



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

SFC/19/62
Agenda item 8
5 September 2019

Use of delegated authority

Purpose

- To report the Chief Executive's use of delegated authority during the period 7 June 2019 until 12 August 2019.

Recommendation

- Note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority from 7 June 2019 until 12 August 2019, 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 7 June 2019 until 12 August 2019.

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

6. No consents have been granted during this period.

FE/HE Capital funds

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

Joint FE/HE programme funds

Grant Line/project	Employability & Skills: Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) – Interim Support
Delegation element	General delegated authority, on advice of the Strategic Funding Group by correspondence in July 2019.
Amount and purpose	Amount of funding: £630,000 in AY 2019-20 (£180,000 FE and £450,000 HE). This interim funding for one year will support SIE as it transitions from an organisation delivering enterprise education to students to one that supports institutions, trains staff and leads the entrepreneurial education agenda by recognising achievement.
SG strategic priorities	3
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Effective Institutions: Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland (Sparqs)
Delegation element	General delegated authority, on advice of the Strategic Funding Group at its meeting on 1 May 2019.
Amount and purpose	Amount of funding: £999,296 over AYs 2019-20 to 2021-22. Sparqs is an independent charitable organisation, funded by SFC, and delivers Scottish Government objectives related to quality and student engagement and participation in colleges and universities. Sparqs' vision is that students are partners in shaping the quality of learning, making positive change to their own and others' experience, however and wherever they learn. To achieve this they will foster a culture of partnership between students and staff which enables the Scottish education sector to respond to challenges and realise its ambitions to provide the best possible experience for each and every student.
SG strategic priorities	1,2,3
Identified risk	Low

FE Programme Funds

Grant Line/project	Effective institutions: College Development Network
Delegation element	Specific delegated authority from Council Board 25 June 2019, with Ministerial approval received 17 July 2019.
Amount and purpose	Funding of £1,544,328 in AY 2019-20. This funding is a contribution to the core costs of CDN which plays a key role in supporting the delivery of SFC and the Scottish Government priorities and in developing policy and support for the college sector.
SG strategic priorities	1,2,3
Identified risk	Low

HE programme funds

Grant Line/project	Employability & Skills: Winning Students
Delegation element	General delegated authority, on advice of the Strategic Funding Group by correspondence in May 2019.
Amount and purpose	£600,000 in AY 2019-20. 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.
SG strategic priorities	1,2
Identified risk	Low

Grant Line/project	Innovation Centres: Digital Health and Care Institute (DHI) – Phase 2
Delegation element	Specific delegated authority from Council Board on 25 April 2019, with Ministerial approval received 1 May 2019.
Amount and purpose	£7,500,000 over AYs 2018-19 to 2023-24. DHI was one of the original Innovation Centres established in 2014. The aim of phase 2 is to collaborate with partners to identify and develop transformative digital innovations ready for adoption in the NHS and care sector and to capitalise on Scotland's growing digital technology sector to support the essential transformation of health and care services in Scotland.
SG strategic priorities	3,4
Identified risk	Medium

Publication

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

Recommendation

9. The Council is asked to note the use of the Chief Executive's delegated authority from 7 June 2019 until 12 August 2019, under the Council's scheme of delegation.

Further information

10. 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