

Use of delegated authority

Purpose

- To report the Chief Executive's use of delegated authority during the period 1 August 2020 until 22 January 2021.

Recommendation

- Note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority from 1 August 2020 until 22 January 2021, 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 1 August 2020 until 22 January 2021.

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 following two sentences are withheld from publication because they contain information which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice substantially the commercial interests of institutions (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 33.

[] x 2 sentences

College sector consents

The table below is withheld from publication because it contains personal data (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 38.

Settlement agreements

[] x 1 table

Voluntary severance schemes

Date	College	End date
Aug. 2020	Borders College	30 June 2021
Sept. 2020	Edinburgh College	31 July 2022
Sept. 2020	Fife College	31 July 2023
Sept. 2020	North East Scotland College	31 March 2022
Nov. 2020	Perth College	31 August 2022
Nov. 2020	Ayrshire College	31 July 2021
Dec. 2020	Moray College	31 July 2021
Jan. 2021	Glasgow Kelvin College	31 July 2022
Jan. 2021	Glasgow Clyde College	31 July 2022

Non-competitive action procurement

Date	College	Amount
Sept. 2020	Fife College	£49,248
Nov. 2020	Edinburgh College	£150,000

Joint FE/HE Programme Funds

Grant Line/project	Access: Funding for counsellors in colleges and universities
Delegation element	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
Amount and purpose	£3.645m in Academic Year (AY) 2020-21 across both sectors. The purpose of this funding is to increase the number of counsellors and enhance counsellor provision across the sectors.
SG strategic priorities	1
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Access: Funding for student mental health and wellbeing
Delegation element	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
Amount and purpose	£1.32m in AY 2020-21 across both sectors. In November, Scottish Government announced additional funding to help colleges and universities support student mental health, wellbeing and welfare at this time.
SG strategic priorities	1
Identified risk	Low

FE programme funds

Grant Line/project	Effective institutions: Education Scotland Outcome Agreement AY 2020-21
Delegation element	General delegated authority
Amount and purpose	£993,115 in AY 2020-21. The annual Service Level Agreement with Education Scotland enables SFC to fulfil its statutory obligations for quality assurance in the college sector. SFC contracts with Education Scotland to provide services to provide assurance about the quality of learning and teaching in colleges and to support colleges to improve.
SG strategic priorities	2
Identified risk	medium

Grant Line/project	Ring-fenced SG funding: Flexible Workforce Development Fund Phase 2
Delegation element	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
Amount and purpose	£4,843,000 in AY 2020-21 This additional funding is to be used to respond directly to the impact of COVID-19 to provide upskilling and reskilling opportunities to the existing workforce as they adapt to new ways of working as sectors and the economy restarts and recovers.
SG strategic priorities	4
Identified risk	low

HE programme funds

Grant Line/project	Ring-fenced SG funding: Clinical Academics and Senior Academic GPs
Delegation element	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
Amount and purpose	£7,102,437 in AY 2020-21. 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.
SG strategic priorities	1, 2, and 3
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Ring-fenced SG funding: Hydro Nation Chair in Water
Delegation element	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
Amount and purpose	£3.5m over AYS 2020-21 to 2026-27. With funding allocated by Scottish Water, the aim of the Hydro Nation Chair project is to build on the existing relevant research and innovation initiatives and infrastructure in Scotland. The Chair will provide visible leadership of Scotland's water research and the research community to deliver impact, both in Scotland and internationally, and lead large scale funding bids to secure additional resources and increase Scotland's research knowledge, capability and outputs to translate research into

	practical application in the water sector.
SG strategic priorities	3 and 4
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Ring-fenced SG funding: Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) Programme
Delegation element	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
Amount and purpose	£1.5m in Financial Year 2020-21. 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.
SG strategic priorities	3 and 4
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Effective Institutions: Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)
Delegation element	Specific delegated authority.
Amount and purpose	£1,188,617 in AY 2020-21. SFC contracts with QAA Scotland to provide a range of services to provide assurance about the quality of learning and teaching in universities and to support enhancement. QAA monitors and evaluates how national enhancement activities align with institutional activities, and provides critical feedback on all enhancement activities. In AY 2020-21 we will look to QAA to continue to improve dissemination and reporting about the impact of enhancement at institution level, in Scotland and UK wide and to continue to support and extend active student engagement in quality enhancement activities.
SG strategic priorities	2
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Employability & Skills: Winning Students
Delegation element	General delegated authority.
Amount and purpose	£969,410 over AYs 2020-21 to 2023-24. The Winning Students programme delivers financial support and flexible learning arrangements to student-athletes in colleges and universities throughout Scotland through a network of partner institutions. The programme enables talented student-athletes to successfully combine academic study with high performance sport and fulfil their potential in both domains. Funding for this period will support existing scholarships as the programme

	explores future self-sustaining funding options.
SG strategic priorities	1 and 2
Identified risk	Medium

Grant Line/project	Effective Institutions: Crichton Infrastructure Fund
Delegation element	General delegated authority.
Amount and purpose	£846,832 in AY 2020-21. This funding supports the University of the West of Scotland and University of Glasgow with the infrastructure costs associated with their operation on the Crichton Campus, and so supports their overall commitment to deliver HE provision for students in Dumfries and Galloway.
SG strategic priorities	1 and 2
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Ring-fenced SG funding: Hydro Nation Scholars Programme
Delegation element	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government.
Amount and purpose	£557,617 in AY 2020-21. In support of its overarching strategy, Scotland: The Hydro Nation, the Scottish Government has established a Hydro Nation Scholars Programme. The Hydro Nation Scholars Programme is an open competition for PhD scholars to undertake approved projects hosted within Scottish Universities and Research Institutes. These projects support the Hydro Nation Strategy by: developing understanding of how and where best to develop the value of Scotland's water resources; enhancing Scottish capacity in areas in which Scotland has research excellence; and providing new research and insights into water resources in Scotland.
SG strategic priorities	3 and 4
Identified risk	Low

Publication

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

Recommendation

- The Council is asked to note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority from 1 August 2020 until 22 January 2021 under the Council's scheme of delegation.

Further information

- Contact: Karen Watt, Chief Executive (tel: 0131 313 6646, email: 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