
Performance & Resources Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 14 December 2022
Paper Title	FWDF Update Report
Agenda Item	13
Paper Number	PRC2-I
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance and Resources Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Noting

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.** This report provides an update in respect of the Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** The Committee is invited to **note** that:

- The Glasgow colleges are continuing to deliver FWDF activity, that was previously contracted but incomplete at 31 July 2022.
- The SFC has not yet completed the reconciliation of FWDF activity at 31 July 2022.
- Funding for FWDF from 1 August 2022 has yet to be confirmed, which is a cause for concern.

3. Background

- 3.1. The region has actively promoted the flexible workforce development fund since it was introduced in September 2017. The level of activity was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic but levels have increased following the return to on-campus delivery. In accordance with the SFC's monitoring arrangements, the latest reporting returns were submitted at 30 September 2022.

Flexible Workforce Fund	Funds Available £'m	Funds Used/Contracted £'m	(Over)/Under-utilisation £'m	% of funds used
2017-18	£1.92	£1.07	£0.85	56%
2018-19	£1.92	£1.89	£0.03	98%
2019-20	£1.79	£1.73	£0.06	97%
2020-21	£2.37	£2.38	(£0.01)	100%
2021-22	£2.97	£2.51	£0.46	85%

- 3.2. The Scottish Funding Council is undertaking a reconciliation of the FWDF funds up to 31 July 2022. The reconciliation is expected to be reflected in the allocation of funds for 2022-23. The reconciliation is taking longer than expected and it is important to note that no FWDF funding has been allocated from 1 August 2022.
- 3.3. The three colleges are continuing to deliver FWDF activity, that was contracted in previous years but wasn't complete by 31 July 2022. Returns are submitted to GCRB and funds paid to the colleges when training commences. The next return date was 30 November 2022, with payments being made in December 2022.

4. Risk and Compliance Analysis

- 4.1. Given the current financial challenges facing the public sector budget, there is a risk that FWDF funding may be reduced from 1 August 2022. As such, there is an increased risk that "Financial sustainability is jeopardised by a reduction in income and/or an increase in costs". (Risk 006).
- 4.2. There are no legal, or compliance, implications identified in this report.

5. Financial and Resource Analysis

- 5.1. The financial implications of the Flexible Workforce Development Fund are outlined in the report.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1. There are no equalities implications as a direct result of this report.

7. Learner Implications

- 7.1. The curriculum delivery, supported by these funds, provides significant support to the achievement of ambitions set out in the Glasgow Region Strategic Plan. Delivery supported by the Flexible Workforce Fund makes a significant contribution to meeting the aim of meeting Glasgow's ambitions working with employers to deliver a range and depth of training opportunities.