

Statement of Council Primary Responsibilities

Introduction

The Council collectively has ultimate responsibility for directing the business of the University. Council sets the strategic direction, educational character, mission and values of the University, monitors its effectiveness and purpose and safeguards its reputation and good name. Its primary responsibilities may be summarised as follows:

1. Strategic Development and Planning

- a) Shaping the development of and ultimately approving the University's vision, mission and strategic plan (including relevant sub-strategies in cognisance of the University's obligations to promote equality of opportunity for staff and students).

2. Monitoring Effectiveness and Performance

- a) Ensuring effective and proactive monitoring of the implementation of the strategic plan (and relevant sub-strategies); this includes confirming that there are effective key performance indicators, which wherever possible and appropriate, are benchmarked against other institutions.
- b) Ensuring that there are in place appropriate arrangements for the management of the University, particularly through appointment of the Vice-Chancellor and other designated senior positions
- c) Ensuring that there are effective control and accountability mechanisms, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment and management.
- d) Monitoring its own effectiveness as a governing body and reporting thereon.
- e) Putting in place suitable arrangements for monitoring the performance of the Vice-Chancellor and other designated senior positions.

3. Academic Affairs

- a) Recognising and supporting Senate's role as the academic authority of the University, ensuring that there is effective and satisfactory performance in relation to academic affairs, such as academic partnerships and collaborations, academic quality and the student experience, student recruitment and achievement, data provision and research integrity.
- b) Ensuring, in conjunction with Senate, that the general welfare of students is assured.

4. Legal and Regulatory Commitments and Obligations

- a) Ensuring that the University meets its diverse legal and regulatory obligations (including those relating to health and safety)

5. Finance

- a) Ensuring the solvency of the University and safeguarding its assets.
- b) Shaping the development of and approving the financial strategy and the overall annual budget, and ensuring its congruence with the overall University strategy.
- c) Ensuring that the funds provided by the Funding Council (HEFCE) are used in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the HEFCE Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability.
- d) Considering and approving annual accounts.
- e) Ensuring that, subject to relevant legislation, appropriate arrangements are in place for the management and operation of such companies as are wholly or partly owned by the University.
- f) Acting as a trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the welfare of the University.

6. Audit and Risk

- a) Directing and overseeing the University's arrangements for internal and external audit. This includes ensuring an effective approach to risk management, control and governance (including ensuring the probity of the financial statements and the effective management and quality assurance of data submitted to funding bodies).

7. Estate Management

- a) Shaping the development of, approving and subsequently reviewing an estates strategy that identifies the property and infrastructure requirements (including information technology requirements) needed to fulfil the objectives of the University's strategic plan.
- b) Providing for a planned programme of maintenance for the University's estate.
- c) Considering and approving all acquisitions and all disposals of land and property.

8. Human Resource Management

- a) Shaping the development of, approving and subsequently reviewing the University's human resources strategy and policies, including remuneration policy.
- b) Ensuring the University has clear procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest.
- c) Appointing the Vice-Chancellor and other senior designated positions and setting the terms and conditions for these posts.

9. Ethics and Values

- a) Conducting its business in accordance with best practice in corporate governance and with the principles of public life as drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life
- b) Safeguarding the good name and values of the University and being responsible for the ethical governance of the University

10. Public Benefit

- a) Ensuring that, as an Exempt Charity, the University's obligations to demonstrate public benefit are met.

11. Students' Union

- a) Ensuring that the Students' Union operates in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances.