

The Role and Responsibilities of Governors

The Articles of Government define the responsibilities of the Corporation and the Principal (and the extent to which those responsibilities can be delegated) and various matters relating to staff and students.

The responsibilities of the Corporation are to:

- Determine the educational character and mission of the College
- Ensure the solvency of the College and the safeguarding of its assets
- Approve annual estimates of income and expenditure
- Ensure proper use of public funds
- Oversee the appointment, grading, suspension, dismissal and the determination of pay and conditions of senior postholders and the Clerk to the Corporation
- Set a framework for the pay and conditions of service of all other staff
- Provide a quality service to students and ensure their welfare
- Ensure effective management
- Set and monitor targets for the retention and achievement of students
- Monitor its own performance to ensure it operates to a high standard

The Corporation 'conducts' the College and has the power to:

- Provide further and higher education
- Supply goods or services in support of the provision of education
- Conduct an educational institution

It also has powers to acquire and dispose of assets, enter into contracts, and make other arrangements to support its main powers

The legal power of the Corporation resides with the Board as a whole, not with individual governors.

Voluntary members of the Corporation may be compared with non-executive directors of a board of a public company. A College Corporation may give an account of its activities to its local community but is not accountable in the way a board is to its shareholders.

A governor of a college is a holder of public office and in carrying out the roles and responsibilities should abide by the seven principles of public life, as recommended by the Nolan Committee report, *Standards in Public Life*. In summary the seven principles of public life are:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership