

## Performance and Resources Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 16 December 2020
Paper Title	Student Support Fund 2020-21
Agenda Item	14
Paper Number	PRC3-I
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance and Resources Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Noting

### 1. Report Purpose

1.1. To update the Committee on the recent developments in respect of student funding.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1. The Committee is asked to;

- **note** the out-turn figures for student funding in 2019-20, and
- **note** the additional student funding request for 2020-21,

### 3. Background

3.1. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) issued a Call for Information on 4 November 2020. The Call for Information invited colleges to relinquish unspent student support funds or request an increase to their student support allocations for the academic year 2020-21. A copy is available via the following link:  
<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/calls-information/2020/SFCCI102020.aspx>

#### 4. Report – Student Support Funds 2019-20

- 4.1. In November 2020, SFC provided a summary of the actual spend<sup>1</sup> by the colleges for 2019-20. The information is based upon the returns submitted by the colleges via the FES data returns. During the financial year 2019-20, colleges requested, and were granted additional funds to meet demand. The original allocation, in-year re-distribution and actual spend for each college is shown in the following table:

College	Original Allocation 2019-20 (£000)	In-year request & distribution (£000)	Total Allocation 2019-20 (£000)	Spend (FES) 2019-20 (£000)	(Under-) /Over-spend (£000)	(Under-) /Over-spend %
City of Glasgow College	£9,453	£552	£10,005	£9,476	(£529) <sup>2</sup>	(5.6%)
Glasgow Clyde College	£10,757	£250	£11,007	£10,083	(£924) <sup>3</sup>	(9.2%)
Glasgow Kelvin College	£5,353	£870	£6,223	£5,770	(£453) <sup>4</sup>	(7.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£25,563</b>	<b>£1,672</b>	<b>£27,235</b>	<b>£25,329</b>	<b>(£1,906)</b>	<b>(7.5%)</b>

- 4.2. The under-spend of £1,906,000 is significant and represents 114% of the additional funds requested. A pattern of high in-year requests followed by a significant underspend reduces confidence in the forecast predictions. Although, some of this underspend is related to the Covid-19 pandemic e.g. a reduction in student travel and childcare.
- 4.3. Of the total under-spend £1,098,000 relates to student bursaries, £388,000 to childcare and £420,000 to discretionary funds.
- 4.4. The Committee is asked to note the out-turn figures for student funding in 2019-20.

#### 5. Report – Call for Information, Student Support Funds 2020-21

- 5.1. For 2020-21, the SFC is again providing the opportunity for a re-distribution of funds between colleges and regions. There is also an opportunity to re-distribute funds within the Glasgow Region prior to applying for/relinquishing funds externally.
- 5.2. The three colleges have provided a return to GCRB indicating that they do not have surplus funds to relinquish with one college requesting additional funds for 2020-21. The original funds allocated, and the additional requests, are shown in the following table:

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<sup>1</sup> Reported via the FES returns submitted by the Colleges

<sup>2</sup> Breakdown of CoGC underspend; (£249k) bursary, (£204k) childcare & (£76k) discretionary

<sup>3</sup> Breakdown of GCC underspend; (£462k) bursary, (£407k) childcare & (£55k) discretionary

<sup>4</sup> Breakdown of GKC underspend; (£387k) bursary, £223k childcare & (£289k) discretionary

College	Original Allocation 2020-21 (£000)	In-year request 2020-21 (£000)	Possible revised total 2020-21 (£000)	Spend (FES) 2019-20 (£000)	Increase compared to previous year spend (£000)	
City of Glasgow College	£10,388	£815	£11,203	£9,476	£1,727	18.2%
Glasgow Clyde College	£11,425	£0	£11,425	£10,083	£1,342	13.3%
Glasgow Kelvin College	£6,461	£0	£6,461	£5,770	£691	12.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£28,274</b>	<b>£815</b>	<b>£29,089</b>	<b>£25,329</b>	<b>£3,760</b>	<b>14.8%</b>

5.3. In recent years, the requests for additional funds have usually been met in full. However, there is a risk that additional funds cannot be provided in 2020-21. Confirmation of the availability of additional funds is expected imminently. In addition, regular monitoring of the revised forecasts during the financial year provides an opportunity to redistribute funds between the Colleges.

5.4. The Committee is asked to note the additional funding request for 2020-21

## 6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1. Historically, colleges have carried a risk that demand for student funding exceeds the level of funding available. This presents a risk that “Financial sustainability is jeopardised by a reduction in funding and/or an increase in costs” (Risk 008).
- 6.2. Over the last couple of years exposure to this risk has reduced as a result of additional funding provided by the Scottish Government/Scottish Funding Council. Funding has increased significantly each year both in terms of the initial allocation and the in-year redistribution.
- 6.3. As shown above, actual expenditure by the colleges was 7.5% below the amount of funding available in 2019-20. As a result, £1.9m of funding will be returned by the colleges to the Scottish Funding Council. The initial allocation for 2020-21 is 11.6% above the level of expenditure in 2019-20 and therefore the future risk posed to financial sustainability has reduced.

## 7. Legal Implications

7.1. There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

## 8. Resource Implications

8.1. There are no direct financial implications for GCRB. The financial implications for the colleges are set out in the report above.

## 9. Strategic Plan Implications

9.1. There is a clear link between the regional strategic ambition of widening access to college learning and student funding. This report informs the Board of recent developments in the area of student funding.