



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The review was undertaken between March and July 2023, and key outcomes were presented to governors on 7th July.

Many strengths were identified during the review and there were no areas of concern. Some notable highlights are:

- Governance at Blackburn College has improved significantly in recent years and is now characterised by a culture of openness, trust, challenge, and support. A 'one team' approach has been developed successfully between the Corporation Board and senior managers. Relationships are strong and governors are proud to be part of the College community.
- The mix of skills, expertise, and diversity among the membership of the Corporation Board is a key strength.
- Governors put learners at the heart of all decision making. There is an unrelenting focus on improving teaching, learning, learner outcomes, and the student experience.
- Financial oversight is equally strong, and the College is maintaining outstanding financial health.
- Governors understand their role well, and the Corporation Board complies with all statutory and regulatory duties. Underlying processes are robust and ably managed by the Director of Governance.

The review identified no areas of concern. Some suggestions have, however, been made for enhancing and streamlining governance policies, processes, and practices, based on good practice examples from Further Education and governance in other sectors.

Rockborn is a specialist Further Education (FE) management consultants, with significant experience supporting college boards and senior teams. The independent reviewer is a qualified FE governance specialist and has approved this summary for publication on the College webpages.