



The 109th meeting of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council was held on Friday 9 November at 11.30am, at Construction Scotland Innovation Centre, 3 Watt Place, Hamilton International Technology Park, Blantyre.

Present: Mike Cantlay (Chair)
John Kemp (Interim Chief Executive)
David Alexander
Mhairi Harrington
Professor Maggie Kinloch
Paul Little
Douglas Mundie (Deputy Chair)
Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli
Dr Veena O'Halloran
Caroline Stuart
Marlene Wood (Deputy Chair)
Professor Lesley Yellowlees

Officers: Michael Cross
Martin Fairbairn (Secretary)
Dr Stuart Fancey
Lorna MacDonald
Sheila Meehan (Clerk)
Lynne Raeside

Scottish Government: Paul Smart

Observers: Liam McCabe (President of NUS Scotland)

Apologies: Dr Keith Nicholson

18/110 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Paul Smart of the Scottish Government to the meeting.

18/111 Chair's business: papers for discussion and declarations of interest

The Chair invited members to indicate if they wished to discuss any of the starred items on the agenda. The recommendations contained within papers SFC/18/80, SFC/18/82 and SFC/18/83 were **agreed** without discussion.

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

The following members noted potential conflicts of interest for agenda item 5: David Alexander, Anton Muscatelli and Paul Little.

18/112 Minute of the 6 September 2018 meeting (SFC/18/Min05)

The minute of the 6 September 2018 meeting was confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

18/113 Action tracker (SFC/18/78)

The Council received an update on the actions from previous meetings of the Board and noted progress on those actions.

18/114 Annual Report on Implementation of the Commission on Widening Access recommendations (SFC/18/79)

The Council received and noted a paper advising on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Commission on Widening Access (CoWA) report, 'A Blueprint for Fairness.'

In discussion the Council noted that:

- There was significant scrutiny on progress with CoWA targets, from SFC's cross-directorate CoWA Implementation Steering Group and the National Access Delivery Group.
- There were three potential risks around implementation of the recommendations:
 - Reputational risk, given the significant political capital invested.
 - Pressure on resources due to the scale and intensity of the scrutiny.
 - The need to maintain a focus on intensification, which had so far secured a consistent and ambitious focus on the necessary targets.
- Progress was considered to be 'on track' and the situation continued to be closely monitored, including the risk of

unintended consequences.

- An in-depth equality impact assessment was due to be undertaken.

The Council **agreed** that the Access and Inclusion Committee consider the Equality Impact Assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of the CoWA report, including any unforeseen impacts and mitigating actions.

18/115 NHS Education for Scotland (NES)/SFC Joint Action Plan (SFC/18/80)

The Council received a paper providing an update on the activities undertaken as part of the NES/SFC Joint Action Plan in 2017-18.

18/116 Finance Committee (SFC/18/81)

The Council received the unconfirmed minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 11 October 2018.

The following two 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

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18/117 Remuneration Committee (SFC/18/82)

The Council received the unconfirmed minutes of the Remuneration Committee meeting of 21 September 2018.

18/118 Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (SFC/18/83)

The Council received the unconfirmed minutes of the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee meeting of 20 August 2018.

18/119 Long-term agenda planning (SFC/18/84)

The Council received a paper informing members of substantive agenda items proposed for future meetings.

In discussion the Council **agreed** that the Budget scenarios item would be removed from the December meeting as the timing wasn't suitable.

18/120 Next meeting: 6 December 2018