

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 30 October 2023
Paper Title	Decisions via Scheme of Delegation
Agenda Item	8
Paper Number	BM1-C
Responsible Officer	Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For noting

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This standard report provides the board with updates and confirmation of the use of delegated authority to the GCRB Executive Director under the delegated decision-making procedures agreed by the board in June 2021.

1.2 This paper notifies the board of two distributions via the scheme of delegated authority:

1.2.1 Distribution of additional capital funds to address digital poverty in 2023-2024

1.2.2 Distribution of additional funds for free period products for academic year 2023-2024

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Board is invited to **note** the additional allocation of £639,908 to address digital poverty issues, and £84,500 to fund access to free period products. Both sets of funding are for the current academic year, 2023-2024.

3. Background

- 3.1. Under the procedure for the delegation of decision-making powers approved by the Board in June 2021, the board chair may decide, in consultation with the chair of the Performance and Resources Committee, whether a decision on allocation of additional SFC funds may be made by the executive director, or the Performance & Resources Committee, or referred to the full Board.
- 3.2. In line with the agreed procedure, the board was notified by email of the executive director's decision, and both the board and the Performance and Resources Committee are invited to note and record the decisions at this meeting.
- 3.3 A more detailed report on each of the funding allocations has been saved onto BoardEffect for Members' reference.
- 3.4 A summary of the funds' purposes and decisions made is provided below.

4. Capital Funding to Address Digital Poverty 2023-2024

- 4.1. On 13 July 2023, the Scottish Funding Council issued guidance on the additional funding to support digital poverty. The background, to this funding, is set out in the circular, i.e.:
- 4.2. "Digital access, equipment and skills are essential for students. Digital poverty relates to a lack of access and/or skills which prevents students from taking part or progressing in the tertiary system.
- 4.3. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) recognises the continuing efforts colleges and universities make to provide access to learning. Given the increased digital delivery of teaching, learning and support, it is essential that all learners have the necessary equipment to engage in their programmes."
- 4.4. Details of the full announcement are available via the following link:

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/announcements/2023/SFCGD202023.aspx>
- 4.5. The basis of the allocation is the same as has been used in previous years by the Scottish Funding Council (i.e. credit target). Therefore, the proposed allocation (2023-24) for each college in Glasgow is as follows:

College Funding	Credit Threshold AY 23-24	Total
City of Glasgow College	157,800	£293,999
Glasgow Clyde College	113,721	£211,875
Glasgow Kelvin College	71,941	£134,034
Total	343,462	£639,908

5. Free Period Products 2023-2024

- 5.1. In 2017 the Scottish Government made a commitment to provide free sanitary products to students in schools, colleges and universities. Additional funding to support this initiative has been provided since August 2018.
- 5.2. For the financial year 2023-24, the Scottish Government has provided additional funding to the college sector. The funding was announced by the Scottish Funding Council on 21 June 2023. Details of the full announcement are available via the following link:

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/announcements/2023/SFCAN162023.aspx>

- 5.3. The basis of the allocation is the same as has been used in previous years. Therefore, the proposed allocation 2023-24 for each college in Glasgow is as follows:

College Funding	Free Period Products	Administration	Total
City of Glasgow College	£32,647	£2806	£35,453
Glasgow Clyde College	£26,034	£2238	£28,272
Glasgow Kelvin College	£19,131	£1644	£20,775
Total	£77,812	£6688	£84,500

6. Risk and Compliance Analysis

- 6.1. A risk facing the Glasgow Region is that “Financial sustainability is jeopardised by a reduction in income and/or an increase in costs.” (Risk 008). The additional funding helps mitigate the risk.
- 6.2. The Executive Director is responsible for implementation of the regional strategic plan, management of risk and oversight of resources. The use of delegated authority is designed to maintain these positions.
- 6.3. There are no legal implications associated with this paper.

7. Finance and Resource Implications

- 7.1. The financial implications are set out in the body of this report.

8. Equalities Implications

- 8.1.** The provision of this funding supports the Scottish Government's commitment to providing equality of access as part of the wider student experience.

9. Learner Implications

- 9.1.** The provision of additional funding for digital poverty and free period products is intended to provide direct additional support for learners in the Glasgow college system.