

**FURNESS COLLEGE CORPORATION**  
Principal and Chief Executive: Nicola Cove

**MINUTES OF FURNESS CORPRATION BOARD**

**Meeting Date:** 8<sup>TH</sup> July 2025

**Venue:** Board Room Channelside

**Present:**

Meredydd David (Chair)	External
Nicola Cove	Principal & CEO
John Sidney	External
John Smith	External
Sue Newsham	External
Sharon Huttly	External
Helen Bayley	External
Liz Lawrenson	External

**In Attendance:**

Kate Colebourn	VP Curriculum & Quality
Sue Russell	VP Resources
Joanne Crowther	Governance Professional
Sandra Prail	AoC Reviewer – observing
Helen Gibson	Director Student Journey (For Item7)
Keith Wardle	Director of Curriculum & Skills (For Item 7)
Stephen Jones	DfE – observing

**ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

CB/25/128 Matt Coward-Gibbs, Sian Foster, John Lighten, Zoe Guest, Archie Simpson

**ITEM 2 - DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

CB/25/129 The Chair reminded Governors of the requirement to declare their interests in any agenda items. For any such declaration Governors would not be eligible to speak or to vote on the matters under discussion.

**ITEM 3 - EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY**

CB/24/130 The Chair reminded Governors of the College's commitment to equality and diversity and the need to consider these matters along with health and safety in all Committee business.

**ITEM 4 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

CB/25/131 **Resolved** - the minutes of the meeting held on **25<sup>th</sup> March 2025** be **approved** as a correct record.

## ITEM 5 - MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

**CB/25/132** The Chair reviewed the actions from the previous meeting with the following findings: most Members have been into College to undertake visits and learning walks. The Chair confirmed that this would be picked up again next academic year.

## ITEM 6 – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

**CB/25/133** The Chair of the Board left the room.

**CB/25/134** The Vice Chair asked for nominations from the Board. Meredydd David was nominated and seconded. Meredydd David was appointed as Chair of the Board for the next academic year.

**CB/25/135** **RESOLVED – Meredydd David was appointed as Chair of the Board for the next academic year.**

## ITEM 7 – PRESENTATION BY ALUN FRANCIS

**CB/25/136** The CEO of Blackpool & The Fylde College joined the meeting. He confirmed that he was pleased that he had the recent opportunity to come into College to meet staff. He shared with them the rationale behind merger proposal as per the SPA Steering Group, and he confirmed that he would share them with Members. He advised that when meeting staff he had shared his vision for a strong local, regional and national profile. He advised Members that there is a strong commitment to the local area in Furness, and he confirmed that he could see strong affinities with the area. He shared with Members the slides from the presentation, and advised that the vision included spending a significant amount of time developing staff with each local area having a broad curriculum linked to, and informed by, local labour market information. The North West has strong defence, energy, engineering, and cyber industries and the new, combined college will drive this across Lancashire and Cumbria. He noted some key points:

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- Huge opportunity around BAE and this has the potential to grow
- Opportunity to engage with voluntary sectors
- Barrow Rising – committed to the regeneration of Blackpool and can now see the potential in Barrow
- Help with adult provision – potential to grow and improve
- 6<sup>th</sup> form potential to grow and improve
- A model for HE that is a multiversity with multiple routes into HE

**CB/25/137** He confirmed that Blackpool & The Fylde were graded Good by Ofsted and that they received a TEF triple Gold award, Blackpool & The Fylde have degree awarding powers for Foundation Degrees and a strong link with Lancaster University. They also currently have Outstanding financial health. He confirmed that he and the wider team felt that Furness College were the perfect merge partner with a clear local identity, strategic importance, shared industrial and employer links, and a strong sense of educational values

**CB/25/138** He confirmed that he recognised the journey towards improvement that the College is on, and that he recognised that he wanted to see continuity rather than a change of direction. He confirmed that Blackpool & The Fylde can add

to this and work with the College towards the next inspection. He advised Members that in terms of the process for the merger, there would be a lot of work but a project manager will be brought in. The Boards for Furness and Blackpool & The Fylde will work together to establish a shadow Board that has sensitivities to local stakeholders.

CB/25/139 Members asked if they could have copies of the slides.

**CB/25/140 ACTION – Governance Professional to share the slides with Members**

CB/25/141 Members asked about the interim period in relation to governance as it is important that until the merge is complete, both organisations remain independent. The merge process must recognise both and there is an element of trust in working together. The CEO of Blackpool & The Fylde College noted that there is work to do in bringing us closer together whilst maintaining independence to agree a model for the merged organisation. This will be done early so we all know where we are heading.

CB/25/142 Members asked him what he saw as the key challenges to make the partnership successful. The CEO of Blackpool & The Fylde College confirmed that a pace of change is needed with regard to quality of provision, and this must be addressed. He confirmed he was less concerned about legal due diligence as much of this has been done. The main issues will be structural – getting the right structures in place and making sure both organisations are aligned. He confirmed that he is confident about this and that he felt very optimistic about the challenge ahead. He confirmed that he felt that if we can get the quality right, the rest will follow.

**CB/25/143 RESOLVED – the presentation was NOTED and the Chair thanked the CEO Blackpool & The Fylde for his time in speaking to the Board.**

**ITEM 8 – PRINCIPAL & CEO UPDATE**

CB/25/144 The Principal & CEO asked that the paper be taken as read and confirmed she would highlight some key points and then be happy to take questions. She confirmed that the CEO of Blackpool & The Fylde had visited the College and gave presentations on both sites which was well received. There have been no questions through the feedback mailbox. Some questions raised at the time about Barrow, job security, and timelines, but she confirmed that the College will keep the mailbox open to pick up any queries.

CB/25/145 She drew Members attention to page 5 – Team Barrow and Barrow Rising update. The ten-year plan has now been published, and this will be uploaded to Teams for Members. Six key themes are highlighted and these are the same themes as contained in earlier versions. There is still some discussion in the groups regarding issues that will be worked through with workstream leads. It is encouraging that people are listening, and having a new CEO for Team Barrow will bring things together, however, she confirmed that she still didn't have the more detailed plans to share, which is frustrating, but things should now start to come together.

CB/25/146 With regard to BAE, detailed delivery plans are being finalised, but this has now been signed off. This shows who will deliver each unit, and goes into significant detail. She confirmed that she was pleased to say that there was a visit from BAE, meeting colleagues directly involved in delivery of the contract.

- CB/25/147 In terms of changes to the Senior Leadership Team, there were to be three SLT vacancies, being the Principal & CEO, the VP Resources, and the Director of Finance. However, the VP Resources has confirmed that rather than leave at the end of August, she will stay to the end of December which will be good for stability in a period of change.
- CB/25/148 With regard to sustainability, the recruitment update suggests that applications exceed those at this point in the previous year. These figures, however, must be converted to enrolments in September, so should be treated with caution.
- CB/25/149 Members asked who would pick up the Principal & CEO's role in Barrow Rising. The Chair confirmed that the new Principal & CEO will pick this up.
- CB/25/150 Members noted that the progress made with BAE sounds positive and asked what the impact of the news about the merge with Blackpool & The Fylde had been. The Principal & CEO confirmed that it would appear to be neutral, but it has given BAE a line of sight. The Chair confirmed that he had met with BAE with the Principal & CEO and confirmed that they understood the importance of the contract to the College and the potential risk to the College and the local community should this change. He advised that they were taking a more collaborative approach and this has given BAE more confidence.
- CB/25/151 Members confirmed that the report was very helpful, and it was good to note that the VP Resources would remain for a little longer as the loss of senior staff was a concern.
- CB/25/152 Members asked if the College were in danger of breaching any areas with the departure of the Director of Finance. The Principal & CEO confirmed that a new Director of Finance should be in post for September 2025.
- CB/25/153 RESOLVED – the Principal & CEO Report was NOTED.**

## **ITEM 9 – ANNUAL OPPPERATING PLAN**

- CB/25/154 The Principal & CEO presented the Annual Operating Plan and confirmed that this had been scrutinised at the Remuneration Committee along with the targets for SPH. She confirmed that much of the detail is included in the PIAP. There are two sections, those in blue are from the Annual Accountability Statement agree twelve months ago. These are also picked up the Principal's Report and the monitoring report to the LE committee. This will be reported in the SIP this year to minimise the number of plans in place.
- CB/25/155 The Chair confirmed that there were clear targets for retention and achievement, and that the College is predicting an improvement in achievement at headline level. He noted that some granularity by level and provision type was needed. The VP Curriculum & Quality confirmed that this will be done.
- CB/25/156 ACTION – add further granularity regarding level and provision type to the Performance Monitoring Report.**
- CB/25/157 Members noted that people and performance monitoring came up in several areas and asked if is this something to look at for the future. The Chair confirmed that the VP Resources and the VP Curriculum & Quality had been in

discussion regarding appraisals. The VP Resources confirmed that discussions have been held with regard to performance management and how this is cascaded, including some of the more enabling functions to support the discharge of targets. The infrastructure is in place, and we now need to bring this to life for greater compliance in the early part of the year to show how we are clear about monitoring, giving people the opportunity to develop, but within a framework that supports alternative actions. The Chair noted that managers will also need support and development to implement the changes.

**CB/25/158     RESOLVED – the Annual Operating Plan was NOTED.**

**ITEM 10 – SINGLE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

CB/25/159     The Principal & CEO presented the SIP and confirmed that this will be a regular item coming to the Board for scrutiny. The PIAP is monitored by the Learner Experience Committee, and there is some overlap with the SIP. The PIAP is the internal plan addressing Ofsted, and the SIP takes the actions that exist from the FEC report from the intervention visit and subsequent stocktake visit. There were 6 actions from intervention, and now a 7<sup>th</sup> issue has been added relating to Governance around strengthening the Board and Committees, arising from the March 2025 stocktake. The Principal & CEO confirmed that the document is highlighted in yellow where updates have been made. She confirmed that there is one action that shows as red, and this relates to the leadership structures at the sixth form. Work has been done to look at how this can be improved, and work is underway looking at the development journey. She confirmed that there was now a better understanding of the way forward, and this includes looking at a more senior leader at the Sixth Form. Agreement has been reached with B&FC to move this forward. She advised Members that it is likely that an appointment will be made initially through an agency as an interim for a September start with a view to making a permanent appointment.

CB/25/160     Members noted that potential permanent candidates will need to give a terms notice. The Chair confirmed that it could be after Christmas before a permanent candidate can be identified so we will look at interim in the first instance.

CB/25/161     Members noted that the report builds confidence, but sometimes it is easy to start a process but hard to close them off. Are there any areas where it may difficult to achieve the end point having identified a start point? The Principal & CEO confirmed that as we go into September, we have been taking advice on board, and now need to move in the agreed direction to ensure all areas are completed. The Chair confirmed that he has been in discussion with the CEO of Blackpool & The Fylde, and has agreed that anything new that is introduced must align with what the College has been doing and does not conflict with it, and potentially slow the pace of improvement. He advised that whenever the NTI drops away, we will continue any outstanding actions into the quality improvement plan.

CB/25/162     Members asked if this is achievable, which is probably a risk-based decision. The Chair confirmed that Governors will need to discuss this and agree what needs doing in different areas. Change needs to be palpable. The Principal & CEO confirmed that what is needed is positive outcomes for learners this year and we need to continue the progress to improve the quality of teaching as this will be a key driver for Ofsted.

**CB/25/163    RESOLVED – the update was NOTED.**

**ITEM 11 – ANNUAL THEMES FOR IMPROVEMENT AND KPIS FOR 2025/26**

CB/25/164    The Principal & CEO confirmed that the College had been through a significant process to set targets at corporate level, simplifying them into headline, memorable targets. At top level, targets are in line with the national benchmark. There is an element of symmetry which helps people remember them. In terms of cascading down there has been a top down and bottom-up approach this year, and the paper describes this process of bringing everything together to arrive at the targets. This means that the top-level targets are achievable, based on the current mix of provision.

CB/25/165    The Vice Principal Resources confirmed that all the documents are underpinned by a comms plan. All need action to varying degrees, so the College is committed to note all the asks for term one and map them across to see where the best value will come from. Being clear on personal targets underpinned by enablers like CPD will move things further and faster so we have begun this work now. This is also a reality check to see how much is attainable. Will need to be honest about this, but need to do the piece of work first. Now need to be very clear about what activities will be done to discharge the responsibilities. The Chair confirmed that much work has been done on prioritising and looking at what will give the biggest impact.

CB/25/166    Members noted that getting the right people on the right programmes was key and asked how confident leaders are that staff will make the right decisions for recruitment. The Principal & CEO confirmed that she was relatively confident, and that a 42-day report was received from a colleague within FEC and this has given us a list of quick wins that will make the journey and process even better so feeling positive. She confirmed that the induction process has been modelled. The Vice Principal Curriculum & Quality confirmed that the piece of work recognises how critical the first six weeks are. She confirmed that Pauline Hagan undertook the 42-day review, and we now have a clear steer on enhancing what is there to maximise the start of term.

CB/25/167    The Chair confirmed that he has been attending events and meeting staff and managers and confirmed that he felt confident that we are putting the right development in and moving at pace working with external specialists. Staff need to feel the difference and students need to understand expectation and standards from day one.

CB/25/168    Members noted that it was critical that evidence of this is in place for the next Ofsted visit.

CB/25/169    Members asked about the Sixth Form achievement targets and asked if it was possible to drill down to subject area in reporting to see if there are any issues. The Vice Principal Curriculum & Quality confirmed that that this would be built into the performance reporting. The Chair confirmed that the Sixth Form impacts heavily on the global performance of the college.

**CB/25/170    The Annual Themes and KPis were APPROVED.**

**ITEM 12 – LINK GOVERNOR UPDATE**

CB/25/171 The Chair advised Members that the Link Governor for Safeguarding was unable to make the meeting, but had uploaded her report to Teams for Members to see. He asked if anyone had any comments or questions. Members noted that the feedback from the visit was detailed and helpful.

**CB/25/172 RESOLVED – the report was NOTED.**

**ITEM 13 – LE COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MATTERS TO REPORT**

CB/25/172 The Principal & CEO confirmed that the Chair of the Learner Experience Committee was unable to attend the meeting and that she would give feedback. She confirmed that it was a very thorough meeting, and agreement was that green shoots of recovery could be seen, and that there was evidence of good pace of improvement.

**CB/25/173 RESOLVED – the Summary was NOTED.**

**CB/25/174 PIAP UPDATE**

CB/25/175 The Vice Principal Curriculum & Quality confirmed that the PIAP update received thorough scrutiny at the LE Committee, but it now has an updated format that combines progress and impact, with the impact highlighted in red. She confirmed that the PIAP has been taken 'on tour' again through the College sharing it with all staff to ensure they are on board. She confirmed that the key areas for improvement are as per the previous report, but with regard to quality of teaching, a substantial amount of work done in review week with dedicated sessions at both sites supported by external consultants that was well received.

CB/25/176 Members confirmed that they could see the effort and energy that has gone into this, but asked the VP Curriculum & Quality if she was now confident that we have the right pace. The VP Curriculum & Quality confirmed that the message has been on the importance of how we start in September. Attendance is key and expectations must not drop. A lot of work has gone into this. Members noted that we will see the impact in the first weeks of term.

CB/25/177 Members asked if there was anything Governors could do to support the delivery of the PIAP. She confirmed that this discussion has been had with Chair and they are working on what might be viable.

**CB/25/178 RESOLVED – the PIAP update was NOTED.**

**CB/25/179 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

CB/25/180 The VP Curriculum & Quality confirmed that the report received thorough scrutiny at the LE Committee and asked if Members had any questions.

**CB/25/181 RESOLVED – the Performance Monitoring Report was NOTED.**

**CB/25/182 SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME**

CB/25/183 The VP Quality & Curriculum confirmed that the report was brought for approval on recommendation from the LE Committee. She confirmed she would be happy to take questions.

**CB/25/183 RESOLVED – the Singe Equality Scheme was APPROVED.**

**ITEM 14 – AUDIT MATTERS TO REPORT**

CB/25/184 The Principal & CEO advised Members that the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee was not able to attend the meeting, and that she would present the summary in his absence. She confirmed that the Committee scrutinised the reports from the Internal Auditor and had been pleased to report continued Strong assurance. Following discussion by the Committee it was agreed to bring forward curriculum planning into the schedule for 2025/26, and did not identify any new risks.

CB/25/185 Members noted a traditional menu for the internal audit schedule for next year, and suggested that if they are moving into looking at curriculum, clear scoping would be wise to avoid any unnecessary complexity. The Principal & CEO confirmed that wbg have a very large FE client base now, and they will bring in specialists in to undertake a curriculum review. However, she agreed it all must be very carefully scoped.

**CB/25/186 RESOLVED – the Committee Summary was NOTED.**

**CB/25/187 BRIBERY & FRAUD POLICY**

CB/25/188 The Director of Finance confirmed that the policy received scrutiny by the Committee and was now recommended for approval.

**CB/25/189 RESOLVED – the Bribery & Fraud Policy was APPROVED.**

**CB/25/190 GIFTS & HOSPITALITY POLICY**

CB/25/191 The Director of Finance confirmed that the policy received scrutiny by the Committee and was now recommended for approval.

**CB/25/192 RESOLVED – the Gifts & Hospitality Policy was APPROVED.**

**ITEM 15 – FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

CB/25/193 The Chair of the Committee confirmed that a good H&S was received and the Committee noted the work done on near miss reporting which has a strong correlation with the reduction of actual hazards. Also, the Committee looked at linking financial reports to the impact on learners, for example, where savings were made on unfilled posts considering the impact on learners where there is no teacher.

**CB/25/194 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

CB/25/195 The Principal & CEO confirmed that the Management Accounts were scrutinised at the Finance & Resources meeting and asked if there were any comments.

**CB/25/196 RESOLVED – the Management Accounts were NOTED.**

**CB/25/197 ANNUAL BUDGET & THREE-YEAR PLAN**

CB/25/198 The Principal & CEO confirmed that the budget and three-year plan had been delayed. She advised that there have been complexities with the costing of the BAE contract that emerged at pace, which meant that it had not been possible to bring the budget to general F&R meeting. A further meeting was held today, and a final meeting will address some small queries on the 21<sup>st</sup> July with an extraordinary Board to follow later in the day on the 21<sup>st</sup>. She confirmed that the issues have been complex, but it is important to give it the time needed. The Chair of the Committee confirmed that it was sensible plan and showed the right thinking. He agreed that there were nuances to be addressed. The substance of the budget will not change, but there are some balance sheet issues.

CB/25/199 Members noted that the budget is starting from a good place looking at the management accounts.

**CB/25/200 RESOLVED – the Budget & Three-Year Plan will be considered further on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025.**

**CB/25/201 HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY**

CB/25/202 The VP Resources confirmed that the policy received scrutiny by the Committee and was now recommended for approval.

**CB/25/203 RESOLVED – the Health & Safety Policy was APPROVED**

**CB/25/203 SUPPLY CHAIN FEES POLICY**

CB/25/204 The Director of Finance confirmed that the policy received scrutiny by the Committee and was now recommended for approval.

**CB/25/205 RESOLVED – the Supply Chain Fees Policy was APPROVED.**

**ITEM 16 – GOVERNANCE & SEARCH COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF MATTERS TO REPORT**

CB/25/206 The Chair confirmed that at the meeting some gaps in skills were identified, but this has partly been addressed by the Vice Chair and Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee, John Sidney, and Sue Newsham also from the Finance Committee have agreed to stay on beyond their previously agreed leaving dates to support the merge process and ensure continuity of skills in finance. He confirmed that agreement had been reached for a more informal meeting of the Chairs of the main committees, and that plans to develop the link structure had been discussed and plans now need to be formalised.

**CB/25/207 RESOLVED – The Governance & Search Committee Summary was NOTED.**

**CB/25/207 GOVERNANCE SAR AND ACTION PLAN**

CB/25/208 The Governance Professional confirmed that the Governance SAR and Action Plan had received thorough scrutiny and asked that it be taken as read. She shared key points with Members.

CB/25/209 The Board agreed that the approach to Self-Assessment and the reflection on Board Performance should be based on the outcome of the Ofsted inspection. Targets were drawn up and included in the PIAP and work has progressed over the year to achieve those targets. These were:

- Governor Development - understanding the role of a Governor and what 'Good' governance looks like
- Support the development of Board Papers ensuring they contain sufficient data and benchmarking data
- Implementing 1:1 meetings with the Chair
- Brining Governors into College to meet staff and students, to understand what it is to be a learner, and to support Governors to undertake walkthroughs
- Add an extra meeting to LE for scrutiny of the PIAP
- Invite Governors to participate in AoC Governor networks and ETF training
- Recruit new Governors with experience in quality & curriculum.

CB/25/210 Key to this was equipping Governors with the skills and knowledge needed to triangulate the information received to support better scrutiny. At the Ofsted Monitoring Visit in April 2025 the report confirmed that Reasonable Progress had been made with regard to Governance.

CB/25/211 In terms of actions for the coming year, it is important to raise the pace of change. Members agreed that the work done on the previous action plan had impact as follows:

- Governor Development Day with external presenter was very well received
- Board papers are now more data rich and benchmarked to national data and are RAG rated
- Members welcome conversations with the Chair
- The additional LE meeting has enabled sharper focus on the PIAP
- Members attending AoC networking groups found them very helpful to see the bigger picture
- Members have attended a wide range of College events and undertaken walkthroughs accompanied by staff and this has helped them understand the College and learners better
- Three new Governors with excellent CVs have been recruited

CB/25/211 An initial plan for 2025/2026 was agreed with the understanding that this would likely change as the year progresses and will be updated once the outcome of the External Review of Governance is known. Key actions would be:

- Schedule and additional, full day for Governor Development

- Strengthen the Link structure with each Governor having a link
- Bring Committee meetings back face to face
- Consider the timings of meetings – bring them to 1.00pm
- Create an informal meeting for Committee Chairs
- Work towards the code of Good Governance
- Agree an appraisal process for the Chair

- CB/25/212 Members confirmed that they felt that the Governor Development Day was a turning point with excellent guest speakers.
- CB/25/213 Members noted that we may need to reconsider some of the specifics as we move forward with the outcome of the Review of Governance and as things come out of the merge. The Chair confirmed that with regard to the merger, there will be a shadow board with members from Furness and from Blackpool but we need to continue developing our Board. This will be refined as we go forward. The Chair confirmed that with regard to the additional Development Day, the College is due to have an Ofsted Monitoring Visit probably in late September so suggested a Development Day first week in October. He suggested that this be a full day finishing with a meal. He suggested that time be given during the day to move about College to see staff and students. He asked for feedback, and Member confirmed that they would be happy with this.
- CB/25/214 The Chair confirmed that he had discussed returning to face-to-face meetings with Members and there is a commitment to this. He suggested that if meetings were held during the day starting at 1.00pm rather than at 5.00pm Members would have the chance to spend some time in College. Members confirmed that afternoons would work well for them. One Member noted that she could be flexible, but that work may occasionally take priority. The Chair noted that two Members who live at a distance were not present so he would take this up with them.
- CB/25/215 ACTION – The Chair to speak to Matt Coward-Gibbs and Sian Foster about meetings being face to face and starting at 1.00pm**
- CB/25/216 The Chair suggested that an item be added to the first meeting of each Committee to discuss the structure of the papers received to see if any amendments are needed.
- CB/25/217 ACTION – Governance Professional to add an item to the Schedule of Business for each Committee to discuss the structure of the papers**
- CB/23/218 The Chair confirmed that with regard to Link Governors most colleges have every Governor linked to something either from curriculum or support. He confirmed that he would speak to Members to see how they could best be paired with an area of College. Training will be given for Link Governors and for walkthroughs. Members asked if it should be discussed with Blackpool & The Fylde to see what their model is and if we can learn from that. The Principal & CEO agreed this might be a good opportunity to link with Blackpool & The Fylde College Governors to buddy up. A development session in February, perhaps at Blackpool & The Fylde might be good. The

Chair confirmed that he would discuss this with Blackpool & The Fylde and look at a Development Day there.

**CB/25/219 ACTION – Chair of the Board to speak to Blackpool & The Fylde about arranging a Development Day at their campus to look at Link Governors**

**ITEM 17 – CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2025-26**

**CB/25/220** The Governance Professional shared the calendar and confirmed that as agreed, this will now be amended to reflect a 1.00pm start which will allow for Members to spend more time in College. She also confirmed that this may be subject to further change once the outcome of the External Board Review is known, and as the merger with Blackpool & The Fylde progresses.

**CB/25/221 RESOLVED – the calendar of meetings was APPROVED with the change of start time and the understanding that this could change further.**

**ITEM 18 – SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS FOR 2025-26**

**CB/25/222** The Governance Professional shared the proposed Schedule of Business for the coming year but confirmed that this could change subject to the outcome of the External Board Review and as the merger with Blackpool & The Fylde progresses.

**CB/25/223 RESOLVED – the Schedule of Business was APPROVED on the understanding that this could change.**

**ITEM 19 – PROPOSAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL GOVERNOR DEVELOPMENT DAY**

**CB/25/224** The Chair confirmed that a Governor Development Day was planned for the autumn term. Sandra Prail who has been conducting our External Board Review will present the findings and key actions for rapid improvement. It is intended that this will be a full day of activity including the opportunity to spend time in College with staff and Students.

**CB/25/225 RESOLVED – an additional Governor Development Day was AGREED**

**ITEM 19A) – MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD**

**CB/25/225** The Chair and the Governance Professional shared an update with regard to those leaving and joining the Board and the vacancies that the Board now has. The Chair confirmed that he had tested with the FE Commissioner that John Sidney remaining on the Board would not be an issue for Ofsted despite his lengthy service. The Chair confirmed that we now have good representation in terms of FE and Curriculum & Quality, but will be seeking to utilise the AoC Recruitment Service to search for new Members.

**CB/25/226** Members noted that it would be desirable to consider diversity when recruiting. The Principal & CEO confirmed that this had been discussed at A&R and the need to search for Members from a range of diverse backgrounds including different educational backgrounds. The Chair noted that the gender balance was good, but diversity should be further considered in the context of representation of our student body.

**ITEM 20 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**CB/25/227** There was no further business to consider

**ITEM 21 – ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

CB/25/228 There were no additional items

**ITEM 22 – CONFIDENTIALITY**

CB/25/229 No items were deemed confidential

**ITEM 23 – BOARD SELF EVALUATION**

CB/25/230 The Chair asked Members if they felt that they had the opportunity to contribute. Members confirmed that they did. He asked if papers were of the right quality. Members confirmed that they were.

**ITEM 24 – DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

CB/25/231 Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 1.00pm

**COLLEGE**  
**FURNESS COLLEGE CORPORATION BOARD**  
**TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Ref MINUTE</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>BY WHEN</b>
<b>Governance Professional to share the slides with Members</b>	<b>CB/25/140</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Asap</b>
<b>Add further granularity regarding level and provision type to the Performance Monitoring Report.</b>	<b>CB/25/156</b>	<b>VP Curriculum &amp; Quality</b>	<b>Next report</b>
<b>The Chair to speak to Matt Coward-Gibbs and Sian Foster about meetings being face to face and starting at 1.00pm</b>	<b>CB/25/215</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Asap</b>
<b>Governance Professional to add an item to the Schedule of Business for each Committee to discuss the structure of the papers</b>	<b>CB/25/217</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Asap</b>
<b>Chair of the Board to speak to Blackpool &amp; The Fylde about arranging a Development Day at their campus to look at Link Governors</b>	<b>CB/25/219</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Asap</b>

**TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Ref MINUTE</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>BY WHEN</b>
<b>Bring the minutes of the Extraordinary Board meeting to the next Board meeting for approval.</b>	<b>CB/25/234</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>