

REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

Subject: Ratification of Appointment of Vice Chair	Purpose: For Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/>	
Prepared by: Ray McCowan	Date: June 2022	
Purpose: To formally approve and record appointment of new Vice Chair.		
Linked to Strategic Ambition: Take a leading role in enabling an inclusive, resilient and sustainable Scotland Performance Measures: Recognise nationally as a progressive organisation		
Linked to Strategic Risk Register: New Risk (outwith themes) New Risk Commentary:		
Executive Summary: <p>At the end of June current Vice Chair Elaine Acaster ends her full eight years term of office part of which has included the role of Vice Chair.</p> <p>After a nomination process was carried out to appoint a new Vice Chair one candidate came forward.</p> <p>The Board have been informed of the process and that David Johnson was the successful candidate. This item is to formally approve and record the appointment and ascertain that Board are in full, or majority, support of this appointment.</p>		
Recommendation: Board are asked to ratify appointment of Vice Chair.		
Previous Committee Approvals: No		
For publication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For publication with redactions <input type="checkbox"/>	Not for publication <input type="checkbox"/>

Review of Borders College Board Business: Sub Committee and Board Cycle March 2022

Immediate Issues

Vacancy for Vice Chair

Vacancy for Chair of Audit

Vacancy Nominations

New Chair F&GP

Feedback Board Member 1:1s

Overall Context

Board positive and welcoming

Papers very thorough

Meetings well planned and administration and organisation very good

Executive Colleagues are supportive and approachable

Executive colleagues listen and respond to feedback

Issues and Observations: Members

Can we find ways to promote greater discussion?

Lots of reporting in of what has been done rather than what is planned and asking the Board to help shape support or advise.

Not many cases where there are decisions to be taken or options given for the Board to make a decision.

The need for a greater focus on the Strategy and a future focus.

Risk register generally a concern.

The rationale for the two tier presentation of accounts is not universally understood.

Is the balance between the Boards business and the Sub Committees, right? Lots of papers and detailed discussions in sub committees. In contrast, the Board itself seems quite light in terms of content and non-contentious.

Is the balance between support and challenge, quite right?

Can we have more real time discussion on KPIs? Where we are now and the actions we plan to take that the Board could help shape or support. Currently reports on KPIs tend to be historic. Where you were and what you have done about it.

Chairs Observations and Some Thoughts to Discuss

Observations below made with some degree of caution based on only one Board meeting and three sub committees: -

Agree with some but not all of the points above.

How has the planning and the organisation of the Board evolved? Is the Principal content with the current situation?

Do the Board meetings follow any kind of cycle linked to the key events in the College year? Is so does that not present opportunities to be more future focussed?

Does the current focus on realigning the strategies to the sub committees and Board provide an opportunity for both the sub committees and Board to become more strategy focussed?

Current status of and progress made against Board Effectiveness/Board Development Plan?

Among one or two members there seems some concern about roles responsibilities and overlaps between Audit and F&GP and that F&GP has in effect become "a mini Board".

Possible Ideas for Discussion

Strategic discussion topic for every Board meeting or a discrete focus on one or more of the business strategies at every meeting.

Challenge questions written into every paper by Executive leads for Board members to specifically consider and provide feedback on. Be clear on the contribution the Executive are looking for from the Board, not just approval of the paper.

Allocation of Board agenda items to Board members to lead the scrutiny of the paper proposed/presented. This would typically be done by Board members who would not have seen the paper when it was initially shared with the relevant subcommittee and therefore potentially provide a different perspective or challenge.

In addition to Leaders in Learning, introduce a "pairing" scheme, where Board members are "paired" with Executive or Senior Leadership Team members so they can find out more about particular areas of the business.

Is there value in asking the Executive Team to provide end of year feedback to the Board on the extent to which the Board is helping them with their work and what further interventions or changes they might welcome?

Ray McCowan

March 2022