

EXETER COLLEGE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION

CORPORATION BOARD

Public Minutes of the meeting held on 9.30am on Friday 12 December 2025 at Future Skills Centre, Exeter Airport Industrial Estate, Exeter, Devon, EX5 2LJ.

Present

Adam Watt	Corporation Chair
John Laramy CBE	Principal/CEO

Graham Atkins
 Sue Clarke OBE
 Antony Hart
 Neil Hitchings
 Wilf Hudson
 Harrison Littler
 Carol McCormack OBE

Damian Norcombe
 Cynthia Sedgman
 Sally Wolkowski

Pamela Degregorio
 Ayomide Okesola
 Chelsy Ingram
 Albertina Mihaila
 Victoria Roberts

Jo Boardman
 Abbie Sawyer

Apologies

Rob Hutchins
 Stewart Noakes
 Tim Quine
 Stephen Wiltshire

In Attendance

Jade Otty	Deputy CEO
Richard Church	Chief Operating Officer
Sam Hillman	Deputy Vice Principal

1. Welcome and Apologies Action

The Chair welcomed Governors to a very significant Board Meeting. Apologies were noted from Rob Hutchins, Stewart Noakes, Tim Quine and Stephen Wiltshire.

Declarations of Interest

Adam Watt declared interests for anything relating to Exeter College Services Ltd and the University of Exeter.

John Laramy declared interests for anything relating to Exeter College Services Ltd.

Jo Boardman declared interests in anything relating to Petroc / in relation to the merger.

2. **Minutes of Meetings**

Open Minutes of 10 October 2025

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2025, as circulated, Were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Confidential Minutes of 10 October 2025

- 2.2 The Confidential minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2025, as circulated, were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

- 2.3 Open Minutes of 04 November 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 04 November 2025, as circulated, Were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Chair's Report**

The item was dealt with as a confidential item and recorded in the confidential minutes.

4.1 **Governor Appointments and structure**

The item was dealt with as a confidential item and recorded in the confidential minutes.

5. **Strategic Matters for discussion**

5.1 SAR 2024/2025

The Deputy CEO and Deputy Vice Principal presented the College SAR to the Board, for 2024/2025. The SAR has used the current EIF Framework, next year will use new recently used terminology reflective of the new Ofsted Terminology. It is proposed that the College is rated outstanding in all areas, aside from Skills Needs, which is rated 'strong'.

Quality and Resources Review is used to assess each faculty, Wilf Hudson attended three reviews, and Governors were encouraged to ask to attend if they had not done so already.

The Board were informed that high needs and Pupil Premium (PP) learners achieved a higher rate than the national average for all

learners. Although the achievement rate has been narrowed, there is still progressed to be made.

Apprenticeships are aspiring to 78 by 28, further to the success for 75 by 25.

Adult is consistently outstanding. One area that requires more attention is ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages); though the students on such courses have made great achievements, the aim is to have more learners sitting GCSEs.

A new risk tracker has been put in place for PP Learners. The Governors discussed outcome data and reminded that to achieve, learners have to be retained on the course and pass. It was noted that Level 1 and 2 have lower achievement rates, however they are still achieving above national average. A lot of progress has been made with the creation of the FLI faculty (Foundation, Learning and Inclusion). Though the Fountain Centre is a significant cost, this provision is needed to support learners and be a balanced tertiary college. The College want to increase inclusivity, especially as the achievement rates are significantly higher than the national average. The Board acknowledged the importance of providing the right support and were informed that challenges within this area are national.

The Board discussed how to ensure key skills needs are being met and were reassured that regular meetings are taking place to look at new opportunities. There is also a curriculum group that meets to monitor the curriculum on offer and any gaps. This is alongside the work that takes place with employers.

The Chair thanked the Deputy CEO and Deputy Vice Principal for a well put together and easy to follow SAR.

5.2 Principal's Strategic Report

The Principal's report was taken as read.

The Principal thanked Governors for freely giving their time and contributing to the success of the College and reflected on how much growth there has been.

The principal informed Governors about a potential opportunity for an extra building to house the growing construction faculty, due to some additional funding which needs to be spent by March. Business Services have been informed of this, and assurance has been provided.

The Principal thanked the Chair and Colleagues.

Petroc have had a clean audit, which provided assurance for Board. The board voted to proceed with the building procurement.

6. **Learner Voice Update**

6.1 College News

The Principal noted how well organised and attended the Carol Service was, and appreciated seeing so many Governors in attendance.

6.2 Learner Voice

It was noted the Tutor rep engagement and representation was up from last year.

The reps feel valued by the College.

There has been a greater uptake of feedback with electronic forms submitted, this has been easier to gain feedback, analyse data and action.

Learner Voice Conference, thank you to Governors who attended, it was very positive, food prices and space were only mentioned once. ESOL engagement in the conference, and received amazing feedback. There was also a rep from Construction.

The Chair thanked Ayo for a successful start to the year, and a brilliant report.

6.3 Student Governor Report

The Student Governor noted her appreciation for the opportunity to write to the Board.

She noted the various reasons that led her to choose Exeter College; facilities, the Principal's speech, courses on offer, welcoming nature and community feel. It was noted that her first year was generally positive, with one issue related to staff absence in one area.

The Learner Leadership Team has provided plenty of opportunity to meet people from other courses and brilliant opportunities.

The Chair thanked Chelsy for a brilliant report and welcomed Albertina to her first in person meeting.

Part 2 COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR APPROVAL/ASSURANCE/AWARENESS

7. **Recommendations from Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

7.1 Executive Summary from Committee Meeting on 17 November 2025.

The Board were provided assurance that the risk register is up to date, there is a catch all risk for the merger, but the merger itself has a separate risk register.

It was noted that the Key Issues Discussion Document is exceptionally clean, with thanks given to the Chief Financial Officer and College Accountant. The Self-assessment report shown no concerns to flag. The Letters of Representation were standard. The Annual report of the committee summarises the work that has happened and show effective risk management.

It was also noted that Tony Rose has joined the Committee as a Co-Opted Governor.

The Board agreed to approve Risk Register, Annual Report to Corporation, Key Issues Discussion Document, Regularity self-assessment report, Letters of Representation and the Audit and Risk Assurance Annual Report.

8. Recommendations from Business Services Committee

8.1 Executive Summary from Committee Meeting on 24 November 2025. Business Services would like to record formal thanks to the Executive Director of Estates and Sustainability for the CLS build and various projects.

The Board discussed salaries of the Senior Team, and how to monitor and review this. At the next Remuneration Committee, reassurance will be sought around pay.

8.2 ENDC Health and Safety Policy

The Business Services Committee received a copy of the EDNC Merged Health and Safety Policy, post committee meeting: this is a policy that will need to be in place from day 1. The Chair highlighted the main change to the existing policy being the inclusion of animal care. The Board were assured that there will be an opportunity to re review post-merger. The Board agreed to remove Neil Hitchings' name and amend to state that a consultant will be appointed shortly.

The Board approve the Health and Safety Policy, subject to the change of Governor name.

8.3 Decarbonisation Pause

The Executive Director for Estates and Sustainability highlighted concerns with the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), as a result an independent report was commissioned. Unfortunately, now it is not appropriate for the College to move forward with the scheme, this is disappointing for sustainability, but the Committee noted the rigour.

The Board note the report.

8.4 Statutory Accounts

The Exeter College Financial Statements and Annual Report show surplus; Board were assured that Business Services will monitor this.

HoFG

The Board approved the Financial Statements and Annual Report.

The Board reviewed the Exeter College Services Ltd financial statement and report, and Exeter College Apprenticeships Ltd financial statement and report, noting that the accounts are dormant.

HoFG

The Board approved the Exeter College Services Ltd financial statement and report, and Exeter college Apprenticeships Ltd financial statement and report.

The A Plus accounts unavailable at Business Services, this is a dormant account and the Chief Finance Officer confirmed this was all in order, with no financial transactions.

The Board approved the A Plus Ltd financial statement and report.

9. **Recommendations from Quality and Standards Committee**
Executive Summary from Committee Meetings on 01 December 2025

9.4 The Safeguarding Annual report was discussed and noted that safeguarding is every Governor's responsibility.

9.1 SAR 2024/2025
The Board reviewed the SAR earlier in the meeting.
The Board approved the College SAR 2024/2025.

9.2 QIP 2025/2026
The Board reviewed the QIP earlier in the meeting.

The Board approved the College QIP 2025/2026.

9.3 HE SAR and QIP 2025/2026
The Board reviewed the HE SAR and QIP, noting the look of it is different due to the OfS requirements, and were reassured by quality and rigour.
The Board approved the HE SAR and QIP.

9.4 Safeguarding Annual Report
The Board were provided assurance that the report noted no concerns and were reminded that all Governors are responsible for Safeguarding.

The Board approved the Safeguarding Annual Report.

- 9.5 ENDC Merged Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
The ENDC Merged Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and is needed from day 1 of the merger, this brings clarity and consistency, the importance of such was reiterated.

The Board approved the ENDC Merged Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

- 9.6 ENDC Merged EDI Policy

The Board discussed the ENDC Merged EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Policy. The Committee explained the change from Equality to Equity and discussed changes in wording around reasonable support around inclusion.

The Board approved the ENDC Merged EDI Policy, subject to changes above, which will also need to be reflected in the annual report.

- *Nathan Lucas entered the meeting*
10. Merger
- 10.1 Confirmation of Merger Resolution and Documentation.
The item was dealt with as a confidential item and recorded in the confidential minutes.
- 10.2 Merger Discussion
The item was dealt with as a confidential item and recorded in the confidential minutes.
- 10.3 Merger Vote
The item was dealt with as a confidential item and recorded in the confidential minutes.
- 10.4 Discussion on Board next Steps
The item was dealt with as a confidential item and recorded in the confidential minutes.

Dates of scheduled meetings

- 27 March 2026
- 3 July 2026

Signed by the Chair

Date:

