

Publication for the College Website

Bury College – Overview of the External Review of Governance Implemented by Stone King from October 2023 to February 2024

1. Timescale of the Review

Governors agreed that an External Governance Review should be implemented in 2023/24 and that the review should be conducted in accordance with the DfE Guidance on External Governance Reviews.

2. The Scope of the Review:

- Strategic leadership and the setting of the vision, values, and strategy of the institution.
- How well the Corporation provides oversight of the institution's activities including the safeguarding of assets and the solvency of the College.
- Does decision making including appropriate scrutiny and challenge.
- The working relationship between the Corporation and the Leadership team.
- Balance composition and make-up of the Corporation and whether it reflects its skill requirements and local communities /stakeholders.
- The role, impact and influence of the Clerk.
- The effectiveness of the Governance decision making process and the quality and appropriateness of the information given to Corporation and Committee Members.
- Stone King was subsequently appointed to undertake the review which was led by Dr Ron Hill and Sarah Johnson.

3. Summary of the Review

In summary, taking account of meeting observations, discussions and documentation available, this review recognises that the governing of Bury College is committed, positive, challenging and demonstrates many effective governing processes and practices.

To achieve greater governing influence, effectiveness and impact, the review suggested that the Governing Board gives consideration to:

- a) Building on the scrutiny provided by the Governing Board's committees, aiming to achieve a more strategic agenda for the Governing Board.
- b) Accepting a) above, undertaking a review of the operation of Governing Board meetings, starting with the formation and focus of the agendas, to achieve a sharper Governing Board meeting focus.
- c) Developing the use of an annual operating plan, which derives from the Board's Strategic Plan, for reporting strategic progress to the Governing Board on a regular basis. The style of the reporting needs to be able to clearly present to Governing Board Members the degree to which each planning aim/target is being addressed and achieved.
- d) The development of Governing Board frameworks (including systems, controls and impact statements) for staff and stakeholder voice.

The Review recommendations will be addressed via an action plan and will be reported in the College annual report and financial statements.

This summary of the review outcomes was approved by the Corporation on 2nd July 2024 has been agreed between the College and Stone King.