Audit Committee
May 2021
Appendix 2 A

Risk Register as at 27th April 2021

Commentary

The Risk Management Group reviewed the College's Risk Register on 27th May 2021 as part of its ongoing programme. The Group also discussed the proposed change to risk management arrangements, which had been agreed at the previous meeting of the Group. This would involve the implementation of a more strategic risk register for the College being managed by the Group and a more formal system of operational risk management being taken on by the faculties and support staff departments. This was approved by the Group and the proposals would be going to the Audit and Risk Committee for approval in principle, with the details of the arrangements being cascaded down to the Senior Leadership and College Leadership Teams for input and agreement prior to implementation.

It was noted that the membership of the Group would include all Associate Principals and the Head of Student Services. It was agreed to review membership in terms of the input to Quality issues.

The College has been welcoming back increased numbers of students and staff in line with Scottish Government guidance following the easing of restrictions, and this has necessitated a renewed emphasis on physical distancing and other COVID 19-related controls. It was noted that the College was in the process of reconfiguring several teaching spaces to assist in this regard. 12 smaller classrooms were being converted into 6 larger spaces which would greatly enhance the flexibility of the building.

The **Finance** risks were reviewed with the current programme of enhanced budget monitoring and reporting noted. It was also noted that the Scottish Funding Council had issued the indicative grant in aid allocation for 2021-22 to the Lanarkshire Region rather than to the two Colleges as the dissolution of the Region had not yet received Ministerial approval. This had no impact on the risk scoring. It was noted that the College was confident of meeting its credit targets for both core and EU-funded activity. It was, though, also noted that there were still uncertainties over the level of fees receivable from major partners. The combination of both meant that risk had not changed since the last review.

It was noted that the College had utilised its SFC estates funding on two major projects which straddled the cut-off date of 31st March set by the Funding Council for expending the funds. The situation, and the risks associated, had been discussed at the February 2021 Finance and Resources Committee and the March 2021 Board, with College management confident that the worst case scenario could be funded and a plan was in place in that regard.

Risks in the area of **Human Resources** had been further refined, in recognition of the work in train and planned to support improvements to the 'employee journey'. The risks have been reduced from 4 to 3: Employee Journey, Employee Relations matters and Health & Safety and capture the content of the existing risks. There has been some slight movement in the risk scoring in one of the risks but not material. It was noted that there are several ongoing initiatives in place to address these risks.

As regards **Estates**, it was noted that the College had been open to a restricted number of staff and students since January and this made the return of increased numbers to the building easier to plan and manage. No changes in risk ratings were noted. It was, however, noted that the

Risk Register as at 27th April 2021

Commentary

central funding received had allowed a significant investment in both Estates and IT, supporting a low risk rating.

The pandemic situation remains a major risk for the College but the Group recognised the arrangements that were in place and noted that the College would be introducing lateral testing at the start of May.

On **Governance**, the Group noted the work in place with regard to Board development; and the work being progressed in relation to the dissolution of the Regional arrangements. A Liaison Group of SFC/SG/NCL/SLC has been established and it was hoped that formal Ministerial approval would allow a date for dissolution to be set. The Group noted that a dissolution date after the financial year end (31 July) may have implications for the split of central funding and the auditing of the financial statements.