



Audit Committee Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held on
Wednesday 18th March 2026

Via Teams

Present

Simon Bedford (SB) (Chair)	)	
Andy Batty (AB)	)	External members
Yvonne Kelly (YK)	)	
Jon Hawley (JH)		Co-opted member

In attendance:

Janet Smith (JS)	CEO/Principal
Andy Comyn (AC)	Deputy CEO / CFO (<i>from item 3</i>)
David Neilson (DN)	Interim Director of Finance
Rachel Robson (RR)	Director of Governance
Jo Welham (JW)	Head of Governance and Corporate Services
Mark Monroe (MM)	Bishop Fleming (external auditors)

1	APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Craig Elder. It was noted that RSM was not in attendance as they had no items on this agenda. As AC would be joining the meeting a little late it was agreed to take item 4 ahead of item 3.
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST The following interests were declared: JS ▪ CEO/Principal Nottingham College ▪ Trustee and Board Members of Skills and Education Group (SEG), awarding organisation and charity ▪ Ofsted Inspector ▪ Member of the Construction Skills Mission Board ▪ Member of EMCCA Principals' Group ▪ Vice Chair of Nottingham Growth Board ▪ Member of the Tertiary Colleges Group RR – ▪ Governance Consultant Stone King ▪ Daughter employed by Peridot Partners

	AB - Trustee of the University of Nottingham Students' Union No other interests were declared
4	AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT The Committee reviewed the Annual Report to the Board (distributed as AUDIT.180326.006). SB suggested that the final sentence in the executive summary be added to the paragraph on the Audit Committee in the Corporate Governance Statement, the Committee agreed with this (Action AC). Governors were content that this picks up the potential risk that the control environment lags behind the growth environment. The Committee resolved to approve the report for submission to the Board ahead of the review of the statement of corporate governance and internal control in the Financial Statements and Accounts. .
3	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REGULARITY AUDIT 3.1 Going Concern Report AC presented the going concern report (distributed as AUDIT180226.002). He took the Committee through the processes undertaken to arrive at the proposed going concern statement confirming the view that the College will continue to be a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the proposed date of approval of the financial statements and accounts 24/25 on 25th March 2026. A governor asked MM if Bishop Fleming were content with the assumptions underlying the statement. MM confirmed that the assumptions employed in arriving at the assessment had been reviewed and that there was no material uncertainty for a period of at least 12 months. The Committee resolved to recommend the approval of the going concern statement in financial statements and accounts 24/25 to the Board. 3.2 Regularity Auditor's Report (Key Issues for Discussion Document, KIDD) and Management Representation Letters MM took the Committee through the Key Issues for Discussion Document (distributed as AUDIT.280326.003). He confirmed that the report remains largely unchanged from that presented to the Committee in December, the audit work is substantially now complete and this confirms an unmodified audit opinion. MM noted that work in relation to EMTEC had been completed and drew governors' attention to those accounts being prepared on a basis other than going concern as following year end the company ceased trading and returned to a dormant status. The Committee noted that at this point in time the KIDD has been updated to acknowledge that whilst the outcome of the funding audit is known Bishop Fleming have yet to have sight of the DfE's report. MM highlighted the need for Bishop Fleming to have sight of the report to ensure that the outcome is accurately reflected in the financial statements and accounts. Discussion took place on when the draft report from DfE would be received, implications of it not arriving by the time of the Board meeting and work arounds acceptable to Bishop Fleming. The Committee sought confirmation as to why the expected report from DfE would be in a draft format. AC confirmed that this would be to enable the College to agree and share comments. MM emphasised that subject to the draft report being received as

	expected then Bishop Fleming is in a position to sign off on the financial statements and accounts. AC directed governors to the Letter of Support from the College to Nottingham College Services (NCS). MM commented that the accounts for NCS were prepared on a going concern basis on the assumption that the College would continue to support NCS, the letter is a formality to provide additional comfort to the directors of NCS. He noted that it is standard practice in the sector where a college has a wholly owned trading subsidiary and that the letter proposed uses a form of words previously agreed by DfE. The letter is not legally binding on the College. Governors queried why this practice had not been followed in recent years. DN noted that Mazars had not requested this but that it had been the practice in the past. Subject to the receipt of the draft report from DfE confirming the clawback already communicated to the College, the Committee resolved to recommend the KIDD, management representation letters and letter of support to NCS to the Board for approval and where appropriate signature. 3.3 Financial Statements and Accounts year ended 31st July 2025 for college subsidiaries The Committee reviewed the Financial Statements and Accounts year ended 31st July 2025 for college subsidiaries and noted that the Boards of both subsidiaries have met and approved these (distributed as AUDIT.180326.004). 3.4 Financial Statements and Accounts year ended 31st July 2025 AC presented the Financial Statements and Accounts year ended 31st July 2025 (distributed as AUDIT.180326.005). A governor confirmed that he had shared comments on aspects of the wording and content of the financial statements and accounts with AC earlier in the day. Discussion took place on whether any of those comments should be considered material and therefore impact the Committee's recommendation to the Board. After some discussion the Committee considered that the addition of a sentence in the going concern statement to explain the net current liabilities position would be preferable. When asked MM advised that it is not a formal requirement to make such a statement but that he had seen similar statements added by colleges. It was agreed that a statement of this kind would be helpful to the reader. The Committee resolved to recommend the approval of the financial statements and account 24/25 to the Board subject to the receipt of the DfE report confirming the value of the funding error, the addition of the comment from the Committee's annual report to the corporate governance statement and the inclusion of the sentence in the going concern statement on net current liabilities. <i>MM left the meeting ahead of the next item</i>
5	EXTERNAL AUDIT KPI REPORT The Committee considered the report (distributed as AUDIT.180326.007). AC confirmed that the work in completing the financial stamen had not changed the College's view that overall the service and performance provided by Bishop Fleming has been good. The Committee resolved to recommend to the Board that Bishop Fleming continue as external auditors and undertake external audit services for the year ended 31 July 2026.

6	AOB None.
7	DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Monday 8 th June at 5.30pm (pre-meeting with auditors at 5.15) via Teams