

## Finance Committee

### Minute

The thirty seventh meeting of the Finance Committee of the SFC was held on Thursday, 27 January 2022 at 1.30pm by video-conference.

**Present:** Lorna Jack (Chair)  
Mhairi Harrington  
Professor John Wallace  
Professor Ewart Keep  
Dr Veena O'Halloran

**Officers:** Andrew Millar  
Chris Brown (Secretary)  
Gavin Bruce  
Gordon McBride  
Karen Watt  
Sybille Rush (Clerk)  
Tiffany Ritchie

**In attendance:** Peter Hookway (Scottish Government Finance)  
Owen McKinstry (Scottish Government Finance) (items 22/01-22/06)

**Apologies:** Duncan Condie  
Fiona O'Neill  
James Dunphy  
Kamran Durrani (Scottish Government, Tertiary Education)

### 22/01 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members, officers and visitors to the meeting.

### 22/02 Chair's business: papers for discussion and declarations of interest

The following paragraph is withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.  
{1x paragraph}

The Chair reminded members, and those in attendance, of their responsibility to indicate if they have, or may be perceived to have, a conflict of interest under any item.

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Dr Veena O'Halloran – in relation to her role at the University of Strathclyde
- Professor Ewart Keep – in relation to his role at the University of Strathclyde and with the City of Glasgow College
- Professor John Wallace – in relation to his role at the University of St Andrews

**22/03 Minutes of the previous meeting: 7 December 2021 (FC21Min06)**

The minute of the meeting on 7 December 2021 was **agreed** as a true record of the meeting.

**22/04 Matters arising (FC/22/01)**

The Committee **noted** the paper and actions taken since the last meeting.

In particular, the Committee **noted** that SFC was in the process of reviewing its reports on *Governance and financial sustainability of the college/university sector*. SFC intends to bring updated versions of these to the March meeting of this committee.

**22/05 SG budget and principles to inform indicative college and university funding allocations for 2022-23 (FC/22/02)**

The Committee received a paper providing details on the SG draft budget and the principles to inform indicative college and university funding allocations for AY 2022-23.

This paper is withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

The Committee **noted** the key points of the draft FY 2022-23 budget for **colleges and universities**.

The following 9 paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

{9x paragraphs}

### **College funding**

The Committee **considered** the principles as set out in the paper.

The following 5 paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

{5x paragraphs}

The Committee **agreed** to the principle and was reassured by the details provided.

The Committee then **considered** and **agreed to** the remaining principles as set out in the paper.

### **University funding**

The Committee **considered** and **agreed to** the proposed principles for university funding as set out in the paper.

### ***Process and timeline***

The Committee **noted** the proposed timeline for publishing AY 2022-23 funding allocations, with final allocations to be published by the end of May.

The following 2 paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

{2x paragraphs}

## **22/06 Scottish Government update on 2026-27 Spending Review**

The Committee **received** an oral update on the Scottish Government's 2026-27 Spending Review.

The following 5 paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

{5x paragraphs}

**22/07 Update on REG/REF**

The Committee received an oral update on REG/REF and **noted** the REG timetable.

When the Committee last met, SFC had launched a consultation on Research funding, looking in particular at the sector's reaction to the potential for delay to some of the implementation of changes beyond 2022-23 as well as its attitude to the mitigation of any reductions in funding.

This consultation has now closed and the Committee **noted** the emerging themes.

The following 8 paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, section 30, Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

{8x paragraphs}

**22/08 Long-term agenda (FC/22/03)**

The Committee **noted** and **agreed** to the long-term agenda.

The Committee considered an extension of the February meeting to allow for an extended REG item and ESF update.

**22/09 Future meetings**

The Committee **noted** the date of the next meeting: **25 February 2022**