

Chair's Report

Purpose

1. This paper provides Council with a report from the Chair on his key external engagements and other relevant business.

External Engagements

2. The Chair's external engagements are noted at the Annex. Specific attention is drawn to the following engagements:

Meetings of the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board

3. Since the December Council Board meeting there have been two meetings of the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board. The substantive agenda item at the December meeting was a paper on Innovation which was the subject of considerable discussion. It was agreed that further work was required to fully understand the impact of investment in the research and innovation landscape in Scotland.
4. The January meeting is due to be held the day immediately preceding the Council Board meeting. The focus of this meeting is on future strategy and a report from the Analytical Unit. Four new Board members will be joining this meeting. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Ministerial Quarterly Meeting

5. The recent Ministerial quarterly meeting focused on performance, institutional sustainability, and governance.

Meeting of the Colleges Ministerial Strategic Futures Group

6. The Chair joined the CEO and members of the senior team at a meeting of the Colleges Ministerial Strategic Futures Group attended by the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science. Topics for discussion included the forthcoming budget, the challenging financial landscape, the learner journey and opportunities to consider change.

Risk assessment

7. The content of this paper does not change the analysis of risk contained in the Council's Risk Register.

Recommendations

8. The Council is invited to note the content of this report.

Financial implications

9. There financial implications associated with this paper are described above.

Publication

10. This paper will be published on the Council's website.

Further information

11. Contact: Mike Cantlay, chair@sfc.ac.uk .

Annex: Chair's Meetings/Visits – 5 December 2019 – 30 January 2020

Wednesday 18 December

Enterprise & Skills Strategic Board Meeting

Thursday 16 January

Quarterly Ministerial Meeting

Thursday 16 January

Meeting with Dame Anne Glover from the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Friday 17 January

Meeting with Frank Mitchell and Damien Yeates from Skills Development Scotland

Wednesday 22 January

Business Breakfast Briefing with Derek MacKay MSP for relaunch of Government's Economic Action Plan

Wednesday 22 January

Colleges Strategic Futures Group Ministerial Meeting