**PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**Terms of reference**

Subject to the overall provisions of the Articles of Association of the University and the overall responsibilities of the Court and of the Principal, the main role is to bring together Court, through the Chair and FE Regional Lead, with the Chairs of the Academic Partners to ensure that the University provides high quality tertiary education strategically across the Partnership.

The functions include:

1. To advise on and monitor the implementation of the University’s strategic plan across the region and report thereon to the University Court regarding priorities and the ways in which the Academic Partners are implementing it.
2. To advise the University Court, through the Finance and General Purposes Committee, on- the allocation of funding to the Academic Partners and the priorities for capital expenditure.
3. To ensure that funding and curriculum provision across the University ensures equality of access to education.
4. To ensure that strategy and resource allocation are based on future regional and national needs.
5. To oversee development of, and advise University Court on, the outcome agreement with the SFC, ensuring that each Academic Partner is accountable for its delivery.
6. To ensure that risks associated with the University’s strategic plan are managed in line with the University’s risk management policy.
7. To encourage collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development within the University.
8. To have oversight of effective communication with internal and external stakeholders and representative groups

**Constitution**

The Court has established a committee of the governing body known as the Partnership Forum.

**Terms of Office**

Members who are Chairs of the Academic Partners of the University of the Highlands and Islands shall have periods of office coterminous with their appointment to their respective college boards. Members who are ex officio shall have periods of office coterminous with their appointment as chair of a relevant college board; their employment at the University of the Highlands and Islands. Members who are members of the Court shall have periods of office coterminous with their appointment to the Court.

**Authority**

The Committee is authorised to determine all matters delegated to it and to consider and advise the university court on all other matters within its terms of reference.

The Committee is authorised to obtain independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of non-members with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary.

**Proceedings**

The Committee should normally meet not less than four times per year.

**Quorum**

The quorum for all meetings of the committee shall be one third of its membership.

**Reporting**

The minutes (or a report) of meetings of the Partnership Forum will be circulated to all members of the university court and academic partner boards.