



College innovation action plan update

- The purpose of this paper is to update the Committee on the College Innovation Working Group's (CIWG) Action Plan (attached) and inform the Committee of the activities to date and those planned.
- Audrey Cumberland (Chair of CIWG) will provide an oral update.

Financial implications

- At this time there are no financial implications for the SFC.
- The current arrangements that fund some key stakeholders, such as innovation centres, have implications for how they can engage with colleges.

College Innovation

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update RKEC on the activities related to the College Innovation Action Plan, attached as Annex A.

Background

2. RKEC received an update on the activities of the College Innovation Working Group at their meeting on the 7 February 2017.

The current position of college innovation

The attached action plan sets out progress to date. Items to note include:

- **Can Do Action Plan** – The College Innovation Work is now firmly on the Can Do Action Plan under Priority 4;
- **Ministerial Guidance** – The Ministerial guidance to SFC highlighted the importance of innovation to the college sector and asks that SFC encourages colleges to enhance their involvement in the Innovation Centre programme;
- **College Innovation Event** – There are plans to hold a post summer event to showcase and highlight the work around College Innovation;
- **Innovation Centres** – SFC are in the process of drawing up a pilot project which will help establish the links between Colleges, Innovation Centres and the Voucher scheme. The Committee will be updated on this particular part of work;
- **SFC/Interface Event Innovation Vouchers** – An event to establish the barriers around the Innovation Voucher Scheme and the way in which the college sector interacts is to be held on the 15 June. The learning from this event will be fed back to SFC/Interface.

Equality and diversity assessment

3. At this time no issues concerning equality and diversity have been identified as part of this strategic developmental work. However, this will continue to be monitored and considered when this is operationalised. Stakeholders will be asked to ensure that their activities are conducted in an appropriate and equitable fashion and that they have any appropriate policy framework in place to support equitable opportunities for all.

Financial implications

4. At this time there are no financial implications for the SFC. The Council does not provide any specific strategic funds to colleges to support work undertaken in this area. There could be financial implications for SFC for the future support of this work, should the Council seek to develop the agenda further.

The current arrangements that fund some key stakeholders, such as innovation centres, have implications for how effectively and comprehensively they can engage with colleges. This will need to be considered as the work progresses to allow partners to work together effectively.

Recommendations

5. The Committee is invited to note the CIWG Action Plan.

Publication

6. This paper will be published on the Council website.

Further information

7. Contact: Morven Pritchard, Innovation Scotland Coordinator, tel: 0131 313 6665, email: mpritchard@sfc.ac.uk and/or Helen Raftopoulos, Assistant Director, tel: 0131 313 6577, email: hraftopoulos@sfc.ac.uk.