was noted GG would chair the meeting in ML's absence.	
2. Apologies for absence Apologies were received from ML, LE, JM, CCS and SD.	
3. Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest	
4. Register of Interest The register of interest was noted.	
5. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 12 and 17 March 2026 and 21 April 2026 The Board **APPROVED** the minutes of the meetings held on 12 March 2026, 17 March 2026 and 21 April 2026 as true and accurate record of the meeting.	
6. Matters Arising There were no matters arising as a result of the minutes.	
7. Rolling Action List JMe noted that all actions are progressing in line with their due date. It was highlighted that the HE Growth Deep Dive is commencing next week. It was also shared that an update on cyber testing has been included in the BAF update next week.	
8. Assurance Based Governance JMe shared that the assurance based governance report highlights where the content covered provides assurance against the responsibilities of the Board and supports the Board in maintaining strategic oversight of the College's requirements and fulfilling their responsibilities as the governing body. It was noted that Governors are invited to consider the assurance report at each meeting and should use it to ascertain if sufficient assurance against areas is being achieved, or if any additional requests for assurance are needed. The Board NOTED the report.	
9. Notification of Items of Any Other Business No items of any other business were declared.	
10. Financial Approvals LL talked to the report shared with the Board. The Board **APPROVED**: • The purchase of the central network storage arrays, subject to procurement compliance, to support critical systems which are hosted on premise. • The transactions contained in the report and appendix including departures from standard procurement.	
11. Management Accounts	

LL talked to the report shared with the Committee, highlighting the following points: • The College is currently on track to exceed its key financial targets set in the budget and financial plan. • The College has confidence that the overall income target and EBITDA targets will be met. • The financial health is projected as good meeting the budget. GG noted the positive financial picture demonstrated by the management accounts. LL talked to the DfE Governor Financial Dashboard, noting this is shared 2 times per year. LL talked to the staff costs as a % of adjusted income data. It was noted that in 2023-24 and 2024-25 the College was in receipt of the LSIF which reduced the percentage. It was noted this year actuals are estimated to be below the FEC benchmark of 65%. The exploration of utilisation of the College's cash balance was noted. The Board **<u>NOTED</u>** the report.	
12. Capital Update LL talked to the report shared with the Board, highlighting the following points: • The IoT and phase 2 projects have closed, and the final Steering Group meeting was held on 21 April. The projects have met their original outcomes and are within the total budget. • A programme of minor works to fully refurbish the Sports academy building, has been developed. The majority of the work will be complete for September 2026. It will use pre-approved contractors to undertake building works, which will be funded by FE College Condition Allocation (FECCA) grant. • The College has a number of capital projects planned. SH noted her agreement on the importance of the work needed at Honeywell. The Board **<u>APPROVED</u>**: 1. The sports centre project.	
13. SEND Policy HA talked to the revised SEND policy highlighting the following points: • There is a greater emphasis on early transition planning and effective collaboration with feeder schools, including improved use of information shared from secondary settings. • There is greater ownership for identifying and supporting SEND has been embedded within classroom practice, reinforcing the principle that all teachers are responsible for inclusive teaching and support.	

• The revised policy makes clear that declaration of SEND is not the sole responsibility of the student, and that the College has an active role in identifying need through proactive monitoring and assessment. • There is an increased focus on SEND related continuous professional development across the College, including mandatory autism awareness training • The policy has been revised to reflect the merger with Northern College, ensuring that adult provision, terminology and learning support arrangements are clearly included and appropriately represented. SH questioned what training had been delivered to staff and the actions required of those responsible for teaching and learning. HA noted that as the policy had not yet been approved it had not been shared with wider staff yet. It was however noted that conversations are ongoing with the Deputy CEO regarding ensuring this is covered within the paperwork for teaching and learning observations. It was noted that changes to the observation process will need to go through union consultation. The significant upcoming change in SEND funding was noted and it was highlighted that there will be a number of implications, however these are currently unknown due to the ongoing consultation. HA noted that the College are in the process of responding to the consultation. DA shared that the Local Authority have engaged in conversation with the College to support the local area SEND review plan. It was noted that it isa statutory requirement for the local government to include post 16 education in their Send review plan. The Board **APPROVED** the SEND Policy.	
14. Single Equality Scheme HA talked to the revised single equality scheme, highlighting the following points: • The updated Single Equality Scheme places stronger emphasis on embedding equality, diversity and inclusion across all areas of College activity. • The changes aim to provide clarity and strengthen staff understanding of individual and collective responsibilities which should further improve the College's ability to identify and address inequality and under representation. • There is clearer accountability for inclusive practice within curriculum delivery and staff conduct • Revisions introduce strengthened expectations around proactive identification and removal of barriers to participation. • There is a shift from reliance on self-disclosure to shared responsibility for creating inclusive environments.	

- The revisions strengthen commitments to inclusive staff development, improved use of equality data to inform action, and clearer alignment with the College's Vision and Values. - Organisational development and structural change, including the merger with Northern College have been captured. It was questioned if the policy had been cross referenced with the requirements of other policies. HA confirmed the review process included this step but would check comparison to E6 conditions. The Board noted they found the commentary alongside the track changes helpful. The Board **<u>APPROVED</u>** the Single Equality Scheme.	**Action:** HA to confirm crosschecking of Single Equality Scheme with Bullying and Harassment Policy.
15. Subcontracting Policy JPL talked to the revised subcontracting policy, highlighting the following main changes: - The Subcontractor standard has been updated to reflect a new publication by the DfE - The addition of a Quality Monitoring and Compliance section. - Addition of details to the Contract Award and Management section regarding the use of brokers and advanced learner loan subcontracting is not permitted. The Board recognised the work that has been done to address a previous area of issue. It was questioned if the resource needed to deliver against the policy was proportionate. It was noted that the majority of the work contained within the policy is already in place and is not taking a disproportionate amount of staff resource. The Board recognised the value of sub-contracting provision, noting that it is only to be done where there are strategic need and benefit and not as a core component of College operation. The Board **<u>APPROVED</u>** the Subcontracting Policy.	
16. HE Fees Policy HA talked to the revised HE Fees Policy, highlighting the following points: - A minor update has been made to include further detail on modular study of level 4 and level 5. - The fees for a 15 credit module has been set at £750 for academic year 2026/27 instead of £500. This is aligned with sector practice. The Board **<u>APPROVED</u>** the HE Fees Policy.	
17. HE Freedom of Speech Statement HA talked to the documentation shared with Board, highlighting that the College are reintroducing the HE Freedom of Speech Policy to fully comply	

with the Office for Students regulatory guidance. It was noted that the freedom of speech policy is specifically for HE students. The Board **APPROVED** the HE Freedom of Speech Policy and Freedom of Speech Statement.	
18. Board Cycle of Business JMe talked to the cycle of business shared with the board highlighting that a 3yr governance schedule is now maintained. The Board **APPROVED** the Cycle of Business.	
19. Assurance Based Governance Framework JMe talked to the Assurance Based Governance Framework, highlighting the following points: • The framework allows Governors to cross-reference the assurance that is being given, allowing it to be determined if additional assurance is needed. It was noted that the alignment of the governance work is evident. The limited accessibility of the document was noted. It was agreed that action would be taken to explore alternate methods of displaying the information. The Board **APPROVED** the Assurance Based Governance Framework.	**Action**: JMe to work with the Director of AI Integration to improve governance assurance framework accessibility.
20. 19+ Learner Support Fund Policy HA talked to the revised 19+ learner support fund policy, highlighting the following points: • This policy has been updated to reflect the merger with Northern College to include tailored learning and the residential access fund. • The policy may still be subject to minor changes as the implementation plan is worked through. The Board **APPROVED** the 19+ Learner Support Fund Policy.	
21. HE Student Support Fund Policy HA talked to the revised HE Student support fund policy, highlighting that policy has been updated in line with other policies to ensure consistency. The Board **APPROVED** the HE Student Support Fund Policy.	
22. 14-19 Learner Support Fund Policy HA talked to the revised learner support fund policy, highlighting the following points: • This policy has had the most significant number of changes in response to a recent DFE audit but may still be subject to minor changes once 26/27 funding guidance is released. • Key changes include:	

◦ Addition of information around the entitlement to Free College meals and process of awards ◦ Addition of temporary award process ◦ Transfer and re-enrolment process including the use of Declaration forms ◦ Care to learn – revision of process in line with changes to government instruction ◦ Changes to appendix to provide more detail on what students can be funded for. The Board **APPROVED** the 14-19 Learner Support Fund Policy.	
23. Regulatory Update JMe noted that since publication of the report, the Association of Colleges have released the revised Senior-Postholder Remuneration Code and Guidance. It was noted that the content of the guidance document is currently being questioned by the JISC network, due to suggestions that data on appraisal targets and performance should be published. An update will be provided to the Remuneration Committee in due course. The Board **NOTED** the report.	
24. Any Other Business GG asked the Board to reflect on if the pace of the meeting was appropriate for the content and meeting purpose. The Board shared that the papers were high quality and allowed the Board to move at pace. The meeting was closed at 13:43	