**Statement of Primary Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the Council to undertake the following functions:

1. To safeguard and uphold the Catholic character, mission and strategic vision of the University;
2. To determine the educational character of the University;
3. The ensure the solvency of the University, the safeguarding of its assets and the effective and efficient use of its resources;
4. To appoint the Vice-Chancellor and Principal as chief executive and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance;
5. To delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and personnel management of the institution and to establish and review on a regular basis the policies and procedures under the terms of which the Vice-Chancellor acts;
6. To appoint a Clerk to the Council and, as he/she has managerial responsibilities in the University, to ensure that there is appropriate separation in the lines of his/her accountability to the Council and to the Vice-Chancellor;
7. To appoint, and should it become necessary to do so, suspend, dismiss and/or determine the appeal of all the Senior Post Holders;
8. To approve the strategic, academic and business plans and key performance indicators of the University and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders;
9. To establish and monitor systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment, and procedures for handling internal grievances and managing conflicts of interest;
10. To establish and maintain processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of Newman University against the approved strategic plans and key performance indicators, which should be, where possible and appropriate, benchmarked against comparable institutions;
11. To establish and maintain processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the Council itself;
12. To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance and with the Principles of Public Life drawn up by the Committee of Standards in Public Life;
13. To be the employing authority for all staff in the University and to be responsible for establishing a human resource strategy;
14. To be the principal financial and business authority of the University, to ensure that proper books of account are kept, to approve the annual budget and to have overall responsibility for the University’s property and estate;
15. To be the legal authority of the University and to ensure the establishment, maintenance and regular review of legal compliance systems for all aspects of University business including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in the University’s name;
16. To make such provision as it thinks fit for the general welfare of students, in consultation with the Senate;
17. To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of the University; and
18. To vary, revoke or ensure compliance with the University’s Articles of Association and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.