

## **Statement of Primary Responsibilities (SPR) of the Board of Governors**

The SPR, which has been derived from the Articles of Government, is a work-in-progress which the Board endorsed at its meeting in January 2006. The SPR will be subject to further changes as work continues on the development of the criteria for assessing the Board's effectiveness. Some of the responsibilities listed in the SPR are the direct responsibility of the Board, others are fulfilled through its Committees and others are carried out through the Vice-Chancellor.

The Board is responsible for:

- 1 The proper conduct of the University's business by observing the highest standard of corporate governance including standards set out in the Seven Principles of Public Life as provided by the Nolan Report;
- 2 Determining the educational character and mission of the University and working through the Academic Board to ensure that these are put in place;
- 3 Considering and approving the University's Strategic Plan which covers all the business of the University; additionally, the monitoring of the performance against Plan and operational targets and risks based upon information acceptable to the Board with regard to content and timing;
- 4 The financial management of the University including the effective use of resources, the solvency of the University, and safeguarding its assets; the soundness of the University's financial control systems and their operation, approving the annual operating statements and budgets, the proper use of the core funding received by the University and the approval of the annual accounts;
- 5 The proper internal and external auditing of the University's business and for effective systems of internal control and risk management;
- 6 The University's employment and staffing strategies, and the appointment, grading, suspension, dismissal of the Vice-Chancellor and holders of senior posts; setting the pay and conditions of service of the holders of senior posts, and the framework of the pay and conditions of other staff; determining the pay, conditions and arrangements for subsequent annual appraisal of the Vice-Chancellor;
- 7 As part of the overview of the effective use of resources, the strategic management of the University's land and buildings as set out in its estates strategy including property and space requirements, and maintenance programmes, which it receives, approves and reviews regularly;
- 8 Taking reasonable steps to ensure that the students' union operates in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances;
- 9 The protection of the academic freedom of expression of staff and students as an integral part of the university environment;
- 10 Ensuring that the business of the University is conducted in accordance with statutory regulations such as Health and Safety, Discrimination Legislation and Employment Legislation and that appropriate policies and procedures are in place accordingly.