H

CURRICULUM AND QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Subject: Learning for Leading	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☐ **For Discussion** ☐ **For Information** ☒
Prepared by: James Ayling	**Date:** 12 February 2019

Purpose: To highlight the gaps in the linked programme area table and to present reports of several visits.

Linked to Strategic Goal 3: Provide a high quality College experience.

Executive Summary:

There are gaps in the attached table of linked programme areas following the resignation of Steven Ker and Nicola McIlwraith from the Regional Board and the pending retiral of Ian Ireland. The Board Secretary will, in conjunction with the Chair of the Committee, allocate the vacant areas to the three new Board members.

Copies of the following visits are also attached for information:

ISLT on 25 October 2018 (T Jakimciw)
Health and Social Care on 9 November 2018 (I Ireland)
Construction on 28 November 2018 (L Parkes)
Business, Event and Heritage Tourism on 6 December 2018 (D Johnson)
Creative Industries on 10 December 2018 (J Gaddie)
Rural Industries on 22 January 2019 (V Grant)

Recommendation:

The Committee is requested to note the terms of the reports provided to date and to note the position regarding the allocation of the vacant areas.

Previous Committee Approvals:

For publication ☒	**For publication with redactions** ☐	**Not for publication** ☐

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT

Board Member: **Tony Jakimciw**
Faculty: **ISLT**
Date of Visit: **25 October 2108**
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: • **Met with Scott Moncrieff and discussed current ISLT structure and resources.** • **Scott shared initial thoughts and issues regarding ISLT developments already shared with Angela and Hazel** • **Met with Helen McNeil who demonstrated Moodle and discussed plans for development of this.** • **Discussed issues relating to recent infrastructure update**
Positive Impressions: • **Scott has quickly identified key issues affecting development of ISLT within the college and their potential solutions** • **Recent infrastructure upgrade largely successful although is a need to upgrade switches and servers** • **This was our first meeting after recent appointment of Scott and agreed we should meet in near future to discuss progress and emerging issues/development**
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: • **The bringing in house of what was a managed service has identified skills gaps with the existing team members which will need to be addressed, otherwise there will be a continued reliance on external consultants.** • **There appears to be no overall design plan for the structure and content of moodle with lecturers taking different approaches. Some is just notes which are not appropriate for genuine on line delivery. Appears to be inconsistent use of interactivity. Consideration needs to be given to the design of learning intranet to ensure that it is**

suitable to meet the needs of learners in a coherent way. There does not appear to be an end user group committed to this purpose • **There is inadequate in house specialist resource to meet the colleges ambitions for the development of on line delivery.**
Further information required or requested: • •

BORDERS COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

LEARNING FOR LEADING REPORT

Board Member: Ian Ireland
Faculty/Area: Health and Social Care
Date of Visit: 9th November 2018
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: Meeting and discussion with the Curriculum and Learning Manager, Lesley Anderson
Positive Impressions: A very useful discussion with Lesley who was very enthusiastic about her new role and talked with energy about the challenges and difficulties of her area. She showed a willingness to tackle problems and to make difficult decisions! Areas covered included: The provision of a new clinical skills laboratory and the opportunities this will provide to raise the level of the college's offer to local employers. Also the need to ensure compatibility of the equipment in the area with that of employers. The importance of maintaining staff professional skills through placements The possibility and advantages of providing courses over the summer period allowing more efficient use of the college resource Concerns over the national 4 care course and its appropriateness for the cohort. Plans for replacement with a course focussing on students self awareness and confidence. Problems with Higher Psychology provision to schools and the low retention from one school due to difficulty with IT for distance learning. Problems caused by the transition to Uniersal Crdit and the effect on retention of oldr learners. The need to give full and accurate information during recruitment to ensure learners are on the right course and can make the commitment to the required college hours.
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: Commitment to digital and distance learning must be backed by the timely provision of the appropriate resources in order to ensure the success of initiatives.
Further information required or requested:

BORDER COLLEGE

Leading and Learning

28th November 2018

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS VISIT

I met with the Construction Skills Curriculum Learning Manager Andy Winwood for a discussion and visit to Galashiels.

Summary of activities and observations during visit:-

- Brief introduction to Construction Skills lecturers and tour of Galashiels workshops , observing lead recycling, door construction and local exhaust ventilation
- Overview of changes with introduction of Curriculum Learning Managers: Construction Skills covers brickwork, joinery, painting and decorating and plumbing. Core skills and Engineering were also within Davie Lowe's portfolio with separate Curriculum Managers
- Replacement of Faculty Councils with Lead Representatives
- Discussion of CITB interfaces and aspirations of College to become the "go to" provider for Modern Apprentice training: 12 places available and, in liaison with Business Development Unit, visits to employers, flyers in trade shops and other initiatives ongoing
- Erasmus Plus: hoped that this would continue to be funded post Brexit
- Mapping of practical gaps in level 4/5 modules
- Review of KPIs and noted a reduction in early withdrawals. Columbus reports were demonstrated and records of positive and negative reasons for withdrawals

Positive impressions:-

- Use of KPIs when setting staff objectives
- Employer contacts within the team
- Engagement with Achievement Coaches
- Provision of laptops for Tweedbank
- Internal verification
- Interviews for Erasmus students based on assessment of behaviours as well as academic success
- Lead supply and recycling
- Kindling production
- Use of Focus groups and positive approach to feedback from Lead Reps

Areas which should be brought to the attention of college management:-

- Solutions sought to address extraction unit complaints
- Raising staff awareness of Board, and continued Board support
- Erasmus Plus post Brexit

Further information required or requested:-

- No further information requested . KPI report provided

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING

Board Member: Dr David Johnson

Linked Area: Business, Event and Heritage Tourism

Date of Visit: 6th December 2018

Summary of activities undertaken during visit:

- Discussion and tour of Area with Joanne George – Curriculum Learning Manager
- Discussion with Lyn Gilchrist – Portfolio Area VP
- Tour of classrooms:
  - Level 5 – NC Business Administration
  - Level 6 – NQ Business Management
  - Schools Link – NPA Events
- Tour of kitchen:
  - NVQ Professional Cookery (various levels)
- Conversations with Area faculty and students

Positive Impressions:

- This was my first Leading for Learning visit and I was especially impressed with the Area's vision, student-centred approach, and planned activities in response to meeting regional/industry needs. I am very grateful to Joanne George for providing me with the opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of the Area's current and future activities.

- There is a strong focus on meeting both student and regional needs. With this in mind, new courses are currently being introduced (e.g. HNC Hospitality) and existing curricula are being updated (e.g. a new Enterprise and Business unit). At the same time, a key focus for this year is the launch of the Scottish Borders Tourism Academy, which will have progressive pathways available from School provision to HE provision. Other areas of focus are:
  - Increasing online delivery
  - Introducing two new Foundation Apprenticeships
  - Collaboration with HW University to offer the Graduate Apprenticeship in Business Management.

- There is the recognition within the Area of the importance of enterprise, and for this to be embedded within both the Area's teaching activities and across other Areas/courses (e.g. Sport and Hairdressing).

- During my visit, I was fortunate to observe some of the Area's teaching activities. I was particularly impressed with the students' enthusiasm during their classroom activities and the support provided by Area faculty. The classroom observations highlight a very positive learning environment, which is great to see.

- There appears to be good links between the Area and Industry, particularly in the Hospitality and Professional Cookery space.

- It was encouraging to speak to a current Professional Cookery student who had recently engaged in a 'field to folk' competition. This level of engagement in extracurricular activities, as well as inter-disciplinary working across curriculum areas (i.e. game keeping), is encouraging to see.

- The Area is working more closely with HW University to better support the HND Business articulation route (for those students interested in this option). For example, the HND students are provided with the opportunity to visit the HW campus and directly engage with current HW Business Administration Degree students.

Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management:

- Some units/courses are (slightly) outdated (e.g. HNC Admin and IT) and, therefore, need aligning with current demands/trends. Given the introduction of new courses and updates to existing curricula, it is essential that sufficient staff resources (and skills) are available to meet these changes. All Area faculty are fractional staff, which may affect the ability to adopt these changes.

- It is particularly encouraging to see that an exercise is currently in progress to assess the level of online delivery within the Area. However, it is essential that sufficient staff resources (and skills) are available to meet this online delivery.

Further information required or requested:

None.

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING

Board Member: Jane Gaddie
Linked Area: Creative Industries
Date of Visit: 10 December 2018
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: • **Sit down meeting with Heather Fisher** • **Tour round the department to see all the facilities utilised on the courses and see classes in operation.** •
Positive Impressions: • **My initial correspondence with Heather was she was very professional. She sent me appropriate documents to review prior to the visit and we managed to coordinate a date easily.** • **I was really impressed when I met Heather. She is a bright individual with great enthusiasm for the role and what the College offers. She gave me a tour around all the facilities and I was able to see classes in progress and meet students and staff within the department.**

- **Heather's experience from other college environments was enlightening and she is very enthusiastic to bring this to Borders College whilst also being mindful of existing practises.**

- **I was impressed with the facilities in the beauty and hairdressing salon. All the staff I met were very welcoming and enthusiastic and gave me a good feel for how they play their part in the college. It was good also to hear of the split of time of those working as lecturers alongside working in industry themselves.**

- **Work experience opportunities are well managed and there are strong ties to local businesses to provide the valuable work experience opportunities within industry.**

- **The provision of Barber courses is a new strand for 2019 and also the commercial approach to revenue generation for the new Salon Launch.**

Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management:

- **The Achievement Coach works well in this area however she has a considerable number of students under her remit. Following discussion with Heather there is a need for greater counselling services. From what I understand counselling is available but not on the campus (I assume due to lack of budgets) and there is a long lead time in gaining appointments externally. Heather is keen to improve drop out rates and it is felt that for those who are maybe struggling due to personal reasons that more accessible counselling services would be extremely useful. Mental health is an area which has been discussed at Board level and is becoming more of an issue so maybe the provision of support needs supplemented in some way to decrease drop out rates and help improve achievement rates and therefore successful outcomes.**

-

Further information required or requested:

- **No further information required or requested. I will contact Heather in the future to meet her after she has had a few more months in her post, being relatively new. It was an extremely worthwhile visit from my perspective.**

-

BORDERS COLLEGE REGIONAL BOARD

LEARNING FOR LEADING

Board Member: **Dr Virginia Grant**
Programme Area Rural Industries: **Dr Mary Thomson** **Curriculum Learning Manager for Rural Skills**
Date of Visit: 22nd January 2019 The nature and format of the visit had been agreed in advance, via email correspondence, with Mary Thomson The Portfolio Area AP, Jayne Gracie was informed of the planned visit. Since Mary Thomson had recently commenced her post at the College it was suggested that a further visit involving meetings with staff and students could be arranged for spring 2019.
Summary of activities undertaken during visit: • Informal meeting with Mary Thomson • Tour of outdoor practical training areas • Informal conversations with staff and students while touring premises
Positive Impressions: Mary Thomson provided an insight into her first impressions of the College. She also outlined the outcomes of a number of focus group sessions she had undertaken to: - gain perspectives on the student experience - explore emerging issues with staff In general students appeared to be content with the services provided by the college and were particularly enthusiastic about the quality of teaching, the relationship with course tutors and the practical/non-classroom elements of their training. There have been a number of important positive outcomes including students winning awards and securing employment opportunities with high profile organisations.
Areas which should be brought to the attention of the College Management: The on-going accommodation and facilities challenges have been alleviated in part by the relocation of some courses to other sites. However there are persistent issues relating to the quality of the accommodation in particular the units adjacent to the main building. A member of teaching staff outlined the challenges faced in meeting the development needs and expectations of students in courses where the range of ability and experience is particularly wide. It was thought that additional interventions from

learning support services, at appropriate points in the schedule, could provide a solution to this problem.
No further information required or requested: A further visit will be arranged in the Spring to provide further opportunities to meet with members of staff and students as they progress towards the end of their courses.