

Glasgow Kelvin College**Board of Management Meeting of 12 June 2023****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 March 2022 until Friday 02 June 2023.

2. Scottish Government's Withdrawal of £26 Million "Transitional Funding" for the College Sector and Funding Update for AY 2023/24

An additional £26 million of Scottish Government (SG) funding for colleges in Scotland for AY 2023/24 was announced by the Deputy First Minister on 15 December 2022. In May 2023 the Scottish Government announced that this funding was to be withdrawn from the Sector in its entirety with the intention of relocating it to the Scottish Education Budget to cover the in year costs of the School Teacher's pay settlement. This was actioned with no prior notification of consultation with the sector.

A "flat cash" funding allocation has now been confirmed with the publication of the Scottish Funding Council's (SFC's) College Final Funding Allocations for AY 2023-24, issued on the 25 May 2023.

13% reduction in Skills Development Scotland (SDS) allocation for AY 2023/24.

Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) funding still to be confirmed.

3. Resulting Boycott

Since the 02 May 23, the Educational Institute of Scotland - Further Education Lecturers' Association (EIS-FELA) have been undertaking industrial action short of strike (ASOS) related to national wage bargaining. The ASOS takes the form of working to rule and withholding students' results from College Management. The latter aspect means that EIS-FELA members may refuse to share, enter or record student assessment results with College systems, colleagues or any third parties/awarding bodies/external verifiers (such as the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)).

As the national wage bargaining discussions have not yet successfully concluded, there is a high risk that the resulting boycott will impact negatively on student progression. To mitigate these risks, the College is currently working to convert conditional offers to unconditional for all our students who plan to progress internally. In addition, we are contacting external partners to discuss what we can do jointly to support those students who wish to leave the College and progress to further study or work. However, whilst both these mitigations will help, if the national wage bargaining discussions are not resolved before summer, this will significantly increase operational and reputational risks to the College.

4. College Secures Net Zero Funding

The College's sustainability and estates team's submission to the Scottish Government for funds to support our transition to Net Zero has been confirmed as being successful. The bid consisted of a comprehensive and ambitious plan at a cost of £2.6 million of capital investment over a two-year period. We await formal confirmation of financial details.

5. Education Scotland Progress Visit

On Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th May, a team of Education Scotland Inspectors visited the College to undertake a Progress Visit. The purpose of the visit was to consider progress against previous improvement actions, alongside reviewing our arrangements for learner engagement, services to support learning, quality enhancement, curriculum design, learning and teaching and assessment and learner progress and outcomes. HMI Barbara Nelson was the Lead Inspector for the visit, with a small team of reviewers made up of HMI Ian Beach and Sarah Halliwell, Associate Assessors Nicky Inglis and Karen Downs, alongside a student team member Kirstin Koss. A range of meetings were arranged for inspectors across two days for them to meet and engage with staff and students. We expect a draft of the written report shortly, however, verbal feedback at the end of the visit highlighted many areas of positive practice across the College, alongside a small number of areas for improvement. Education Scotland will present their findings to the Board at a future meeting.

6. Key Activity & Events 30 Jan

Events:

- Four Nations College Alliance - Spring Conference.
- GKC Charity Fashion Show at West Campus.
- Negotiator training day.
- Media training day.

Stakeholder engagement:

- Sector Chairs' and Principals' meeting with Graeme Dey, Minister for Higher and Further Education & Minister for Veterans, and Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

- Stephen Pathirana, Director of Advanced Learning and Science visit to College.
- Glasgow College Principals and Directors of Education meeting
- Purpose & Principles - Engagement (Scottish Government)
- Education Scotland Progress Visit
- Meeting with Councillor Graham Campbell
- National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) Meetings.

Partnership meetings:

- Colleges Scotland “*Think the Unthinkable*” Digital Transformation Working Group
- Colleges Scotland “*Think the Unthinkable*” TtU Evidence & Analysis and Structural Models Working Group
- CDN Economic Recovery Group
- College Employers Scotland full members meeting.
- College Employers Scotland meeting extraordinary meeting.
- College Sector Finances Committee meeting.
- College Principal’s Group (CPG) meetings.
- Glasgow Colleges Group (GCG) meetings.
- GCRB Board meeting.
- GCRB Executive Director / Principal meetings.
- GCRB Performance & Resources Committee meeting.
- GCRB Chairs, Principals & Executive Director (CPED) meeting.
- Glasgow East Arts Company (GEAC) Board meetings.

7. Resource Implications

There is a negative resource implication relating to the recent withdrawal of £26 million “transitional funding” for the College Sector; confirmation of flat cash” funding allocation for AY 2023/24; 13% reduction in Skills Development Scotland (SDS) allocation for AY 2023/24; and Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) funding still to be confirmed,

8. Impact on Students

The resource reductions outlined above further compound the ongoing financial crisis facing the College Sector. This will inevitably impact negatively on our ability to invest in maintaining the student experience generally.

9. Risk and Assurance

The resource reductions outlined above present an increased risk to the Colleges to maintain a stable financial position. If no resolution is found before the summer break, The ASOS action detailed in this paper will significantly increase operational and reputational risks to the College.

10. Equality

No negative impacts on people with protected characteristics have been identified because of this paper.

11. Data Protection

There are no direct data protection implications because of this paper.

12. Environmental and Sustainability

Our transition to Net Zero will be greatly enhanced as a result of the College's successful bid to secure Scottish Government capital funding.

13. Recommendations

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

14. Further Information

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

Glasgow Kelvin College
DSm
02 June 2023