

Knowledge Exchange and Innovation (KE&I) Consultation

- To update Committee on the key areas of focus in the [KE&I consultation](#)
- Update Committee on our engagement plans to support responses and next steps.

Recommendations

- Note the update on KE&I consultation and engagement plan.
- Note the plan to return to next RKEC meeting (1 June) with summary of responses and proposed policy and implementation plans.

Financial implications

- No direct financial implications

Knowledge Exchange and Innovation (KE&I) Consultation

Purpose

1. The paper updates Committee on key areas of focus for KE&I consultation as we aim to “... centre our knowledge exchange and innovation support on the top priorities of a green recovery, a well-being economy and transition to a net-zero carbon society.”¹ The paper also updates Committee on ongoing engagement plans to support consultation responses (Annex A).

Background

2. SFC [Review](#) of Coherent Provision and Sustainability was published on 29 June. The Scottish Government published its [response](#) on 26 October accepting our 60+ recommendations and marking an important point in the future development of tertiary education and research in Scotland.
3. SFC Review recommendations aim to:
 - Improve the way our education and skills system responds to unrest and future needs of students, employers and local communities;
 - Nurture excellent discovery research and create knowledge that translates into immense social, economic and cultural value and impact;
 - Secure the resilience and international reputation and sustainability of colleges and universities for future generations;
 - Enhance the contribution of colleges and universities to our economic and social prosperity and wellbeing, including tackling the pressing issues of our time, such as a just transition to a net zero carbon future, tackling persistent inequalities, anticipating future skills needs, and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

Summary of key issues and options

4. This ‘Consultation on the changes of our funding policies for knowledge exchange and innovation’ follows the Review and builds on its recommendations for changes in KE&I recognising wider Review context and alignment.
5. The Review recommends we “... centre our knowledge exchange and innovation support on the top priorities of a green recovery, a well-being economy and transition to a net-zero carbon society.” It also stresses the importance of positioning our investments strategically closer to both colleges and universities – representing more of a co-owned strategy.

¹ <https://www.sfc.ac.uk/review/review.aspx> p.95

6. The consultation describes SFC's proposed system for supporting college and university knowledge exchange and innovation (KE&I) activity and engagement with the UK KE&I system, (UKRI), and the Entrepreneurial Campus.
7. It sets out key questions on our current thinking and invites feedback which we will use as evidence in developing and implementing our policies.
8. To support our aims we have set our 5 key areas to develop and co-design.
 - Creating the Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Fund (KEIF), as our core funding in support of University and College capacity and strategy for KE&I.
 - Relaunching our flagship investments as University and College KE&I "stable long-term infrastructure"
 - Co-designing the Entrepreneurial Campus concept with colleges and universities
 - Developing mission-oriented research and knowledge exchange themes
 - Establishing a university and college KE&I advisory function

Equality and diversity assessment

9. We are seeking to embed equality, diversity and inclusion in our strategy for KE&I; building on current good practice, identifying opportunities to advance equality and build a truly inclusive system – this is a priority if we are to deliver on economic and societal goals.
10. We have very clearly set out our commitment to EDI across our KE&I system within consultation document and have asked respondents to consider their responses to the questions through the lens of equality, diversity and inclusion and explain any risks or opportunities in their submission. Responses will help shape any changes to be adopted.

Financial implications

11. No financial implications at this time

Recommendations

12. Note the update on KE&I consultation and the supporting engagements (Annex A).
13. The Committee is invited to note next steps:
 - 22 March – consultation close
 - 1 June – summary of consultation responses and developing policy brought to Committee
 - 24 June – changes to policy and implementation plans brought to Council

Publication

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

Further information

15. Contact: Gary Bannon, Temporary Assistant Director, tel: 0131 313 6518, email: gbannon@sfc.ac.uk.

Engagement Plan

The purpose of the complementary engagements is to raise awareness, help understanding and support sector and key stakeholders in their thinking and the development of their responses to the KE&I consultation.

These engagements in themselves will not form part of our evidence base but rather help to ensure we receive well considered and rich responses to our questions which we will then use as evidence in developing and implementing our policies in AY2022/23 and beyond.

	Focus	Date	Why are we engaging?	What do we want to get out of it?
US LTC	Entrepreneurial Campus Strategy	19 January	Raise awareness of proposed Strategy and opportunities for future engagement. To seek early comments on initial proposals (inc learning and teaching aspect/link with TQF/NIF).	'Buy in' to Strategy and commitment from L&T community to engage/share and build on previous entrepreneurship learning.
US RCDG	Entrepreneurial Campus Strategy	8 February	Raise awareness of KE&I consultation including proposed Strategy. Seek early comments on initial proposals – including approach, level of ambition, scope. Seek advice on future engagement.	'Buy in' to Strategy and common understanding of approach/focus that will assist with future development of Strategy. Commitment to work with SFC through appropriate group that will serve as a reference point for commercialisation/enterprise during and post consultation.
DHI Board Strategy Session	ICs	8 February	Raise awareness of SFC Review priority areas with focus on KE&I consultation and IC recommendation.	DHI Board understand the context of our Review and long term thinking.
KTP Scotland	KE&I system	15 February	Raise awareness of KE&I consultation.	A response from KTN Scotland and or the KTP centres individually or collectively will be invited.
Interface	Interface and IVs	16 February	To discuss with Interface Senior Team the detail of consultation.	Greater understanding of system set out and Senior Team better able to assist Interface Board and respond to consultation.

	Focus	Date	Why are we engaging?	What do we want to get out of it?
IC CEOs and Chairs	ICs as infrastructure	16 February	To offer IC CEOs and Chairs a chance to discuss our system as set out in consultation, particularly how this relates to ICs and to inform them of the detail behind our proposals.	IC CEOs and Chairs better able to respond to our consultation and to begin thinking of their own individual plans. It will also provide forum for Programme wide discussion.
DHI Board	ICs as infrastructure	17 February	Assist DHI Board in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses
Converge Strategic Board	KE&I system	21 February	Raise awareness of KE&I consultation	Very well considered consultation responses
SAIC Board	ICs as infrastructure	22 February	Assist SAIC Board in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses.
CSIC Board & Strategy Workshop	ICs as infrastructure	22 February	Assist CSIC Board in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses.
Interface Board	Interface as infrastructure	22 February	Assist CSIC Board in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses.
SE Entrepreneurial Focus – roundtable	KE&I system and Entrepreneurial Campus	23 February	Raise awareness of KE&I consultation with particular focus on Entrepreneurial Campus.	Assist SE in their thinking and response to consultation.
Scottish Government – R&I meeting	KE&I system	23 February	Raise awareness with officials	Understanding on plans and timings
PMS-IC Board	ICs as infrastructure	24 February	Assist PMS-IC Board in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses.
Data Lab Board	ICs as infrastructure	24 February	Assist Data Lab Board in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses.
IBioIC Board	ICs as infrastructure	24 February	Assist IBioIC Board in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses.
SFC RKEC	KE&I consultation	24 February	Update RKEC on consultation, engagement plans and next steps.	Keeping RKEC informed and primed for receiving summary of responses at 1 June meeting.
SE Board		25 February		

	Focus	Date	Why are we engaging?	What do we want to get out of it?
meeting?				
National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE)	KE&I consultation	TBC	Assist NCCPE in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses.
Sara Rae, Chair of the Business Development Directors Group – TBC	Entrepreneurial Campus Strategy & wider college KE&I aspects	TBC	TBC	TBC
US RCDG	KE&I system	3 March	Assist RCDG members in their considerations, particularly where relevant as a group.	Very well considered consultation responses from individual HEI leads (RCDG members) as well as collective US response.
CENSIS Board	ICs and infrastructure	7 March	Assist CENSIS Board in their considerations and understanding of KE&I consultation.	Very well considered consultation responses.
College Principals Group +	Entrepreneurial Campus Strategy and wider aspects of consultation	8 March TBC	Raise awareness of proposed Strategy and seek early comment on initial proposals – including approach, level of ambition, scope. Raise awareness of wider consultation.	‘Buy in’ to Strategy and commitment to work with SFC to co-design this through appropriate forum as advised by the Group. Clear understanding of the best approach to take in developing the ECS from a college perspective. Well considered consultation responses.
US RKEC?	TBC	May		
SFC RKEC	Summary of responses	1 June	Provide summary of responses and proposed policy and implementation plans.	Input to our plans ahead of SFC Board on 24 June.