

Draft Minute of the Performance and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 17 April 2024

Present	
Moira Connolly (Chair)	Paul Smart
In Attendance	
Martin Boyle (Executive Director)	Janie McCusker (Board Chair)
Penny Davis (Board Secretary)	Derek Smeall (Principal, Glasgow Kelvin College)
Jim Godfrey (Finance and Resources Director)	Jon Vincent (Principal, Glasgow Clyde College)
Wendy Odedina (Executive Assistant)	Andrew Dickson (CFO, City of Glasgow College)
Apologies	
Sheila Meikle	
Sakshi Sircar	Anwulika Umeh (Co-opted Member)

1. Introduction and Welcome

Paper Number: Verbal

1.1 Discussion

The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting, noting Andrew Dickson, Chief Financial Officer at City of Glasgow College, attending in place of Paul Little.

2. Apologies

Paper Number: Verbal

2.1 Decision

Apologies were noted for Sakshi Sircar, Sheila Meikle and Anwulika Umeh.

3. Declarations of Interest

Paper Number: Verbal

3.1 Decision

The Chair reminded members that it is their personal responsibility to indicate to the Chair at any point during the meeting if they have, or may be perceived as having, a conflict of interest under any item on the agenda.

The college representatives declared an interest in item 13, the indicative funding allocation for 24-25.

4. Chair's Business

Paper Number: Verbal

4.1 Discussion

The Chair noted the following meetings she had attended since the last meeting of the committee:

- January Board meeting
- 1-1 evaluation meeting with Board Chair
- Meeting with GCRSE Chair and GCRB Executive on mental health matters.

5. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 13 December 2023

Paper Number: PRC3-A

5.1 Decision

The minute of the Committee meeting held on 13 December 2023 was agreed as an accurate record.

6. Outcome Agreement 2023-24 Progress Report

Paper Number: PRC3-B

6.1 Discussion

The Executive Director presented the paper noting that with minor exceptions, the region is on track to deliver against target. He noted that this is in-year data so provides a progress update rather than final outcomes. He noted that recruitment has been strong and retention positive, however the impact of strike action and ASOS (action short of strike) may have an impact on outcomes later in the year.

He also highlighted the annex on Foundation Apprenticeships and the work being undertaken regionally to address some of the challenges around this provision.

6.2 Decision

The committee **noted** the progress of the Glasgow college region on delivery of the Glasgow Region Outcome Agreement 2023-24.

7 Capital Funding 2022-23

Paper Number: PRC3-C

7.1 Discussion

The Finance and Resources Director presented the paper noting an update on capital works at Glasgow Kelvin and Clyde colleges noting most of the work as being complete with some continuing into April and May due to weather delays.

The Principal at Glasgow Clyde College provided an update on the work to replace windows at the Anniesland Campus and also quotes received to address the RAAC issue at the Cardonald Campus.

The committee discussed the national condition survey and the work being undertaken by the SFC to update this noting that this will be a desk-based exercise where colleges will provide information centrally. Members also discussed the significant issues with digital funding.

The Executive Director noted that he continues to liaise with the SFC and these matters are discussed at his regular engagement meetings. The committee requested that he continues to speak to the importance of this matter and push for improvements.

7.2 Decision

The committee **noted** the progress made by the colleges in respect of the capital projects in the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

8 Flexible Workforce Development Funding 2023-24

Paper Number: PRC3-D

8.1 Discussion

The Finance and Resources Director presented the paper confirming for the committee that the Scottish Government have indicated there will no more funding for FWDF for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

He noted that he is engaging with the three colleges to ensure remaining funds are fully utilised which he noted he was confident could be achieved. He confirmed that this could involve regional re-allocations if necessary.

The committee noted the risks around financial sustainability and staffing relating to this matter and requested that it be discussed at the joint meeting with the Audit and Assurance committee in May.

8.2 Decision

The committee **noted**:

- Glasgow colleges provided the latest FWDF progress reports (to GCRB) on 29 February 2024.
- FWDF funds held by GCRB (at 16 March 2024), that relate to 2021-22, are £111,000.
- FWDF funds held by GCRB (at 16 March 2024), that relate to 2022-23, are £4,000.
- The Scottish Funding Council has now confirmed that there will not be any funding for FWDF in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

It was **agreed** to add this matter to the agenda for the next meeting of the committee in the cross over section with the Audit and Assurance Committee.

9 GCRB running costs 23-24

Paper Number: PRC3-E

9.1 Discussion

The Finance and Resources Director presented the paper for assurance noting no significant matters to bring to the attention of the committee.

9.2 Decision

The Committee **noted** the forecast outturn compared with budget for 2023-24.

10 Analysis of Mid-Year Returns 2023-24

Paper Number: PRC3-F

10.1 Discussion

The Finance and Resources Director presented the paper which he noted provides an update on regional finances compared to the forecast figures. He noted that these are generally consistent with forecasted figures, with some slight improvements.

Members discussed money remaining in the Arms Lengths Foundations and the Finance and Resources Director agreed to circulate the recent paper that had been provided to the Audit and Assurance Committee on this matter.

Members discussed that the significant financial challenges for the region have been well documented at committee and boards meetings. It was noted this would be further discussed at the upcoming board meeting and as part of future regional planning.

10.2 Decisions

The committee **noted** the mid-year returns for 2023-24.

It was **agreed** to circulate the paper from the Audit and Assurance Committee on Arm's Length Foundations.

11 Allocation of Funding for Counsellors 23-24

Paper Number: PRC3-G

11.1 Discussion

The Finance and Resources Director presented the paper noting that this relates to funding provided for counsellors over a 4-year period and is the small amount remaining that has been held centrally. He noted therefore that the proposed split of funding is as has been agreed and allocated in previous years.

Members discussed the allocation methodology noting that whilst it may have been helpful to consider on a needs basis, it would be sensible to continue to allocate the small remaining amount on the same basis as has been used previously.

11.2 Decision

The committee **agreed to recommend** that the board **approves** the allocation of funding for counsellors in 2023-24.

12 Planning and Monitoring – Outcome Agreement 2024-25

Paper Number: PRC3-H

12.1 Discussion

The Executive Director presented the paper confirming that there will be no formal outcome agreement requirement from the SFC for academic year 2024-25. He confirmed that an evaluation of the current year, 2023-24, will be due in the autumn and this will conclude the current outcome agreement cycle.

He confirmed that SFC will produce guidance on monitoring requirements moving forward and GCRB will continue to work with SFC to seek to shape this through the established board short-life working group.

In the meantime, the Executive Director confirmed that he will ensure there is no vacuum and monitoring will continue to take place at regional level as appropriate.

12.2 Decision

The committee **noted** the update, which will also be shared with the GCRB board.

13 Indicative Funding Allocation 2024-25

Paper Number: PRC3-I

13.1 Discussion

The Finance and Resources Director presented the paper confirming the overall allocation to the region and the proposed regional split across the three assigned colleges.

He spoke to the various strands of the allocation including the learning and teaching grant, credit targets, student support funding and capital. He confirmed the proposed regional split follows the same methodology as the national allocation.

The committee discussed again the significant financial pressures and the settlement being a real terms cut, and the difficulties of a flat income with the commitment to deliver the same level of activity, with increasing costs. They noted this was alongside the removal of funding streams, such as the FWDF, as noted earlier in the meeting.

The committee noted that the board needs to aware of the impact across the three colleges and take this into account regionally when planning for the future and looking at what can be done differently and collaboratively.

13.2 Decision

The committee:

- **noted** the indicative funding allocations for 2024-25 issued by the SFC on Thursday, 28 March 2024.
- **determined** the indicative regional funding allocations for 2024-25.
- **requested** that the indicative regional allocations for 2024-25 are considered by the Board at its next meeting.
- **requested** that the final allocations for 2024-25 are presented to the next meeting of this Committee.
- **requested** that the three colleges, via the regional student funding group, provide feedback on the indicative student funding allocations for 2024-25.
- **requested** that the three colleges provide their indicative capital plans, for 2024-25, to the GCRB Finance and Resources Director.

14 Draft GCRB Budget 2024-25

Paper Number: PRC3-J

14.1 Discussion

The Finance and Resources Director presented the paper noting some changes to the Programme of Action budget for 2024-25 with the end of the fixed term project on environment and sustainability.

He noted that the budget may need to be revisited in light of any change in ministerial direction.

14.2 Decision

The committee **considered** the draft GCRB Budget for 2024-25 and **agreed** recommend this to the Board for approval.

15 Student Funding Update

Paper Number: Verbal

12.1 Discussion

The Finance and Resources Director provided a verbal update noting that the student funding group has met over the course of the year to progress greater collaboration across the region and that progress has been positive. He reminded members that this was initiated by the Performance and Resources Committee to seek to avoid any funding being underutilised.

He confirmed that the group are due to meet again next month and that they will discuss the indicative funding allocation. At this meeting he will request a progress report which will be submitted to the next meeting of the committee.

12.2 Decision

The committee **noted** the verbal report and that a paper will be **provided** to the next meeting of the committee.

16 Long Term Agenda

Paper Number: PRC3-K

16.1 Decision

The Committee **agreed** the long-term agenda.

17. Review of Disclosable Status

Paper Number: Verbal

14.1 Decision

The Board Secretary confirmed the following papers as non-disclosable due to having to be approved by the board:

- PRC3-G Funding for Counsellors 2023-24 (note this was marked disclosable, however is non-disclosable)
- PRC3-I Indicative Funding Allocation 2024-25
- PRR3-J Draft GCRB Budget 2024-25

18. Date of Next Meeting

Paper Number: Verbal

15.1 Decision

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 28 May. The Chair confirmed that this will be a cross over meeting with the Audit and Assurance Committee with timings as follows:

1100-1200hrs: A&A committee only

1200-1300hrs: A&A and P&R committees

1300-1400hrs: P&R committee only