
Performance and Resources Committee

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 25 September 2024
Paper Title	GCRB Costs – 2023-24
Agenda Item	10
Paper Number	PRC1-E
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance & Resources Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Noting

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report compares actual income, and expenditure, for the academic year against the GCRB budget for 2023-24.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to **note** the forecast outturn compared with budget for 2024-25.

3. GCRB Running Costs 2023-24

3.1. The table below provides a summary of the actual income and expenditure for the year ending 31 July 2024.

	year ending 31 July 2024		Original Budget 2023-24	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Allocated from Regional Grant	459		459	
Brought forward funding	6		54	
Total		465		513
Expenditure				
Staffing	324		345	
Board Costs	76		90	
Audit	46		35	
Other	19		43	
Total		465		513
Surplus/(Deficit)		0		0

3.2. The key points to note:

- The cost of staffing includes the agreed pay increase for the years beginning 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023. The pay increase is lower than the budgeted amount and has resulted in a saving to GCRB of £11k.
- The forecast staffing cost includes the reduction in the employer's pension contribution (from 1 April 2024). This has resulted in a saving, compared to the original budget, of £10k.
- Board costs are lower than budget, mainly because of lower days claimed by the Chair during the first five months of the year (resulting in a saving of £8k).
- The increase in audit costs is due to the rise in the external audit fee (as advised by Audit Scotland).
- Forecast other expenditure is expected to be lower than originally budgeted. This is due to patterns of expenditure, on communications and staff development, being lower than originally budgeted.

4. GCRB Programme Costs 2023-24

4.1. The regional Programme of Action is part of the Outcome Agreement for 2023-24. The cost of delivering the programme is detailed in the table below:

	year ending 31 July 2024		Original Budget 2023-24	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Allocated from Regional Grant	232		232	
Brought forward funding	193		213	
Total		425		445
Expenditure				
Action for Children	105		105	
Young Enterprise Scotland	12		15	
ESOL	96		96	
Mental Health	1		5	
Counsellors	144		144	
Climate Change/Sustainability	67		80	
Total		425		445
Surplus/(Deficit)		0		0

4.2. The following comments are provided in respect of the Programme of Action budget:

Expenditure

- **Action for Children** – the project is progressing well, and the service provision is supported by additional external funding (in addition to our regional contribution).
- **Young Enterprise Scotland** – the core project is funded directly by the Scottish Government. The additional funding, provided by GCRB, supplements the core project.
- **ESOL** – funding continues to be provided by GCRB, as in previous years.
- **Mental Health** – minimal expenditure was incurred in 2023-24.
- **Climate Change/Sustainability** – expenditure has been incurred on staff costs with some additional project support.

5. Risk and Compliance Analysis

- 5.1.** There are no specific risks, or legal implications, associated with this report. However, the allocation of funding, to meet the GCRB running enables the delivery of the board's objectives and ambitions.
- 5.2.** The delivery of the regional programme of action addresses key elements of the strategic plan and mitigates some of the regional risks, such as:
- GCRB is unable to deliver against its regional environment and sustainability strategy.
 - GCRB's programme of action investment fails to deliver intended outcomes, impact and benefits.
- 5.3.** There are no legal, or compliance, implications identified in this report.

6. Financial and Resource Analysis

- 6.1.** The financial implications associated with the year 2023-24 are set out in the body of the report.

7. Equalities Implications

- 7.1.** The regional programme of action provides support to learners who are at risk of exclusion.

8. Learner Implications

- 8.1.** The resources utilised for the purpose of GCRB, and the regional programme of action, contribute to the achievement of the agreed learner outcomes in 2023-24.