

Board of Management Development Committee

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 24 January 2018
Paper No.	DC2-F
Agenda Item	9
Subject of Paper	Flexible Workforce Development Fund Update (FWDF)
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Roy Gardner
Date of production	22/1/2018
Action	For Discussion

1. Recommendations

- To note and discuss the Flexible Workforce Development Fund activity to date.

2. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Management with an update on the FWDF activity since November 2017.

3. Context

The Flexible Workforce Development Fund was launched earlier this year (announced at the end of 2016) following on from the announcement of the Apprenticeship Levy by the UK Government. This announcement detailed a £10M fund exclusively for the College Sector and has been notionally allocated per region and per college based on credit level activity.

As a reminder the Glasgow Region has been allocated: £1.9M

COGC: £885,260

Clyde: £625,430

Kelvin: £389,310

Below are some of the key points for the FWDF:

- Fund to provide levy paying employers with workforce development training to up-skill and re-skill their existing workforce.
- Fund available to all levy payers in Scotland, including private, public and third sector
- Employers can make one application only 2017/18
- Application window is now from 11/9/17 – **End of February 2018***
- Funded activity can take place from 11th September 2017 and no later than the **end of 2018****
- Funding issued on a first come first served basis
- Each levy payer will be able to access up to a maximum total of £10,000 in 2017/18
- FWDF can be used as part contribution towards training at a higher cost
- College and Employer should ensure an employer's identified training need (s) reflect the fund criteria and priorities.
- Fund **will not** support provision of qualifications/training required by legislation
- Fund is in addition to apprenticeship support (all employers can access) + ITAs (individual's access)

*End date extended from 15/12/17

** Delivery extended from end of June 2018

City of Glasgow College FWDF activity to date:

- **5 signed application forms**
- **10 Applications at final stage – completion by end of January**
- **96 pending enquiries/applications**
- **4 breakfast sessions taken place Nov/Dec 2017**
- **3 breakfast sessions planned before end of February**
- **10 new company meetings arranged over next 3 weeks, organised by the lead generation company**

4. Impact and implications

Although the FWDF was welcomed, it did make for a difficult start for the college sector. However, the SFC has listened to feedback and relaxed some of the original timescales which has helped with employer engagement. In moving forward we will continue to engage with the companies whom we have had contact with to maximise the fund where possible. It is also important that employer feedback is captured and relayed to both the GCRB & SFC. Some eligible companies simply are not engaging with the fund and don't see it as a priority.