



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

SFC/18/53
Agenda item 21
21 June 2018

Use of delegated authority

Purpose

- To report the Interim Chief Executive's use of delegated authority during the period 1 April 2018 until 31 May 2018.

Recommendation

- Note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority from 1 April 2018 until 31 May 2018, under the Council's scheme of delegation.

Use of delegated authority

Purpose

1. This paper asks Council to note the use of the Interim Chief Executive's delegated authority during the period 1 April 2018 until 31 May 2018.

Background

2. The Council's agreed scheme of delegation is:

Money	'Risk'	Decided by
Up to £500,000	Low/Medium/High	Chief Executive
£500,001 to £5M	Low/Medium	Chief Executive
£500,001 to £5M	High	Council board
Above £5M	All	Council board

Use of delegated authority

3. Under the scheme of delegation in operation the Interim Chief Executive has approved the following actions under delegated authority from the Council.

SG strategic priorities

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

Consents

5. Glasgow School of Art received borrowing consent on 29 May for a revolving credit facility of £5 million for five years and a Salix loan of £1.028 million to be repaid over eight years.

FE Capital funds

6. No FE capital funds were approved under delegated authority during this period.

HE Capital funds

7. No HE capital funds were approved under delegated authority during this period.

Joint FE/HE programme funds

Grant Line/project	Access: Equality Challenge Unit (ECU): Equality and Diversity, A national offer for colleges and universities
Delegation element	General delegated authority, on advice from the Strategic Funding Group at its meeting on 28 March 2018. These funds are split equally between FE and HE programme funds.
Amount and purpose	<p>Amount of funding: £1,728,234 over AYs 2018-19 to 2020-21</p> <p>SFC is providing Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) with funding for the delivery of a national equality and diversity programme for post-16 education in Scotland for 2018-21. The three year programme will comprise 12 discrete projects for Scotland all linked to SG and SFC equality priorities and to our Letter of Guidance. The funding also includes the provision of advisory services and support, a national equality conference, and coordinated engagement with UK-wide equality projects.</p> <p>It offers Athena SWAN and REC charter support for Scottish universities and an offer to develop an Equality Charter mark for the college sector.</p>
SG strategic priorities	3, 4, 5, 6 and 9
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Effective Institutions: Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC)
Delegation element	General delegated authority, on advice from the Strategic Funding Group by correspondence on 15 February 2018.
Amount and purpose	<p>Total cost of investment is up to £4,671,407 (£2,328,012 in AY 2018-19 and £2,343,395 in AY 2019-20). These funds are split equally between FE and HE programme funds.</p> <p>This is an on-going investment for the college and university sectors. SFC is providing funds on behalf of the sectors to APUC in order to deliver the Scottish Government's Public Procurement Reform Programme.</p> <p>The university sector funding is agreed through Universities Scotland and the college sector funding is agreed through the Funding Consultation Group. APUC has an excellent track record in delivery in this area and there is good project management in place.</p>
SG strategic priorities	4 and 9
Identified risk	Low

FE Programme Funds

Grant Line/project	Diversity and Specialism: FE Administration of ring-fenced Government funding
Delegation element	General delegated authority to accept and award ring-fenced offers of grant from Government, on advice of the Strategic Funding Group at its meeting on 28 March 2018.
Amount and purpose	The Scottish Government transfers ring-fenced funding of £1,180,000 annually to SFC to allocate to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for a variety of Gaelic language activities.
SG strategic priorities	2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9
Identified risk	Low

HEI programme funds

Grant Line/project	Research: Faclair na Gàidhlig (Dictionary compilation) 2018-23
Delegation element	General delegated authority, on advice of the Strategic Funding Group 28 March 2018.
Amount and purpose	£2,500,000 over AYS 2018-19 to 2022-23. Funding is for the compilation phase of the Faclair na Gàidhlig project. The project's aim is to produce a comprehensive online dictionary of Scottish Gaelic, from the perspective of Gaelic, compiled on historical principles, with a similar structure to that of the Oxford English Dictionary and the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue.
SG strategic priorities	2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Research: Museums, Galleries and Collections
Delegation element	General delegated authority, on advice of the Strategic Funding Group 28 March 2018.
Amount and purpose	£3,600,000 over AYS 2018-19 to 2020-21. Funding supports the nine institutions that have Accredited Museum Collection status, an award from Arts Council England, in partnership with Museums Galleries Scotland. Collections at five institutions are recognised as having Nationally Significant Collections which is awarded by Museums Galleries Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government. The grant enables institutions to meet the significant financial burden of supporting a facility of importance to the national heritage over and above their core functions of the provision of teaching and conduct of research.
SG strategic priorities	2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Innovation Centres: Centre for Sensors and Image Systems (CENSIS) Phase 2
Delegation element	Specific delegated authority from Council board, 22 December 2017
Amount and purpose	£7,300,000 over AYs 2018-19 to 2022-23. CENSIS is one of eight SFC-funded Innovation Centres with a Scotland wide remit to help industry access world leading research from the academic base and to help translate this into economic value in the Scottish economy. CENSIS is the industry-led Innovation Centre for the highly diverse domain of Sensor and Imaging Systems (SIS) technologies and their applications. SFC funding will be utilised to fund core costs of CENSIS and funding for demand-led industry to academia collaborative projects and skills activity.
SG strategic priorities	7, 8 and 9
Identified risk	Medium

Publication

- This paper will be published on the SFC website following the Council meeting.

Recommendation

- The Council is asked to note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority from 1 April 2018 until 31 May 2018, under the Council's scheme of delegation.

Further information

- Contact: John Kemp, Interim Chief Executive (tel: 0131 313 6637, email: jkemp@sfc.ac.uk).

List of Scottish Government strategic priorities

1	SFC's role in contributing to effective delivery of the key aims of the Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board
2	High quality learning in a learning system which is seamlessly connected for the learner
3	Access to further and higher education for people from the widest range of backgrounds
4	The highest standards of teaching, governance and financial accountability in colleges
5	Colleges working in partnership
6	Quality learning and good governance in universities
7	Internationally competitive and impactful research
8	Effective knowledge exchange and innovation between universities, colleges, and industry
9	SFC operating as a highly effective public body