

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 15 May 2023
Paper Title	Delegated Decisions
Agenda Item	8
Paper Number	BM5-C
Responsible Officer	Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For noting

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This paper is intended to update the GCRB board on the use of delegated decisions to ensure the effective, efficient allocation of funding within the Glasgow college region. Delegated decisions are used predominantly where there is consensus of approach has been achieved and/or where there is a requirement to ensure that in-year funding is allocated efficiently to support delivery.

1.2 During this period there have been three delegated decisions as follows:

1.2.1 Additional funding for counsellors for the remainder of the financial year 2022-2023 of £136,000 split equally between the three Glasgow colleges.

1.2.2 Additional funds for discretionary (student) funding to the Glasgow colleges for the Academic Year 2022-23, totalling £1,229,286 of additional discretionary funding to address the pressures arising from cost-of-living, and fuel poverty, pressures. Funds are allocated in proportion to colleges' share of core student support funds.

1.2.3 Additional funds of £663,912 of funding for Young Persons Guarantee to each college in Glasgow for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Board is invited to **note** the use of delegated decisions and the allocation of funding for the activity as outlined above.

3. Report

3.1 Funding for Counsellors – Financial Year 2022-23 Allocation

3.2 The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has provided £136,000 of funding to the Glasgow college region for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 March 2023. This provides sufficient funding to employ 2.6 FTE counsellors. This is significantly lower than the amount provided in 2021-22 (£404,500) which was sufficient to employ 7.75 counsellors.

3.3 In each of the previous three years, GCRB agreed to allocate the funding equally to all 3 colleges (after meeting the cost of the Togetherall on-line service from March 2020 to July 2022).

3.4 Under the scheme of delegation, it has been determined that each college is allocated £45,333.33 in 2022-23. This amount provides sufficient resources to enable each college to employ 0.87 FTE counsellors in 2022-23 (a decrease of 1.7 FTE per college).

3.5 The announcement from the SFC also identified that further funding may be forthcoming for the period April 2023 to July 2023. However, the announcement states that “SFC cannot allocate funds for April (2023) onwards until...clarity is provided (*from the Scottish Government*)”. At this stage no additional allocation information is available.

3.6 In addition, GCRB held a small balance of funds (£18,950) that relates to an underspend of counsellor funding. This balance arose at the outset of the programme as a result of delays in establishing the programme and the recruitment of counsellors. As the provision of Scottish Government/SFC funding is diminishing, it is considered an appropriate time to release these funds to the colleges. Therefore, using the same approach as outlined in section 5 above, an equal distribution would result in an amount of £6,316.67.

3.7 Additional Discretionary Funding 2022-23

3.8 The additional funds have been allocated, by SFC, in proportion to the region’s share of core student support funds and will be paid in March 2023. Using the same allocation basis, the additional funds allocated to the Glasgow colleges are set out below.

3.1. Additional Allocation 2022-23	3.2. Discretionary Student Funding
3.3. City of Glasgow College	3.4. 451,640
3.5. Glasgow Clyde College	3.6. 496,754
3.7. Glasgow Kelvin College	3.8. 280,892
3.9. Total	3.10. £1,229,286

3.9 The additional funds are supplementary to in-year requests for additional funding. Within the Glasgow region, City of Glasgow requested, and has been allocated, an additional £310,000 of student support funds. The other two colleges forecast that they have

sufficient funding to meet the requirements of their students¹. This allocation will be reported back to GCRB to allow monitoring of overall spend, and all colleges have agreed to an approach which would allow for in-year redistribution if required to maximise in-region benefits.

3.10 Young Person’s Guarantee 2022-2023

3.11 The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has provided £663,912 of funding to the Glasgow college region for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023.

3.12 Under the scheme of delegation, it has been determined that the allocation, for 2022-23, to each college is that set out in the table below. The allocation has been discussed with the three college principals and has the support of all parties after constructive discussion.

3.13 The targeted funding to address child poverty is split equally between all three colleges. In addition, Glasgow Clyde College is allocated an additional £5,000 to undertake the project administration.

3.14 The YPG funding is allocated on the basis of a core allocation of £125,000 to City of Glasgow College with the remainder allocated to the three colleges based upon their respective share of the core grant for 2022-23. The higher baseline allocation to City of Glasgow College is in recognition of the YPG activity delivered by the college in previous years.

Allocation 2022-23	YPG Funding	Targeted child poverty	Total
City of Glasgow College	356,060	40,000	396,060
Glasgow Clyde College	183,083	45,000	228,083
Glasgow Kelvin College	124,769	40,000	164,769
Total	663,912	125,000	788,912

4. Risk and Compliance Analysis

4.1 The allocation of these funds seeks to mitigate against risks to student success and access to effective support services and qualifications.

5. Financial and Resource Analysis

5.1 Additional funding allocations provide on-going support for the delivery of services. There is, however, a risk due to the conclusion of some funding streams and uncertainty about the continuation of other funds.

¹ It is important to note that the national funding guidance prescribes how the funds may be used (e.g. for student bursaries). With the exception of discretionary funding, colleges are largely bound by national guidance. However, the colleges have been working to ensure that their procedures are aligned and that any opportunities, available within the guidance, are maximised for the benefit of Glasgow’s learners.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 Funding allocations are predominantly targeted support allocations with a view to supporting learners with specific needs and protected characteristics, and therefore play an important role in progressing equalities.

7. Learner Implications

7.1 Funding allocations are predominantly focused on the support, continuation, and delivery of student-centred services. As such, allocations have been made efficiently after positive engagement across the Glasgow college system.