

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 26 October 2020
Paper Title	ROA Development 2020-2021 & 2021-2022
Agenda Item	15
Paper Number	BM2-K
Responsible Officer	Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Recommended Status	Disclosable
Action	For Noting

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1.** This paper provides an update on the planned interim arrangements for the Regional Outcome Agreement (ROA) 2020-2021 and planned changes for 2020-2022.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** That the Committee **notes**:

- the current interim position of the Regional Outcome Agreement 2020-2021, and proposed Outcomes and Impact Framework for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022;
- the position of the associated GCRB Programme of Action partnership activity.

3. Report

- 3.1.** The proposed Regional Outcome Agreement 2020-2021 was presented to board and approved on 27 April 2020. It was noted at the time of approval that the emerging Covid-19 pandemic would have a significant impact upon the content of the ROA and on the expected measures which the sector would be able to apply. The subsequent national health, social and financial crises continue to have a significant impact on colleges, and therefore on the ROA, which now stands as a snapshot of the college position primarily in a pre-Covid-19 world.
- 3.2** Scottish Funding Council (SFC), therefore, announced the formal pausing of the ROA process in its current format. In its place, SFC will publish guidance on a new *Outcomes and Impact Framework 2020-2021* which will be a high-level, rationalised report which provides a clear overview on which KPIs will be required.
- 3.3** A second phase of SFC activity will then focus on a second-wave *Outcomes and Impact Framework 2021-2022*, which will form the basis of the future model for regional monitoring, accountability and KPIs. Both 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 are being viewed as 'emergency year' frameworks, and SFC continue to consult with advisory groups on the future structure of accountability and reporting frameworks. GCRB has a place on this on-going work.

- 3.4** Both frameworks will be shared with committee and board as available, and current position was confirmed with Performance and Resources Committee on Wednesday 30 September 2020.
- 3.5** GCRB will work with Glasgow colleges immediately on receipt of the revised framework to ensure that there is full shared understanding of the reporting and planning requirements both in the short- and longer-term. GCRB has continued to updated colleges via the Glasgow Colleges Group's Learning and Teaching Committee.
- 3.6** In the meantime, it should be noted that the ambitions of the original Glasgow ROA continue to provide an overarching roadmap for activity and remain relevant or indeed of more critical importance in the environment created by Covid-19. As such, the ambitions should be retained into the new framework as follows, while maintaining the ability to reflect on new additions in light of emerging needs and challenges:
- our institutions are high performing, financially sustainable and working collaboratively to deliver an enhanced impact;
 - our curriculum widens access, draws in people from under-represented groups and reaches those who can benefit most from college learning;
 - high levels of learners attain qualifications, report satisfaction and can progress successfully onto employment or further study;
 - our colleges provide all Glasgow's learners access to the full regional curriculum, with seamless pathways from school, between the colleges, and onto university or employment;
 - we can prove that our regional curriculum meets current and future skills needs and is effectively supporting inclusive economic growth;
 - our combined regional curriculum is efficiently coordinated without unnecessary gaps or overlaps in its provision; and
 - innovation is encouraged in all areas of our service delivery; contributing to improved workplace productivity and to regional and national prosperity.

Programme of Action Update

- 3.7** In addition to monitoring and reporting under the new Outcomes and Impact Framework, GCRB continues to progress the Programme of Action work, and see this as key investment in the region's colleges, and in particular on supporting positive outcomes for the region's learners. The following activities are on-going in support of key POA themes:

- 3.7.1 Climate Change/Sustainability:** Post progressing via the delegated authority of the Nominations and Remunerations Committee as per board agreement. Recruitment for post to commence imminently with view to successful applicant commencing around January 2021. This cross-college shared resource will form a key lead in the region's strategic response, and will be expected to join up various strands of activity across GCRB, the colleges, Glasgow City Council, and new initiatives such as Fuel Change.

- 3.7.2 STAY Project:** With matched funding, this project currently delivers £120,000 of support for students from a care-experienced background. The project workers provide practical and emotional support to enable these students to remain at college. We are currently working with partners to identify opportunity for expansion and attracting additional support funding to benefit Glasgow students.
- 3.7.3 ESOL Project:** This project supports the delivery of ESOL provision in Glasgow in conjunction with Community Planning Partnerships. It is emerging as a key area of significant risk for Glasgow learners, with learners for whom English is a second language likely to be amongst the most adversely impacted by Covid-19 outcomes such as remote learning and digital exclusion.
- 3.7.4 Project to Tackle Child Poverty:** This project is intended to deliver a variety of short intervention and drop-in type activities in communities facing the highest levels of deprivation. The projects will be delivered in conjunction with partners to address issues such as child development, health, parenting, and pathways to education. It has now been confirmed by SFC that the project will be funded to a total of around £98,000 subject to final confirmation offer letter.
- 3.7.5 Skills Alignment/My World of Work/Curriculum Planning:** The Glasgow region delivered on the first two stages of what had been proposed as a five-step pilot programme for skills alignment, which had been intended to expand to a wider economic region. SDS have confirmed that this expansion will not take place in that form, and we are currently working with partners at SDS, Glasgow City Council and SFC on how best to make use of project so far to better inform alignment and planning activity. It is also recognised that the Glasgow colleges have made significant contribution to realigning their college offering in response to the Covid-19 crisis. This has included the quick introduction of short courses focused on transition to work, pre-apprentice programmes and a significant development of offerings designed to meet regional reskilling and upskilling requirements in line with SFC Credit Guidelines 2020-2021.
- 3.7.6** In addition to the above confirmed Programme of Action activities, I am pleased to confirm that the region has also been successful in attracting additional funding:
- 3.7.7 Bridge 2 Business:** This programme is designed to increase student engagement and activity with a particular focus on entrepreneurship and enterprise education in line with the Scottish Government's Scotland CanDo objectives. Working in partnership with SIE and Converge, the project will be delivered by Young Enterprise Scotland (YES), and SFC have confirmed funding of £201,425 for the project, which commenced on 1 August 2020 and runs to 31 July 2021.
- 3.7.8** Specific activity on some elements of these projects will continue to be developed in conjunction with colleagues from the Glasgow colleges, and there will be a call for additional support and information via various groups.

4 Risk Analysis

4.1 The activity of the Glasgow colleges, GCRB, the Outcomes and Impact Framework and the Programme of Action are all core business of the RSB, and as such are referred to across the full Risk Register.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no additional legal implications.

6 Resource Implications

6.1 The Programme of Action includes a significant proportion of GCRB's funded activity, and as such is a key resource for promoting and supporting the strategy of board.

7 Equalities Implications

7.1 Specific activities within the Programme of Action are designed to have direct impact on equalities, and as such will be assessed and reviewed as part of each project review.

8 Strategic Implications

8.1 The activity of the Glasgow colleges, GCRB, the Outcomes and Impact Framework and the Programme of Action are all key to delivery of strategy.