

EXTRACT FROM Stone King External Board Review of Varndean College Governance 2024

Executive Summary

In the opinion of the reviewer, governance at Varndean College is highly effective. This view is based upon meeting observations, discussions and documentation made available by the College. In particular, the reviewer has witnessed many examples of committed and constructive governing during the review process, such as:

- A clear commitment and ambition from the Chair and Principal.
- An open and thoughtful approach to the self-assessment and continuous improvement of governance.
- A Corporation which is learner centred with Governors who are committed to the success of the College
- and all of its students.
- A Board comprising Governors with relevant skills, who know the College well.
- An effective and open working relationship between the Corporation and senior staff.
- A knowledgeable and skilled Clerk who manages the processes of governance effectively and efficiently.
- A professional approach to governance processes and practices.

We believe that there are some actions which could be taken to further enhance the performance of governance at the College. Recommendations are presented both in the text (marked with an [R] for ease of identification) as well as being collated in a table at the end of the report. The collated table at section 6 summarises the principal recommendations we believe the Corporation should consider addressing. There are additional suggestions for consideration which may be of interest to the Corporation in seeking to further improve its effectiveness, these are collated in a table at section 7.

In summary we suggest that the Corporation considers the following key points:

- a) Further developing strategic progress reporting at meetings of the Corporation to ensure it consistently addresses its responsibilities for monitoring the implementation of the College's strategic objectives.
- b) Further developing the Corporation's use of key performance indicators to evaluate progress and performance.
- c) Further developing some of the Corporation's governing policies and processes.