

Governance Statement Attwood Academies Trust 2016/17

Scope of Responsibility

As directors, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Trust Board has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the principal, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the Trust Board any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' report and in the Statement of directors' responsibilities. The Trust Board has formally met 6 times during the period. Attendance during the period at meetings of the Trust Board was as follows:

Director	Meetings attendance	Out of a possible
T R Attwood	6	6
S M Attwood	5	6
DM Munton	6	6
D J Coslett	0	0
D Stedman-Scott	5	6
JD Lovering	1	3
F. Green	1	2
J P Sale	6	6
C H Sale	6	6

The Finance Committee is a sub-committee of the main Trust Board. The purpose of the Finance Committee is to set, monitor and review the use of resources of the Academy, ensuring that income due from grants is received, income generation is promoted and expenditure achieves best value in terms of student outcomes. During the year the principal focuses have been:

- Reviewing the contract arrangements inherited from the predecessor trust which reached termination dates to reduce costs and improve services.
- Reviewing staffing levels to ensure operational efficiencies (resulting in staffing reductions through a senior team restructure).
- Monitoring progress on the addressing of legacy latent build defects by ESCC (the client) and Kier Plc. (the contractor).

Attendance at meetings in the period was as follows:

Director	Meetings attendance	Out of a possible
T R Attwood	2	2
DM Munton	2	2
JD Lovering	1	2
J P Sale	2	2
C H Sale	1	2

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer, the principal has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Reviewing senior team staffing levels to ensure best use of resources. A staffing re-structure proposal was adopted reducing annual staff cost by approximately £140,000.
- Continuing to review cost benefits of contracted services where these have been inherited from the prior Trust and expired during the year (e.g. an external asset management service was replaced by an internal system, saving £4,000 p.a.)
- Sourcing a replacement minibus on a best value basis at a saving of approximately £10,000 on a new vehicle price.