

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 28 October 2019
Paper Title	2020-21 Glasgow Regional Outcome Agreement Development
Agenda Item	16
Paper Number	BM1-P
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Interim Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1. To consider Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Guidance for the development of College Outcome Agreements 2020-21 to 2022-23.
- 1.2. To agree outline plans for the development of the Glasgow Regional Outcome Agreement 2020-21.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Board is invited to:
 - **note** the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Guidance for the development of College Outcome Agreements 2020-21 to 2022-23; and
 - **consider** and **agree** these, subject to any amendment, the outline plan for the development of the Glasgow Regional Outcome Agreement 2020-21.

3. Background

- 3.1. Each year the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) provides guidance to the sector for the development of Outcome agreements.
- 3.2. In the three multi-college regions of Glasgow, Lanarkshire and the Highlands and Islands, the ROA is negotiated and agreed between the SFC and the regional strategic body. In Glasgow GCRB is responsible for negotiating outcomes with the three Glasgow colleges.
- 3.3. In 2013, the SFC decided that whilst funding would remain based on annual allocations, college ROAs would be developed in 3-year cycles, supporting the setting of longer-term, more strategic outcomes. GCRB is therefore required to develop a ROA which begins in 2020-21 and looks forwards to 2022-23.

4. SFC Regional Outcome Agreement Guidance

- 4.1. The SFC guidance for the development of College Outcome Agreements: 2020-21 to 2022-23 was published on 7th October 2019 and is attached as an annex to this report.
- 4.2. In terms of policy priorities and outcome expectations, the new ROA sets out the following Scottish Government Strategic Priorities:
- To provide the best student experience, seamlessly connected for learners of all backgrounds.
 - To provide high quality learning in a system where institutions work in partnership and demonstrate the highest standards of governance and financial accountability.
 - To support Scotland’s global reputation as a Science and Research Nation synonymous with high quality teaching, research, knowledge exchange and innovation.
- 4.3. However, in terms of changes to the guidance to the previous year, there are areas of greater emphasis or additional information required for 2019-20. This includes a greater focus on mental health and well-being, widening access priority groups, and aspects of high performing institutions.
- 4.4. It is also of note that the guidance requires submission of additional narrative on a large number and range of items, including additional institutional information on British Sign Language, Cyber Resilience, at risk groups, STEM, Flexible Workforce Development Fund, Leadership in Environmental and Social Sustainability, Estates and Financial stability.

5. Outline plan for the development of the 2020-21 Glasgow Regional Outcome Agreement

- 5.1. In terms of development timeframes, the following activities and dates are set out within the SFC guidance:

Activity	Deadline
Guidance updated and published	7 October 2019
Outcome Agreement discussions with Regional Strategic Bodies and Colleges	31 October 2019
2018-19 Self-evaluation reports submitted	31 October 2019
SFC Board reviews Outcome Agreement process for 2018-19	6 December 2019
‘Well-developed’ draft Outcome Agreements for 2020-21 submitted	31 December 2019
Feedback on draft Outcome Agreement	February 2020
2020-21 Indicative funding allocations announced	February 2020
SFC Board agree final funding allocations for AY 2020-21	April 2020
Final Outcome Agreement submitted	30 April 2020
2020-21 Final funding allocations announced	May 2020
Outcome Agreements published	June 2020

- 5.2. Given the above timescales and the planned GCRB Board calendar, and following discussions with the SFC Outcome Agreement Manager, it is proposed that the GCRB Interim Executive Director work with the Glasgow Colleges to develop a set of draft Outcome Agreement targets. These draft targets will be presented for review by the GCRB Performance and Resources Committee at its meeting on 18th December 2019. Subject to any amendments by the Committee, the draft targets will be shared with the SFC. Following this, the Outcome Agreement will be developed further and GCRB Board at its meeting on 27th January 2020 and this in turn will be shared with the SFC for feedback.
- 5.3. It is proposed that the ROA for 2020-21 gives particular focus to progressing the following six priority areas:
- **Skills alignment and Employer Engagement:** improving the alignment of skills training to employment needs, with priority given to Childcare, Digital Skills and STEM.
 - **Access and Learning:** widening access to the full regional curriculum and improving retention and attainment.
 - **Developing the Young Workforce:** delivering on national DYW commitments and tackle gender imbalances at subject level.
 - **Learner Journey:** creating seamless inter-college progression and increasing successful progression to work or further study.
 - **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** providing access to high quality and consistent support for good mental health and well-being.
 - **Professional Learning and Development:** nurturing a regional learning community through participation in collaborative CPD opportunities.
- 5.4. Whilst other aspects will continue to be progressed regionally and at individual college level, defining a relatively small number of priorities for particular regional focus will enable effort and resource to be concentrated, and this will in turn allow greater progress to be made in the delivery of related outcomes. The areas identified above, encompass both areas of key Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council priority and/or areas where regional activity is well established.
- 5.5. The Board is asked to **consider** and **agree**, subject to any amendment, the above outline plan for the development of the 2020-21 Glasgow Regional Outcome Agreement. Once agreed, this will enable the GCRB Executive to work with regional stakeholders, college staff and learners on the development of the Glasgow 2020-21 Regional Outcome Agreement for consideration at the next meeting of the GCRB Board.

6. Risk assessment

- 6.1.** The ROA addresses directly a number of GCRB's strategic aspirations and therefore the GCRB's risk register addresses a range of associated risks. In particular it is designed to reduce the risk of a 'Failure to achieve the targets set out in the Regional Outcome Agreement lessens our ability to meet regional needs'. (Risk 009).
- 6.2.** Key mitigation strategies are to enhance the quality and value of performance data, to regularly evaluate outcome performance, and to address areas for improvement through Enhancement Plans within new national quality arrangements.

7. Equalities Implications

- 7.1.** GCRB are required to undertake and publish equality impact assessments of their Outcome Agreements.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1.** No legal implications are identified.

9. Resource Implications

- 9.1.** Work on funding allocations will be taken forward in parallel with development of the final ROA, once indicative funding allocations are announced.

10. Strategic Plan Implications

- 10.1.** The Regional Outcome Agreement addresses directly the regional strategic ambition to build Scotland's most inclusive, most responsive and most effective regional college system.