

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 29 April 2024
Paper Title	Planning and Monitoring 2024-25
Agenda Item	11
Paper Number	BM3-E
Responsible Officer	Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Discussion

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1** The Scottish Founding Council intends to conclude the current Regional Outcome Agreement process at the end of the current 2023-24 cycle, prior to replacing it with a new set of processes.
- 1.2** While the final process is yet to be confirmed, the current plan includes the following:
- Update to sector on new approach, and timelines – which may include guidance on sector priority areas (spring 2024)
 - Engagement and consultation with sector, including GCRB working group on new proposals (spring 2024)
 - Completion of 2023-24 self-evaluation process to conclude the current cycle (autumn 2024)
 - Initial introduction of early stages of new outcomes, assurance and reporting framework (early 2025)
- 1.3** In the meantime, we will work with SFC and the Glasgow colleges to bring to board a reduced monitoring report which maintains the core Key Performance Indicators for target setting, monitoring, and assurance. This will also include statements on regional and national priority areas including partnership working, social and economic development and regeneration, environment and sustainability, Fair Work, sustainability, and the Glasgow curriculum.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that board **notes** this update, which was shared with the P&R Committee earlier this month. It may wish to **consider** commenting on priority areas for inclusion in the reduced guidance document which will be developed for 2024-25.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Regional Outcome Agreement approach has been the long-standing method of setting college volume targets in the sector, aligning funding with input and output to set overall core funded activity and various other specialist funded streams.
- 3.2** As part of the SFC's review of the tertiary education system in Scotland, it signalled its intent to move away from the ROA process. In addition, this process was impacted by the emergency approach of the academic years impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, and the process has not yet been brought fully back into the alignment which had previously existed.

4. Report

- 4.1** SFC is expected to imminently announce the end of the current ROA cycle as the final cycle of this model, with a proposal to move to a new model which makes more use of data which is already in existence and being shared with SFC and RSBs, as well as other data produced throughout the year by colleges. It is intended that this will reduce duplication while seeking to provide required assurance.
- 4.2** GCRB's working group will meet with SFC nearer the time of the initial guidance being provided this spring to ensure that national and regional requirements are both met by the process.
- 4.3** In the meantime, a KPI table covering core funded learner targets and other demographic data will continue to be produced by GCRB in conjunction with college colleagues for target and monitoring purposes. It is intended that this will form a shortened overview document for reporting and monitoring purposes.
- 4.4** In addition, colleges will be asked to provide overviews of specific target areas of priority. It is anticipated that GCRB's priority areas will be:
- Partnership working
 - Social and economic development and regeneration
 - Fair Work
 - Learning and teaching case studies
 - Environment and sustainability
- 4.5** It is intended that this will be shared with colleges to commence work now. Board may wish to comment on other key priority areas for consideration. SFC are also providing initial comment and guidance to assist the Glasgow region in planning for this transition period.

5. Risk and Compliance Analysis

5.1 Funding, target setting, assurance, monitoring, and reporting are all important elements of safeguarding delivery in the Glasgow college system, and as such there is a risk that no monitoring and target process could create a gap in accountability, assurance and direction.

6. Financial and Resource Analysis

6.1 The Outcome Agreement process is the main way in which funding, inputs and outputs are linked within an assurance framework. It is important, therefore, to ensure that appropriate measures for allocating financial resources and effectively linking it to outcomes is maintained.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1 Delivery to some groups with protected characteristics is monitored via the Regional Outcome Agreement, and it is therefore proposed that this is maintained until an alternative process is satisfactorily identified and implemented.

8. Learner Implications

8.1 The Regional Outcome Agreement monitors volume of learners, end-of-course success rates and transitions, as well as demographic data. It is important that learner outcomes continue to be monitored and aligned to the new SFC process.