

Craven College External Board Review December 2022

Executive Summary

This AoC External Board Review is based on the ETF/AoC pilot review framework. The Framework considers, but is not limited to, principles from Codes of Governance, the Education Inspection Framework and the DfE's current guidance on external board reviews. In discussion with you it was agreed to tailor the focus on board reporting and governance relationships.

Emerging findings have been discussed throughout the Review in a developmental and inclusive approach that supports College improvement and seeks to share best practice. The full report sets out the findings made against the 3 Board dimensions in the Framework with the key evidence that informs those findings.

The following table summarizes the headline strengths and areas for development:

Strengths	Areas for Development
BOARD COMPOSITION	
1 Inter-Board relationships	1 Recruitment of business governors
2 Skills of board members	2 Strategic focus and discussion
BOARD STRUCTURE	
1. Effective committee structure	1. Quantity and quality of board reports
2. Agenda and minute reporting	2. Board structure
3. Processes of governance	3. Appointment of Governance Professional and time allocation
4. Deep dives into areas of concern	4. Return to some face-to-face meetings
BOARD INTERACTION	
1. Committee membership and chairing	1. Strategic planning and follow-through
2. Commitment to training and development	2. Board reporting and links to strategic priorities and risk
	3. Relationship building between board and senior team

The overall conclusion on Board effectiveness is that there is evidence the Board is proficient and has some impact on college strategy, effectiveness, and outcomes. Some excellent examples of good governance practice were observed during the review with very sound processes in place to ensure governance compliance and strong appreciation of the support provided by the Governance Professional.

Thanks and appreciation is recorded to all those who have engaged in this Review. Particular thanks go to both the former Governance Professional and the interim Governance Professional who worked hard to ensure that arrangements have been smooth and efficient, as well as to the Chair of Governors who agreed to the final completion of the review after an agreed break due to college circumstances and the absence of the Principal.