Item 6b
For Noting

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEETING OF 14 MARCH 2022

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE REPORT

REPORT BY PRINCIPAL

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of key activity and events considered by the Principal to be noteworthy or of particular interest to members which are not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

This report will cover the twelve week period from the last Board of Management meeting held on Monday 13 December 21 until Friday 04 March 22.

2. Key Activity - Management of COVID-19

Since my last report the Scottish Government (SG) have published an update to the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework on 22 February 2022. SG's Coronavirus (COVID-19): universities, colleges, and community learning and development providers document has not been updated since 23 December 2021. In my last report I informed members of the additional direction from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and skills, Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, which presented a very clear expectation of our actions as public bodies and involved a number of very restrictive controls in addition to base guidance. This enhanced direction is no longer in place. Base controls relating to 23 December Guidance remain in place however they are now considered and applied in light of recent SG removal of national restrictions and in line with Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework update for 22 February 2022.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework update – February 2022 (last Update 22 Feb 22). The College is fully compliant.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): universities, colleges, and community learning and development providers (last Update 23 Dec 21). The College continues to be fully compliant.

As SG guidance changes, necessary controls will be discussed and agreed by the College's Transformation & Renewal Consultative Committee, which is Chaired by the Principal and consists of members from Management, Trades Unions and the Student Association.

Current controls:

- Robust risk assessment processes in place.
- Face coverings continue to be worn in indoor public areas within the College. (This will no longer be a legal requirement from 21 March 22 – voluntary use will be encouraged and promoted)
- Lateral flow testing will continue. (Until advised otherwise by SG)

- 1m social distancing may be put in place in classrooms as an additional control measure but only where individual room risk assessment deems necessary. Most classrooms and learning places will not require social distancing.
- Rigorous hygiene practices will continue.
- Suitable levels of ventilation will be managed and monitored.
- Hybrid working will remain an option, however, campus working will be managed in line with staff wellbeing requirements and service need.
- Positive ongoing promotion of vaccination benefits to staff and students.

As we approach the end of term 2 of AY 2021/22 most students will begin to experience increased levels of on campus activity. From Term 3 (14 March 2022), in most instances, we will see a majority of on campus activity for students.

The safety of our staff and students is paramount and continued caution is being exercised in strict adherence to SG guidance and in close consultation with union colleagues and Student Association representatives.

3. College Sector Funding

Members will be aware of the Scottish Government budget allocation to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) for Colleges in Financial Year (FY) 2022-23, which is the basis for AY 2022-23 allocations, being a "flat cash settlement with no uplift for AY 2021-22. Indicative allocations will be available at the end of March 2022 at the earliest with final allocations arriving no earlier than the end of April 2022. What is certain is that final allocations and associated targets will not be the same as AY 2021-22. One piece of good news is that £10m has been allocated to the sector to support college delivery of Young Persons Guarantee activity. No further detail has been received to date.

I can inform members that dialogue continues between the College, GCRB, sector, SFC and SG and I believe that our "voice", alongside fellow colleges, is being heard. AY 2022-23 will be one of our most challenging to date.

4. Key Activity & Events

Partnership meetings:

- North East Sector Community Planning Partnership Board
- North East Schools' Partnership engagement event
- NG Housing Association meeting
- College Sector national Strategic Partnership Forum
- Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) College Sector Discussions
- National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) meetings
- Employers Association members meeting
- Colleges Scotland, College Principal's Group (CPG)
- Glasgow Colleges Group (GCG)
- Glasgow East Arts Company (GEAC) Board

Stakeholder engagement:

- Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, meeting with NJNC negotiators.

- Jamie Hepburn MSP, Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, meeting with college and university Principals
- Bob Doris MSP meeting with Principal & Chair
- John Mason MSP meeting with Principal & Chair
- Paul Sweeney MSP meeting with Principal & Chair
- Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP meeting with Principal & Chair
- Ivan McKee MSP, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise meeting with Principal & Chair
- Annie Wells MSP meeting with Principal & Chair
- Michael Marra MSP meeting with NJNC negotiators
- David Linden MP meeting with Principal
- GCRB Executive Director meeting meeting with Principal
- GCRB Chairs, Principals & Executive Director meetings

Events

- College Graduation – virtual Event
- CDN - Cyber Security for Principals and Board Members – virtual event
- National Strategy for Economic Transformation - virtual launch event

5. Resource Implications

There are no direct or immediate resource implications as a direct result of this paper.

6. Assurance and Risk

Strategic Risk Register Mapping:

Risk Ref No	Risk Title	Residual Assessment RR	Recommend Risk Review in light of this Paper? Y/N	Risk Recommendation / Note
6	Sustainable Funding	12 High	N	Note: AY 2022-23 Budget allocation risk to maintaining financial sustainability.
7	Student Experience	9 High	N	Note: opportunities to improve student experience as students return to campus.
10	Student Recruit' & Ret'	12 High	N	Note: opportunities to improve student recruitment and retention as we improve the student experience.

7. Equality

No negative impacts on people with protected characteristics have been identified as a consequence of this paper.

8. Data Protection

There are no direct data protection implications as a consequence of this paper.

9. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of this update report.

10. Further Information

Members can obtain further information on the contents of this report from Derek Smeall, Principal – dsmeall@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

DSm, March 2022