

Committee	Board of Management		
Agenda Item	13		
Date paper prepared	21/03/2023	Date of committee meeting	29/03/2023
Subject	Board engagement for 2023/24		
Author	Jane Lewis		
Action requested	Discussion and decisions		
Purpose of the paper	To plan Board engagement for the coming year 2023/24.		
Brief summary of the paper	Board members are invited to consider the pattern for board and subcommittee meetings for the coming year; to consider a pattern for workshops for the year and how they would like to engage with the staff and students of the college.		
Consultation	Chair, Secretary		
Resource implications	There are costs associated with in person meetings where travel is required for the Board Secretary		
Risk implications	Board needs to be able to carry out its role effectively		

Link with strategy	
<u>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</u>	No effects identified
Island Community Impact	n/a
Paper status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open – The paper may be circulated to non-members of the committee and published online without restriction. <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted – The paper must not be circulated to non-members or published online until after the committee meeting. <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential - The paper must not be circulated beyond the committee members and should not be published online. [Please note papers may still be subject to Freedom of Information requests – see below].
<u>Freedom of information</u>	Open If closed/ withheld, select date this will become 'open': Enter a date.

Context

For 2022/2023 the Board has moved to a traditional quarterly cycle of activities for both the board and its subcommittees. In addition two ad hoc workshops have been run allowing board members more in depth consideration of strategic matters in a less formal context.

As we move to planning our engagement for next year this is a good opportunity to reflect on how to maximise the effectiveness of the board congruent with wider commitments of the members and support required from our college staff.

In person meetings vs online

For many the convenience of online meetings is paramount while others lament the lack of personal contact and the additional business that gets done in the margins of meetings which adds to the whole piece. For 2022/2023 the pattern that was agreed was for sub-committees to remain online but Board meetings to be in person. In practice in person has meant hybrid as some members have joined on line. Board needs to decide the pattern for the coming year and views from members are sought to inform our planning.

Option 1

Maintain the status quo: sub-committees on line; all board meetings in person (hybrid involvement where needed)

Option 2

Keep the sub-committees on line; 2 Board meetings in person; 2 board meetings online

Option 3

All meetings on line

Board members are invited to consider these options and approve a pattern of meetings for the coming year

Workshops

Following success of the workshops we have held, it would be good to properly plan in workshops for the coming year allowing members to keep them free in their diaries.

Option 1

Two 'all day' workshops in person on a Saturday, suggested timing November and May

Option 2

Two 'all day' workshops in person on a weekday, suggested timing November and May

Option 3

Four evening in person workshops on weekday (similar timing to board meetings) timed to prefix the quarterly board cycle

Board members are invited to consider these options and approve a pattern of workshops for the coming year

Engagement with College staff and students

An important part of the monitoring by the board is to interact directly with staff and students and to get to know the activities of the college. Over the past year Board members have been invited to come into college ahead of Board meetings for this purpose but very few members have taken this opportunity. Board members are regularly invited to 'open activities' – open evenings, engagement events, exhibitions and some members have availed themselves of these opportunities. We need to consider how best we facilitate the opportunity for Board members to 'get to know our college' and have the opportunity to speak to staff and students.

Option 1

Two open afternoons (one in Scalloway and one in Lerwick) to meet staff and students

Option 2

Online briefings for the board in the late afternoons from the sections and HISA. Estimate 10 meetings each ca 30 minutes

Option 3

Status quo – option of requesting tours ahead of board meetings and invitations to 'events' perhaps consider mirroring a feature of UHI Court, which is to invite a couple of students and a couple of staff along for a hour before the formal in person meeting to informally mingle with the Board members – no drill, no order

Board members are invited to consider these options and approve a pattern of engagement for the year