

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA AT NEWCASTLE: STATEMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Effective From:	1 August 2025	Next Review Date	June 2028
Approval Authority:	Board of Governors	Approved:	30 June 2025

**STATEMENT OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA AT NEWCASTLE**

The Board of Governors is the supreme decision-making body of the University of Northumbria at Newcastle; its primary responsibilities are as follows.

Cross-references beginning IG are to the [Instrument of Government](#), cross-references beginning AG are to the [Articles of Government](#) and cross-references beginning GR are to the [Governance Regulations](#).

1.	To contribute to the development of and approve the Mission, Vision and University Strategy, its long-term academic and business plans, and through an effective approach to engagement to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders.	AG4.1.1
2.	To approve Measures of Success including 2030 goals for the Strategic Ambitions and Commitments of the University Strategy and ensure that processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the University against its Strategy, benchmarking with appropriate comparator institutions where possible.	
3.	To delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, as Chief Executive, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and personnel management of the institution. This delegation is subject to the Scheme of Delegation, the Financial Regulations and other regulations of the University. To oversee and keep under regular review the activities of the University under the leadership, organisation, direction and management of the Vice-Chancellor.	AG4.2
4.	To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk management arrangements, with ultimate responsibility for the effective and efficient use of resources, thus ensuring the solvency of the University and the safeguarding of University assets. To be responsible for delivering value for money from public funds in a transparent way, taking into account guidance on good practice.	
5.	To establish and adhere to processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the governing body itself.	GR5.6
6.	To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life. To ensure the compliance of the University with ethical and professional standards and codes of conduct such as the CUC HE Code of Governance.	AG4.1.3
7.	To ensure that all students and staff have opportunities to engage with the governance and management of the institution.	

8.	To promote a culture which supports equality, diversity and inclusion across the institution.	
9.	To safeguard and promote the reputation and values of the University.	
10.	To appoint the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University, and to determine and put in place suitable arrangements for pay and conditions of service and the monitoring of their performance.	AG4.2 AG4.1.4
11.	To appoint the Secretary to the Board of Governors, and to determine and put in place suitable arrangements for pay and conditions of service and the monitoring of their performance. To ensure, in particular, that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the institution, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability. To appoint such other University staff as the Board may determine to be senior post holders.	AG4.3 AG4.1.4 IG1.1
12.	To be the employing authority for all staff in the institution and to be responsible for approving a strategic approach to human resources and organisational development, to encompass the framework of pay and conditions of service and performance management of all other staff of the University, as well as procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest.	AG4.1.5 AG7.2a GR7
13.	To be the principal financial and business authority of the University, to ensure that accounts and records are kept, to approve and keep under review expenditure against the annual budget, to approve the Annual Report and Financial Statements and to have overall responsibility for the University's assets, property and estate.	AG4.1.2 AG10.1
14.	To be the institution's legal authority and, as such, to ensure that systems are in place for meeting all of the University's legal, regulatory and charitable obligations, including those arising from the regulatory framework, contracts and other legal commitments made in the University's name. This includes accountability for health, safety and security, for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, and for equality, diversity and inclusion.	
15.	To maintain and protect the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech legislation.	AG7.3 AG9.1
16.	To make such provision as it thinks fit for the general welfare of students, in consultation with the Academic Board of the University.	GR8.1 GR8.2
17.	To act in an appellate capacity for the suspension and dismissal of staff above grade 9.	AG7.2b GR8.3
18.	To act as trustees, and ensure that the University complies with any wishes, in respect of any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University.	
19.	To ensure that the University's constitution is adhered to at all times and that appropriate advice and support, as is permissible within the obligations of the	

	Board, is offered to the Vice-Chancellor, management, staff and students in order to achieve effective governance and management of the University.	
--	---	--

Approved by the Board of Governors on 30 June 2025 and effective from 1 August 2025.

Version No.	Reviewer	Date	Changes
1.0	Board of Governors	30.06.2025	<i>Approved by Board for implementation on 1 August 2025</i>
1.1	Beth Lenney	12.12.2025	<i>Added links to Instruments and Governing documents, header table and version control matrix</i>