Item 07b
For Noting

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT - MEETING OF 07 JUNE 2021

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 01 March 2020 until Thursday 27 May 2021.

2. Key Activity - Management of COVID-19

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework (last Update 23 March 2020). The College continues to be fully compliant.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): universities, colleges, and student accommodation providers (last Update 16 April 2021). The College continues to be fully compliant.

At present the College continues to operate under Protection level 3 restrictions. The Glasgow region remains at Level 3 whilst most regions in Scotland have been lowered to Level 2. The difference between Protection Levels 3, 2 and 1, at present, do not significantly impact on College students when engaging in College work. This is due to the principal controlling factor of the maintenance of 2m social distancing within College teaching environments and the continuing direction from Scottish Government (SG) that Colleges will continue a phased return of a small number of priority students for in-person learning. At the time of issuing this paper only 3 scheduled teaching weeks remain with teaching staff departing on their summer break in 4 weeks' time.

Therefore, for the vast majority of delivery there will be no change to current blended delivery methods for the remainder of AY 2020/21. We hope to hear from SG colleagues over the summer indicating what restrictions may remain as we move into AY 2021/22.

With regards to College staff, SG guidance remains that staff should continue to work from home where possible. Staff attendance on campus remains only for operational or wellbeing requirements. As such, staffing levels on all our campuses remains extremely low and will continue to be low until after the summer teaching break.

The safety of our staff and students is paramount and while we are making progress, continued caution is being exercised in strict adherence to SG guidance.

COVID-19: Information for the education sector, including related ministerial communications sent to the university and college sectors, can be accessed here at: http://www.sfc.ac.uk/COVID-19/COVID-19-education.aspx

3. Key Activity - Curriculum

Despite the huge disruption to curriculum delivery over the course of this academic year, course teams have managed to minimise, as far as possible, the number of learners unable to complete their qualifications. As a result of the very significant efforts and flexibility given by staff and students, we currently expect the vast majority of courses will be able to complete within this academic year. In summary, we currently expect 50% of all students to complete their course fully online, with around 40% of all students completing with a blended approach. The remaining 10% relate to our engineering SVQ apprentices. We are still hopeful that some of these learners can complete, however, we are prioritising those students due to leave the College in June. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) have indicated that funding Credits will be available in AY 2021-22 for learners requiring to continue their studies into the next AY. We will make use of this funding to ensure students can catch up on lost time, particularly for this cohort. Overall, given the massive levels of disruption to normal service delivery throughout this year, the fact that so many learners are on track to complete their qualification represents a huge achievement.

4. Key Activity – Regional Outcome Agreement

At this stage in the year, the Board would normally be considering a Regional Outcome Agreement (ROA) for the forthcoming academic year. However, due to the ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the SFC have not yet provided guidance to the sector on ROAs. Although there is currently no draft document for the AY 2021-22 version of the three-year ROA, the Board have reviewed targets for the previous 2020-21 version covering the three-year period from AY 2020/21 - 2022-23. We would expect the AY 2020/21 - 2022-23 ROA statistical parameters to form the basis of any statistical element of the ROA for next academic year. A further update on the ROA will be provided once SFC and / or Glasgow Colleges regional Board (GCRB) guidance is available.

5. Key Activity – Transformation & Renewal Plan

Members will recall that they were presented with a quarter 2 update on the College's Transformation & Renewal Plan Objectives at their Board of Management meeting on Monday, 01 March 2021, in the paper entitled *Progress Against Strategic Plan and Transformation Renewal Plan Mid-Year Review.* The paper highlighted good progress against Plan Objectives. That positive trajectory continues. An update on one particular objective will be of interest to members, considering the necessity to operate within the current crisis. Action 1 A) Deliver our planned funding Credit delivery volumes over the next 3-years – AY 2020-21 funding Credit target 79,192. Our Quarter 3 estimate now stands at 77,999 funding Credits. Despite the operational challenges faced, the College continues to be on track to meet both SFC and European Social Fund (ESF) funding Credit targets and has currently achieved 99% of funding Credits required. We project achievement of 100% of target by the end of July 2021.

Item 9 on this agenda will present the College's 3-year Draft Budget. Members will see the improved projected outruns covering the period of the Transformation & Renewal Plan. This will impact positively and consequently allow the College to revisit the plan

and adjust targets accordingly. This will be completed over the period June – August. An updated plan will be presented to the Board early next academic year for approval.

6. Key Activity & Events - Other

Events:

- Online virtual summer awards ceremony on 24 June
- Leading organisations on race equality event
- Board of Management strategy development session
- Principal's All staff discussion sessions

Partnership meetings:

- Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) Implementation Planning Group
- Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) Colleges and Universities Strat Group
- Education Scotland post-visit feedback
- North East Sector Partnership (NESP) Board, Community Planning Partnership
- Meeting with CEO of Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)
- Glasgow East Arts Company (GEAC) Board
- Glasgow Colleges Group (GCG)
- Colleges Scotland, College Principal's Group (CPG)
- Colleges Scotland, Finance & Funding Committee

Stakeholder engagement:

- Employers Association engagement
- National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) negotiations
- Letters to all newly elected and re-elected local MSPs
- Letters to new ministers – J Hepburn, J Gilruth and C McKelvie
- GCRB Board
- GCRB Performance & Resources Committee (P&R)
- GCRB Chairs, Principals and Executive Director (CPED)
- GCRB Executive meetings
- GCRB External Effectiveness Review
- GCRB Glasgow Region Review Phase 2 Meeting

7. Assurance and Risk

There is no specific impact on Risk or Assurance associated directly with this report.

8. Equality

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

9. Data Protection

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

10. Recommendations

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

11. Further Information

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

DSm, June 2021