

Board of Management

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 22 February 2023
Paper No.	BoM4-D
Agenda Item	5.1
Subject of Paper	City of Glasgow College 'Social Impact Report'
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Michael Cross, Director, Corporate Support Jon Gray, Director of Excellence
Date of production	January 2023
Action	For Noting

1. Recommendations

1.1 To note the report

2. Purpose

2.1 This paper summarises a recent [report on the wider 'social impact' of City of Glasgow College](#). Undertaken on commission from the Institute for Public Policy Research (Scotland) the paper complements the economic impact report published by the Fraser of Allander Institute in December 2020. Together the two reports illustrate the significant return on public investment that City delivers; and the wide range of other Scottish Government priorities set out in its 'National Performance Framework - beyond the immediately obvious economic and educational domains - that College activity supports. Specifically, the IPPR has considered the impact of City's activity on the Scottish Government's National Priorities in policy areas such as environmental sustainability, health and well-being, tackling poverty, fair work and business, culture, communities, and international. And since the SG's NPF is aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, readers are better able to understand City's performance at that ultimate strategic level.

3. Consultation

3.1 This report is the first of its kind in Scotland. Staff and student representatives across the College were consulted in its development, along with officials from the SG's National Performance Team. The Director of Excellence, will consider how the College's existing Performance Framework can be enhanced by IPPR's work.

4. Key Insights

IPPR first set out to consider what it might define as 'social value' in the context of further and higher education institutions – and found a number of common themes:

- they contribute to lifelong learning – enhancing the social infrastructure of their communities and providing opportunities from school to retirement.
- they deliver inclusive growth – doing the heavy lifting to reach out to our most deprived communities and offering pathways and opportunities to realising potential, both as a social responsibility and in responding to economic disruption and the need to provide a second chance.
- they are inclusive of all and provide a mirror for the breadth and depth of Scotland's diverse communities.
- they recognise the unique and often sensitive needs of their communities, not least being accepting and responsive to physical and mental ill-health.
- they are civic anchors – acting as hubs for local innovation, knowledge exchange, and community engagement.
- they respond to the pressing needs of the country, not least the big challenges we face in combating climate change – not just in the education and training they provide, but in how they act responsible as institutions; and
- they act as centres of cultural exchange – inspiring and broadening understanding and horizons.

Having reviewed the existing literature concerning the measurement of 'social value' and covered the changing policy landscape away from traditional economic measurements, IPPR attempted to bring this evidence and analysis together to design a tool for measuring a college's social value to students, staff, wider society, and the world. In doing so, we hope that important partners - such as SG Ministers and officials, including those beyond the education and skills portfolios will begin to see the value to a broader constituency, and thus better understand the wider impact a successful college delivers.

5. Impact and Implications

IPPR's new tool draws upon the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework as functional measures of national performance which capture value beyond monetary benefits. Therefore, we are able to begin to outline the full contribution from City of Glasgow College in a way that allows an understanding of the College's contribution to these important national and international policy agendas.

Looking across all 17 of the SDGs, nine were judged to be areas where colleges have impact. Similarly, eight out of a possible 11 National Outcomes are identified from the NPF, each comprised of a series of indicators.