

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 27 January 2020
Paper Title	Draft 2020-21 Regional Outcome Agreement
Agenda Item	14
Paper Number	BM2-P
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Interim Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1. To consider proposed regional commitments which would form the basis of the Regional Outcome Agreement (ROA) for 2020-21.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Board is invited to:

- **consider** and **agree**, subject to any amendment, the commitments made within the attached '*2020-21 Regional Programme of Action*';
- **request** the Interim Executive Director develop the detailed project specifications, for the 2020-21 Regional Programme of Action, in conjunction with college colleagues;
- **comment**, and **feedback** on, the draft 2020-21 Regional Outcome Agreement; and
- **request** the Interim Executive Director provide this ROA, subject to any amendment, to the Scottish Funding Council for feedback.

3. Background

- 3.1 The SFC guidance for the development of College Outcome Agreements: 2020-21 to 2022-23 was published by the Scottish Funding Council on 7 October 2019. The guidance is available via the following link: <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/guidance/2019/SFCGD202019.aspx>
- 3.2 It was previously agreed by the Board that, the Regional Outcome Agreement for Glasgow would be formed of three components:
- a high level, more strategic document setting out regional commitments and planned outcomes;

- targets for the years 2020-21 to 2022-23 for national performance measures for the region and the Glasgow colleges; and
- annexes providing supporting narrative, mainly descriptive in nature, responding to the requirements of the SFC ROA guidance.

3.3 The Interim Executive Director has prepared the draft performance targets in conjunction with the Curriculum leads of the three colleges. These draft targets take into account the previous targets agreed as part of the previous Regional Outcome Agreement and also the actual performance levels achieved in 2018-19. This information was submitted to the Scottish Funding Council on 23 December 2019 for comment. Feedback received will be considered and, where appropriate, reflected in the next iteration of the Regional Outcome Agreement.

3.4 In broad terms, the performance targets showed only small changes from those previously agreed by the GCRB Board, and reflected college responses to updated baseline information from the 2018-19 academic year. The second observation is that the general rate of performance improvement, over the 3-year cycle, is slightly lower than the previous year's Outcome Agreement.

4 Regional Programme of Action

4.1 The Board previously agreed that the Regional Outcome Agreement should give particular focus to progressing the following six areas:

- Skills alignment and Employer Engagement: improving the alignment of skills training to employment needs, with priority given to Childcare, Digital Skills and STEM.
- Access and Learning: widening access to the full regional curriculum and improving retention and attainment.
- Developing the Young Workforce: delivering on national DYW commitments and tackle gender imbalances at subject level.
- Learner Journey: creating seamless inter-college progression and increasing successful progression to work or further study.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing: providing access to high quality and consistent support for good mental health and well-being.
- Professional Learning and Development: nurturing a regional learning community through participation in collaborative CPD opportunities.

4.2 The *Regional Programme of Action 2019-20* set out planned commitments and outcomes in relation to these priorities for the current year. These commitments were informed by existing pledges made within the current ROA, alongside new developments related to ongoing regional work and discussions.

4.3 The draft Regional Programme of Action for 2020-21 outlines the planned commitments in respect of next year. The indicative programme is set out on the following page:

Regional Programme of Action 2020-21	Description	Glasgow Region Collaborative Budget	Additional External Funding secured for the Glasgow College Region
Climate Change/Sustainability	The project is intended to provide a collaborative approach to the Climate Change emergency declared by the Scottish Government. In doing so it will seek to support projects within individual colleges and throughout the Glasgow College Region. The project will also make a contribution to the COP26 event in November 2020.	£100,000	The Glasgow Region budget will be employed in part to bid for additional external funding.
STAY Project	The project support students from a care experienced background. The project workers provide practical and emotional support to enable these students to remain at college.	£60,000	Action for Children have secured additional matched funding of £60,000 for the project.
ESOL Project	The project supports the delivery of ESOL provision in Glasgow in conjunction with Community Planning Partnerships.	£95,000	The ESOL project is supported by the Glasgow ESOL Access Project, EASE Project funded by Glasgow City Council Integrated Grants Fund.
Project to Tackle Child Poverty	Delivery of projects in communities facing the highest levels of deprivation. The projects will be delivered in conjunction with partners to address issues such as child development, health, parenting, pathways to education.	£70,000	Bid submitted for £200,000 of strategic funding from SFC/Scottish Government
Skills Alignment, My World of Work, Curriculum Planning	Building on 2019-20, further work is required to deliver stages 3 to 5 of the Five-Step Skills model and develop the curriculum plan for 2020-25.	£25,000	Working in partnership with SDS, and others, generates additional partnership support.
Total		£350,000	

- 4.4 The draft Regional Programme contains some activities that commenced in 2019-20 together with some new proposals.
- 4.5 The GCRB Board is asked to consider and agree, subject to any amendment, the commitments made within the draft 2020-21 Regional Programme of Action.
- 4.6 Subject to approval of the indicative projects, we will develop a detailed Project Initiation Document. This document provides the detailed scope for each project, the project milestones and outcomes.
- 4.7 The GCRB Board is asked to request the Interim Executive Director develop the detailed project specifications, for the draft 2020-21 Regional Programme of Action, in conjunction with college colleagues.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The draft Regional Outcome Agreement (ROA) has been updated to reflect the revised performance targets and projects outlined in the draft Programme of Action above. A copy of the Draft ROA is attached to this report for information.
- 5.2 In addition to the ROA document there is also a comprehensive spreadsheet which details all of the performance indicators for the individual colleges and the Glasgow College Region.
- 5.3 The GCRB Board is invited to comment, and feedback on, the draft 2020-21 Regional Outcome Agreement; and
- 5.4 The GCRB Board is asked to request the Interim Executive Director provide this ROA, subject to any amendment, to the Scottish Funding Council for feedback.

6. Risk assessment

- 6.1 The ROA addresses directly a number of GCRB's strategic aspirations and therefore the GCRB's risk register addresses a range of associated risks. Of particular relevance are:
- *GCRB Risk 02 - Effective working relationships are not developed/maintained with key partners due to a focus on short-term internal priorities.*
 - *GCRB Risk 04 - Opportunities are missed/not resourced appropriately and the potential to add value via the strategic plan is overlooked.*
 - *GCRB Risk 06 - A failure to effectively plan/monitor our educational delivery results in the curriculum not meeting regional economic and social needs.*
 - *GCRB Risk 07 - Fewer learners achieving positive outcomes.*
 - *GCRB Risk 09 - Failure to achieve the targets set out in the Regional Outcome Agreement lessens our ability to meet regional needs.*

6.2 The attached document seeks to mitigate these risks by maximising opportunities for joined up regional planning, responding coherently to regional needs, and widening access and improving learner outcomes. In addition, we will continue to regularly evaluate outcome performance at both regional and college levels, and to address areas for improvement through Enhancement Plans within new national quality arrangements.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1 GCRB will complete and publish an equality impact assessment of its Outcome Agreement and a draft of this will be provided to the GCRB Board at its meeting on 30 March 2020.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 No legal implications are identified.

9. Resource Implications

9.1 Operational and resource plans to ensure delivery of these regional commitments will be presented to the GCRB Board for consideration and agreement at its meeting on 30 March 2020.

10. Strategic Plan Implications

10.1 The Regional Outcome Agreement addresses directly the regional strategic ambition to build Scotland's most inclusive, most responsive and most effective regional college system.