

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 15 June 2020
Paper Title	Climate Change Post
Agenda Item	12
Paper Number	BM4-G
Responsible Officer	Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Recommended Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1. To provide the board with an update on this objective, including the recommendations of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, and provide a framework and timeframe for progression of this strategic objective.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Board:

- **Approves** an appointment timeframe of *no sooner than three months*, in line with N&R Committee guidance, *but no later than six months* to ensure project progress; and
- **Approves** delegated authority to the Nominations and Remuneration Committee to provide formal approval of commencement of recruitment.

3. Report

- 3.1. Following the GCRB board meeting of 27 April 2020 it was proposed that a temporary pause be placed on recruitment of the Climate Change and Sustainability post which is due to be recruited as a driver of one of the GCRB strategic aims and Programme of Action.
- 3.2. This pause is designed to ensure that the wider implications of Covid-19 crisis are understood as much as possible prior to commencement, and in particular to ensure that a new postholder is not started during a time when they would potentially be unable to effectively commence work.
- 3.3. While the post is not tied explicitly to Glasgow's role as host city of the COP26 Climate Summit, the summit provides a significant opportunity to draw down benefits, align with wider activity, and ensure that the Glasgow college region is best placed to contribute to the nation's, and City's, ambitious climate objectives. It is confirmed that COP26 will now take place in November 2021, and both the UK Prime Minister and

Scotland's First Minister have re-articulated the key importance of addressing sustainability and climate change.

- 3.4.** On 5 June 2020, the Prime Minister outlined: "Whilst we are all rightly focused on beating Coronavirus, we cannot lose sight of the need to protect our people and our planet from the devastating threat of climate change and biodiversity loss is nothing is done. The period has undoubtedly increased our gratitude for and appreciation of the green spaces and nature around us – providing us with respite during such difficult times. As we come through this pandemic and begin to rebuild our economies, it's time to invest in the industries, infrastructure and jobs that will endure any storm – or even another virus – so we bounce back stronger than before."
- 3.5.** Therefore, following thorough consideration by the Nominations and Remuneration Committee it is clear that GCRB's commitment to this strategic aim is undiminished, and there is a strong appetite to ensure that the long-lasting implications of the climate emergency are not lost in the current crisis. To that end, the Nominations and Remuneration Committee proposed moving recruitment forward to a point three months from this board meeting, ensuring that the project is able to commence. The Committee also noted that there remain direct implications from the Covid-19 crisis which would impact upon this area and would benefit from expertise in this field.
- 3.6.** It is proposed that the recruitment, therefore, progresses within a window of *no sooner than three months and no later than six months* to enable progress while also ensuring that a considered pace is applied and that the project commences at the most appropriate time in the wider context. Delegating approval to the Nominations and Remuneration Committee is recommended, and this would ensure that the post activity commences in 2020.
- 3.7.** The post, once recruited, would be a shared resource across GCRB and the three Glasgow colleges, performing as Regional Lead for Climate Change and Sustainability. The role would:

 - Report directly to the GCRB Executive Director (but would be physically located in the most appropriate location);
 - Report to GCRB Executive on a monthly basis, and to GCRB Board on a quarterly basis;
 - Be expected to work towards providing a positive financial benefit to the Glasgow college region in delivering the strategic agenda of GCRB;
 - Provide leadership, support and guidance on the delivery of carbon footprint reduction targets across the college region;
 - Engage, collaborate and attend relevant groups across the region in delivery of role, including COP26 and beyond; and
 - Provide leadership on curriculum opportunities in learning and teaching across the curriculum.

4. Risk Analysis

4.1 This project is in line with GCRB Strategic Plan as well as regional, national and UK policy directives. It has direct impact upon the following GCRB risks:

- 1.** *Poor environment scanning, and scenario planning, results in a failure to respond proactively to macro-level change;*
- 2.** Effective working relationships are not developed/maintained with key partners due to a focus on short-term internal priorities;
- 4.** *Opportunities are missed/not resourced appropriately and the potential to add value via the strategic plan is overlooked;*
- 6.** *A failure to effectively plan/monitor our educational delivery results in the curriculum not meeting regional economic and social needs;*
- 9.** *Failure to achieve the targets set out in the Regional Outcome Agreement lessens our ability to meet regional needs;*
- 17.** *Scenario planning and stress testing of operational activity is inadequate to appropriately mitigate against major incident which impacts upon activity.*

5. Legal Implications

5.1. There are no additional legal implications.

6. Resource Implications

6.1. There are no additional resource implications beyond agreed funding.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1. There are no additional equalities implications.

8. Strategic Implications

8.1 This objective is directly linked to GCRB strategy, as well as national and regional strategy.

