

Scheme of Delegation 2025/2026

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EIA:	

Scheme of delegation 2025/2026

The purpose of the scheme is to outline the authority for the University's major organisational responsibilities based on constitutional and regulatory documents and to indicate delegation of these responsibilities where these have been approved.

The scheme is subject to annual review, offering an opportunity to revisit delegations in the light of experience. Suggestions for change may be made to the Clerk. The starting point for the scheme lies in the <u>Articles of Government</u> approved by the Privy Council which sets out the responsibilities of the Council, the Vice Chancellor and Senate – a tripartite arrangement for the governance and management of the University with clear boundaries.

Council has adopted the <u>Council of University Chairs' (CUC) HE Code of Governance</u> which identifies the responsibilities of the Board in meeting good governance requirements. And finally, the Office for Students (OfS) publishes a <u>Terms and Conditions of Funding</u> document which sets out specific responsibilities for Boards of Governors.

Internally, Council approves the Financial Regulations which detail the management and governance arrangements for its financial affairs and associated delegations. All the significant responsibilities outlined in these documents are covered in the Scheme of Delegation which references both the authority for the responsibility and the Board or Committee Term of Reference where that applies. The Scheme also includes a small number of elements which do not arise directly from source documents but which Council is likely to have an interest in.

Under the University's Constitution, the Council is the University's supreme governing body, responsible for setting the strategic direction and policies governing all aspects of the University's activity. In accordance with the University's Articles of Association, Council may not delegate authority for the following:

- the determination of the educational character and mission of the University
- ensuring the solvency of the University
- the approval of the annual estimates of income and expenditure
- the appointment or dismissal of the Vice Chancellor and Rector
- the varying or revoking of the Articles of Government

Where a power or function is delegated, the relevant committee or officer exercising that power must at all times act in accordance with the University's regulations, policies and procedures, and within budgetary and legal constraints.

The delegation of power(s) to an individual does not remove the need for consultation with other colleagues as appropriate.

A Committee Chair shall have the power, following consultation with the Clerk to Council, to deal with any matter of urgency that may arise between normally scheduled meetings, where it is deemed that delay would seriously impede the business of the University. This may include consulting with members by correspondence, or calling a special meeting of the committee, or by taking Chair's action. Any such actions shall

be reported to the next meeting of the Committee in question. Where the table below does not specify a delegated authority, approval rests with Council.

In addition to matters of delegation, certain matters are reserved for approval by external authority, namely revisions to the University's Articles, which after consideration and agreement with Council must be submitted for approval by the Office for Students.

The Rector and Vice Chancellor is the academic leader and Chief Officer of the University and, by virtue of this appointment, has the power to make certain decisions on behalf of the University. With regard to academic matters, the Vice Chancellor is the ex officio Chair of Senate and may, therefore, where necessary for the good of the University, take decisions within the purview of Senate on its behalf (such decisions should be reported to the next meeting of Senate).

With regard to financial matters, the Vice Chancellor may authorise any recurrent expenditure from the University budget as approved by Council, as well as capital expenditure within agreed limits. Further details are specified in Appendix 1, Financial Authority.

<u>Glossary</u>

AoA	Articles of Association
AoG	Articles of Government
F&GP	Finance and General Purpose Committee
loG	Instrument of Government
JCNC	Joint Consultative and Negotiating Committee
MoA	Memorandum of Association
OfS	Office for Students
PAC	Partnerships and Accreditations Committee
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency
REF	Research Excellence Framework
UEB	University Executive Board

<u>Useful Links</u>

Companies House	https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03285547
Charity Commission	https://register-of- charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity- search/-/charity-details/1060579
Hope Constitution	https://www.hope.ac.uk/media/aboutus/governanc edocuments/Articles%20of%20Government%20(Constitution)%20of%20the%20University.pdf
Committees of Council and Senate	https://www.hope.ac.uk/aboutus/governance/committeesandminutes/
Academic Quality at Hope	https://www.hope.ac.uk/aboutus/governance/acad emicquality/
Office for Students	https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/
QAA Quality Code	https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
Research Excellence Framework	https://www.ref.ac.uk/

1. APPOINTMENTS

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to / Officer Responsible
Appointment of Chancellor	Council	 Nominations Committee Senate Trustees Christ & Notre Dame Warrington Training College 	Retained by Council
Appointment of Vice Chancellor	Council	 Nominations Committee Clerk to Council Director of Governance and People Services Trustees Christ & Notre Dame Warrington Training College 	Retained by Council
Appointment of Chair of Council	Council	Nominations Committee	Retained by Council
Executive and academic leadership of the University & OfS Accountable Officer	Council	UEBSenate	Vice Chancellor
Appointment of Deputy Vice Chancellors, Pro Vice Chancellors and Senior Officers	Council	 Director of Governance and People Services Staffing Committee 	Vice Chancellor
Appointment of Honorary Professors	Council	 UEB Director of Governance and People Services Staffing Committee Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) 	Vice Chancellor
Appointment of Emeritus Professors	Council	 UEB Director of Governance and People Services Staffing Committee Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) 	Vice Chancellor
Award of honorary fellowships and degrees	Council	Honorary Degrees CommitteeUEBPro-Vice Chancellor (Research)	Vice Chancellor

Appraisal, salary and conditions of service of Vice Chancellor	Council	 Clerk to Council Director of Governance and People Services Remuneration Committee
Appraisal, salary and conditions of service of designated senior postholders	Council	 Remuneration Committee for UEB members Deputy Vice Chancellor (for spot salaries) Director of Governance and People Services (for spot salaries) Remuneration Committee Vice Chancellor Vice Chancellor
Appointment of the University's internal and external auditors	Council	Audit Committee Council

2. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to / Officer Responsible
Approval of University Strategy	Council	Vice ChancellorUEB	Retained by Council
Approval of Academic Strategies	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees¹) 	Senate
Approval of Finance Strategy	Council	Vice ChancellorChief Operating OfficerF&GP	Retained by Council
Approval of operational, management procedures, regulations and codes of practice.	Council	 UEB Registrar Head of Governance Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees) 	Vice Chancellor
Approval of strategic and operational plans for Faculties and Schools)	Council	 Deputy Vice Chancellor UEB SMT 	Vice Chancellor

Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees)

3. **GOVERNANCE**

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to / Officer Responsible
Articles of Association and Constitution	Council	 Chair of Council Trustees Christ & Notre Dame Warrington Training College Vice Chancellor UEB Clerk to Council Head of Governance Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Retained by Council
Council Membership	Council	Nominations CommitteeTrustees Christ & Notre DameWarrington Training College	Retained by Council
Removal of Council Members	Council	Chair of CouncilNominations CommitteeVice Chancellor	Retained by Council
Council Effectiveness Evaluation	Council	Chair of CouncilClerk to Council	Retained by Council

4. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to / Officer Responsible
Regulation and direction of the academic work of the University.	Council	 Senate UEB Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees) 	Vice Chancellor

Maintenance of Academic Standards and Quality Assurance Procedures	Council	 Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Committee Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees) 	Senate
Assurance as to Quality of Learning & Teaching and Maintenance of Standards	Council	 Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Committee Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees) 	Senate
Approval of academic regulations and associated policies and procedures	Council	 Deputy Vice Chancellor Registrar Academic Committee Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees) 	Senate
Policy for the academic progress of students	Council	 Deputy Vice Chancellor Registrar Academic Committee Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees) 	Senate
Partnerships and Accreditations	Council	 UEB Academic Committee PAC Faculty Academic Committee 	Vice Chancellor
Establishment of strategic Partnerships	Council	 UEB Academic Committee PAC Faculty Academic Committee 	Vice Chancellor
Appointment and approval of members to Senate	Council	• UEB	Vice Chancellor as Chair of Senate
Election of Senate members to Council	Council	• UEB	Vice Chancellor as Chair of Senate
Admission of Students Policy	Council	 UEB Pro-Vice Chancellor (Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions) 	Senate
Examination arrangements	Council	• UEB	Senate

		RegistrarAcademic Committee	
External examiner appointments	Council	UEB Registrar Faculty Academic Committee	Academic Committee
Student Academic Misconduct	Council	UEB Deputy Vice Chancellor Registrar	Senate
Academic Quality Framework	Council	 Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Committee Committees of Senate (and associated subcommittees) Registrar 	Senate

5. STUDENT AFFAIRS

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to / Officer Responsible
Student complaints procedure	Council	 UEB Deputy Vice Chancellor Clerk to Council Head of Governance 	Vice Chancellor
Student disciplinary procedure	Council	 UEB Deputy Vice Chancellor Clerk to Council Head of Governance 	Vice Chancellor
Student contract	Council	 UEB Registrar Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Vice Chancellor
Approval of student tuition fees	Council	UEB F&GP	Council

Establishment and allocation of student scholarships and bursaries	Council	UEBDeputy Vice ChancellorChief Operating Officer	Vice Chancellor
Ensuring adequate provision for the general welfare of students	Council	SSGUEBDeputy Vice Chancellor	Vice Chancellor
Ensuring the Students' Union operates in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances	Council	 UEB Deputy Vice Chancellor Chief Operating Officer Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Vice Chancellor

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS²

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to Officer Responsible
Ensuring the University operates in an efficient and effective manner	Council	UEBChief Operating OfficerAudit CommitteeF&GP	Vice Chancellor
Approval of financial regulations and financial procedures	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer Audit Committee F&GP 	Council via F&GP
Approval of financial statements	Council	Vice ChancellorUEB	Retained by Council

² Refer to Appendix 1, Financial Authority

Approval of annual budgets and financial	Council	 Chief Operating Officer Audit Committee F&GP Vice Chancellor 	Retained by Council
forecasts	Council	 UEB Chief Operating Officer F&GP 	retained by Gourion
Determination of detailed budgets within overall approved budget framework	Council	Vice ChancellorF&GP	Chief Operating Officer
Appointment of bankers, opening of bank accounts, designation of bank account signatories	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer Audit Committee F&GP 	Retained by Council
Establishment of borrowing limits/facilities	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer Audit Committee F&GP 	Retained by Council
Management of Investment Portfolio	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer Investment Committee F & GP 	Retained by Council
Financial management within overall financial strategy	Council	Vice ChancellorUEBChief Operating Officer	Retained by Council

Audit Committee	
• F&GP	

7. INVESTMENTS / ESTATES MATTERS

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to Officer Responsible
Approval of capital projects (including construction, acquisition, refurbishment and leasing of properties relating to those projects)	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer F&GP Estates Planning Group Director of Estates 	Retained by Council
Acquisition of property (land and including leasing and licensing)	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer F&GP Estates Planning Group Director of Estates Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Retained by Council
Other dealings with land (e.g. legal charges)	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer F&GP Estates Planning Group Director of Estates Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Retained by Council

Disposal of land	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer Estates Planning Group F&GP Director of Estates Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Retained by Council
Disposal of property	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer F&GP Estates Planning Group Director of Estates Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Retained by Council
Disposal of equipment, furniture, fittings and vehicles	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer F&GP Director of Estates 	Chief Operating Officer
Write-off of bad debt	Council	Vice ChancellorUEBChief Operating OfficerF&GP	See Appendix
Acceptance of donations and endowments	Council	Vice ChancellorUEB	Retained by Council

		 Chief Operating Officer F&GP University Ethics Committee
Commitment and purchases of goods and services	Council	Chief Operating Officer Approved budget holders ³

8. LEGAL, REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to / Officer Responsible
Policies and procedures relating to legislative compliance	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Senate Head of Governance Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Clerk to Council 	Council
Data Protection Policies and GDPR Compliance	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Head of Governance Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Clerk to Council 	Council
Consumer Protection Act	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Director of Corporate Comms and Marketing 	Council

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³ Approved budget holders within agreed budgets (all expenditure related to purchase order, leases, contracts and corporate credit cards to be in accordance with University financial regulations)

		Clerk to Council	
Prevent Duty	Council	 Head of Governance Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Vice Chancellor 	Council
General employment policies		 Vice Chancellor UEB Deputy Vice Chancellor Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Staffing Committee JCNC Director of Governance and People Services 	Council via Staffing Committee
Health and Safety policy	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Health and Safety Consultative Committee Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Council via Health and Safety Consultative Committee
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Equality and Diversity Steering Committee 	Council
Compliance of buildings with statutory acts	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Director of Estates 	Council
Financial regulations	Council	Vice ChancellorUEB	Council via F&GP

		Chief Operating Officer	
Compliance with Office for Students Regulations	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Deputy Vice Chancellor OfS Group Head of Governance Clerk to Council 	Council
Compliance CUC and Charity Commission requirements		 Vice Chancellor UEB Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Clerk to Council 	Council
Approval of internal audit plan and report	Council	 UEB Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Audit Committee 	Council via Audit Committee
Approval of external audit report	Council	UEBChief Operating Officer	Council via Audit Committee
Approval of strategic risk register and annual assessment of risk appetite	Council	 UEB Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk Risk Management Oversight Group 	Vice Chancellor
Management & Quality Assurance of Data	Council	 Deputy Vice Chancellor Head of Student Records and External Returns 	Vice Chancellor

Access and Participation Plan	Council	RegistrarDeputy Vice ChancellorAcademic Committee	Council
Approval of contracts and agreements (subject to requirements of the University's Financial Regulations)	Council	 UEB Director of Estates Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Vice Chancellor (in line with the Appendix)
Provision of consultancy services by the University	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Director of Estates Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Chief Operating Officer provided UEB approves
Approval of university Information Technology strategies, priorities and investment decisions.	Council	PVC (Research)Director of IT Services	Vice Chancellor
Approval of IT related policies	Council	UEBPro-Vice Chancellor (Research)Director of IT Services	Council via Audit Committee

9. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to / Officer Responsible
Approval of corporate policies that impact significantly on the working conditions or environment for staff	Council	 UEB Deputy Vice Chancellor Director of Governance and People Services Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Council via Staffing Committee
Appointment of PVC and DVC	Council	Director of Governance and People Services	Vice Chancellor

Terms and conditions of employment	Council	UEBStaffing CommitteeDirector of Governance and People	Vice Chancellor
Redundancy arrangements	Council	Services Vice Chancellor UEB Staffing Committee JCNC Director of Governance and People Services Chief Operating Officer Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk	Vice Chancellor But Council will have powers in widespread restructuring.
Compliance with University staff dismissal, discipline and grievance policies and procedures	Council	 UEB Staffing Committee Director of Governance and People Services Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Vice Chancellor
University promotion and progression procedures	Council	UEB Staffing Committee Director of Governance and People Services	Vice Chancellor
Approval of national pay award	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB Chief Operating Officer Staffing Committee Director of Governance and People Services 	Vice Chancellor

Approval to begin the process of	Council	•	UEB	Vice Chancellor
recruitment to a vacant or new post		•	DVC	
		•	Chief Operating Officer	
		•	Director of Governance and People	
			Services	

10. RESEARCH AND RELATED MATTERS

Activity	Authority	Advisory role	Delegated to / Officer Responsible
Research (Including REF ⁴) ⁴ https://www.ref.ac.uk/	Council	 UEB Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) Council Standing Committee on Research Ethics Research Committee Research Degree Sub Committee Research Ethics Sub Committee REF Steering Group Registrar 	Senate
Research funding contracts	Council	Vice ChancellorUEBChief Operating Officer	Pro Vice Chancellor (Research)
Research Partnership Agreements	Council	 Vice Chancellor UEB PAC Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk 	Pro Vice Chancellor (Research)
Approval and management of Research Centres ⁵ https://www.hope.ac.uk/research/researchcentres	Council /	UEBResearch Committee	Senate for approval PVC Research (for management)

Appendix 1: Financial Authority Expenditure

The authorisation for the transaction is subject to following the prescribed procurement process.

Transaction Value	Authorisation
£0.01 -£50,000	Chief Operating Officer
£50,000 - £500,000	UEB*
>£500,000	Council

Those authorised persons above have the authority to sign contracts for the expenditure within their authority. It is the authorising officer's responsibility to seek advice from the Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk if there are any matters involving a material risk to the University.

*Please note that only Council members are legally listed as 'company directors' at Companies House and some contracts will stipulate that signature must be by a company director. UEB members alternate their membership of Council and therefore can only sign contracts during their period of office.

Any contract for expenditure over £50,000 must be reviewed by the Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk and countersigned by the Vice Chancellor.

Procurement Thresholds

Contract Value (excluding VAT)	Procedure	Responsible for procurement process	Authorisation
Up to £2,000	Obtain one written quotation (where practical).	Executive Dean or Service Directors/Managers	Head of Schools or Service Directors/Managers
£2,001 - £10,000	Obtain two written quotations.	Executive Dean or Service Directors/Managers	UEB Member
£10,001 - £25,000	Obtain three written quotations.	Executive Dean or Service Directors/Managers	UEB Member
Above £25,001	Formal Tender Procedure via Intend.	Procurement Manager	UEB Member or Vice Chancellor (depending on value)

Capital Programme Approval

The authorisation for the transaction is subject to following the prescribed procurement process subject to approved budget

Authority	Amount
Chief Operating Officer	<£100,000
Vice Chancellor	£100,000 - £1m
Council	>£1m

Bad Debts

Individual Write Off Value	Authority
<£15,000	Chief Financial Officer
£15,000 - £50,000	Chief Operating Officer
>£50,000	Vice Chancellor