



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

SFC/20/37  
Agenda item 7  
20 August 2020

## **Use of delegated authority**

### **Purpose**

- To report the Chief Executive's use of delegated authority during the period 15 November 2019 until 31 July 2020.

### **Recommendation**

- Note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority from 15 November 2019 until 31 July 2020, under the Council's scheme of delegation.

## **Use of delegated authority**

### **Purpose**

1. This paper asks Council to note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority during the period 15 November 2019 until 31 July 2020.

### **Background**

2. The Council's agreed scheme of delegation sets out both the matters for which the Chief Executive has delegated authority and the reporting arrangements for the Chief Executive's application of delegated authority. A copy of the full scheme is available from this webpage:
  - <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/about-sfc/how-we-operate/sfc-governance/governance-sfc.aspx>
3. The Council also delegates authority to the Chief Executive to implement specific financial decisions.

### **Use of delegated authority**

4. The Chief Executive has approved the following actions under delegated authority from the Council, as described in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

### **SG strategic priorities**

5. The full list of Scottish Government (SG) strategic priorities is given in Annex A.

### **Consents**

#### ***University sector borrowing consents***

*The paragraph below is being withheld from publication because it contains information that, if disclosed, which would be like to prejudice substantially the commercial interests of institutions (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 33]*

[ ] x 1 paragraph

#### ***College sector consents***

*The tables below are being withheld from publication because it contains personal data (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 38).*

[ ] x 3 tables

### FE/HE Capital funds/Financial Transactions

Grant Line/project	SG Ringfenced HE Capital: Financial transactions
Delegation element	Specific delegated authority from Council Board on 30 January 2020
Amount and purpose	Ring-fenced SG capital funding of £55.5m has been made available in Financial Year (FY) 2019-20 for the financial transactions programme. This is the third year in which SFC is deploying Financial Transactions, which are essentially Treasury-backed loans to universities. The FY 2019-20 Programme is aimed at supporting carbon reduction projects and more general estates developments which improve the learner experience.
SG strategic priorities	2 and 4
Identified risk	Low

### Joint FE/HE programme funds

Grant Line/project	Access: SCQF partnership
Delegation element	General delegated authority.
Amount and purpose	A total of £975,000 has been awarded to the SCQF project for a period of 3 years commencing Academic Year (AY) 2020-21 to maintain and promote the SCQF in Scotland
SG strategic priorities	1,2 and 4
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Effective institutions: JISC
Delegation element	Specific delegated authority from Council Board on 30 April 2020.
Amount and purpose	A total of £8,073,372 has been awarded to JISC for AY 2020-21 to provide digital services to Scotland's universities and colleges.
SG strategic priorities	1,2,3 and 4
Identified risk	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Shared Services: APUC</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	Specific delegated authority from Council Board on 30 April 2020.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	Funding of £2,385,576 split 50/50 between both sectors was awarded to APUC for AY 2020-21 in order to enable APUC to deliver the Scottish Government's Public Procurement Reform Programme.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	2 and 4
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

### FE Programme Funds

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Effective institutions: National Bargaining – Job Evaluation Process Costs (stage 2)</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	General delegated authority.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	Funding of £682,115 in AY 2020-21 has been awarded to Colleges Scotland to fund the costs of undertaking the national support staff job evaluation exercise.  A total of £872,245 was also paid by SFC to Colleges Scotland to cover expected Stage 2 costs during AY 2019-20.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	2 and 4
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>SG Ring-fenced funds: South Of Scotland skills and learning network (Borders and Dumfries &amp; Galloway)</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	Ring fenced funding of £1,144,172 was awarded in FY 2019-20. This is year two of a two year project delivered by Borders College and Dumfries and Galloway College that SFC is providing funding for on behalf of the South of Scotland Economic Partnership.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	1 and 2
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Effective institutions: Colleges Development Network (CDN)</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	Specific delegated authority from Council Board on 30 April 2020.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	Funding of £1,613,000 has been awarded to CDN in AY 2020-21 to enable them to deliver their mission to support colleges by developing people, leading systems change, promoting the impact of the college sector, and collaborating with partners to drive student success.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	1,2,4
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Ring-fenced Government funding: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	The Scottish Government transfers ring-fenced funding annually (£1,180,000 in FY 2020-21) to SFC to allocate to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for a variety of Gaelic language activities.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	1,2,3
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

#### HE programme funds

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Research: Research Pooling Initiative – Transition Funding</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	Specific delegated authority from Council Board on 5 September 2019.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	£602,500 in AY 2019-20 and 2020-21. Funding to support eight research pools through a transitional phase to the end of July 2021, to allow consideration and implementation of the recommendations in the independent review of research pooling.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	3
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Ring-fenced SG funding: Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Programme</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	£1,500,000 in FY 2019-20. This is a UK-wide programme, administered by Innovate UK. KTPs help to improve a business's competitiveness and productivity through funded partnerships with academics and researchers. A KTP enables a business to bring in new skills and the latest academic thinking to deliver a specific, strategic innovation project through a knowledge-based partnership.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	3,4
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Innovation: Net Zero Solution Centre Feeder Project</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	Specific delegated authority from Council Board on 5 December 2019.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	£2,668,750 (including £318,750 contribution from Scottish Enterprise; SFC contribution is £2,350,000) over FYs 20-21 to 2022-23. Funding will support the merger of the Oil and Gas Innovation Centre with the Oil and Gas Technology Centre to rationalise and simplify the innovation offering to the oil and gas sector and to, specifically, do so in support of energy transition to a net-zero economy.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	3,4
<b>Identified risk</b>	Medium

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Ring-fenced SG funding: Clinical Academics and Senior Academic GPs</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	£6,908,986 in AY 2019-20. Funding to cover the additional salary costs incurred for Clinical Academics (Consultants) and Senior Academic GPs (the General Practice equivalent of a Clinical Academic) who have a dual role to work for universities, where they are engaged in teaching and research, and the NHS, delivering direct care to patients. There are around 350 Clinical Academics and 25 Senior Academic GPs in Scotland split between the five universities with medical schools: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	1, 2, and 3.
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Access: Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP)</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	Specific delegated authority from Council Board on 2 April 2020.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	£2,337,557 in AY 2020-21. The Schools for Higher Education Programme (SHEP) is one of the two main SFC-funded national programmes which help individuals from low progression, low socio-economic or under-represented backgrounds to progress into and succeed in courses in Higher Education. SHEP is split into four regional programmes which work with pupils from S2/S3 to S6 and hosted within four different universities; Aspire North (University of Aberdeen), Lift Off (Abertay University), LEAPS (University of Edinburgh) and Focus West (University of Strathclyde).
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	1, 2
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Access: Access to High Demand Professions (AHDP)</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	General delegated authority.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	£913,568 in AY 2020-21. Access to High Demand Professions (AHDP) is one of the two main SFC-funded national programmes which help individuals from low progression, low socio-economic or under-represented backgrounds to progress into and succeed in courses in Higher Education. This project specifically focusses on subject areas where demand for places is high and there is a traditional underrepresentation of target groups.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	1, 2
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Access: Transitions pre-HE Access Programme</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	General delegated authority.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	£726,210 in AY 2020-21. The <i>Transitions</i> programme seeks out and develops talented individuals from, as a priority, the 20% most deprived postcode areas and Care Experienced young people, to prepare them for the rigorous audition, interview and intense training on the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's (RCS) undergraduate programmes. The programme has adopted an approach that involves early and sustained intervention to progress young people from the ages of 7-11 in music and dance and 11+ years of age across all performing and production art forms offered at RCS.

<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	1, 2
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

<b>Grant Line/project</b>	<b>Knowledge Exchange: Innovation Voucher Programme</b>
<b>Delegation element</b>	General delegated authority.
<b>Amount and purpose</b>	£985,000 in AYS 2020-21 and 2021-22. The Innovation Voucher Programme encourages new first time partnerships between a company and a university or college. Funding enables SFC to reimburse universities for time spent working on collaborative projects with businesses for the first time. This support encourages businesses to work with our academic base to help solve business problems and develop new products, services or processes.
<b>SG strategic priorities</b>	3, 4
<b>Identified risk</b>	Low

### **Publication**

6. This paper will be published on the Council website following the Council meeting in edited form, as indicated in the paper.

### **Recommendation**

7. The Council is asked to note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority from 15 November 2019 until 31 July 2020 under the Council's scheme of delegation.

### **Further information**

8. Contact: Karen Watt, Chief Executive (tel: 0131 313 6646, email: [kwatt@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:kwatt@sfc.ac.uk)).



**List of Scottish Government strategic priorities**

1	To provide the best student experience, seamlessly connected for learners of all ages and backgrounds
2	To provide high quality learning in a system where institutions work in partnership and demonstrate the highest standards of governance and financial accountability
3	To support Scotland's global reputation as a Science and Research Nation synonymous with high quality teaching, research, knowledge exchange and innovation
4	To operate as a highly effective public body, providing leadership and working in partnership with others to improve outcomes and support an inclusive and sustainable economy