![GCRB | Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board]

Performance and Resources Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 7 March 2018
Paper Title	Student Funding
Agenda Item	10 (b)
Paper Number	PRC4-G
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance and Resources Director
Recommended 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** that the request for additional student funding for 2017-18 was approved by SFC in February 2018.

3.   Additional Student Funding

3.1.   A Call for Information was issued by the Scottish Funding Council on 17 October 2017. 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 2017-18. A copy is available via the following link: http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/callsforinformation_sfcci082017/SFCCI082017_Student_Support_IYR_2017-18_Call_for_information.pdf

3.2.   The three colleges provided a return to GCRB indicating that they do not have surplus funds to relinquish and are all requesting additional funds for 2017-18. The original funds allocated, and the additional requests, are shown in the following table:

College	Original Allocation 2017-18 (£000)	In-year Allocation 2017-18 (£000)	Revised Allocation 2017-18 (£000)	Total Spend (FES) 2016-17 (£000)	Increase compared to previous year spend (£000)	
City of Glasgow College	£8,287	£301	£8,588	£8,064	£524	6.5%
Glasgow Clyde College	£9,090	£314	£9,404	£9,175	£229	2.5%
Glasgow Kelvin College	£4,569	£650	£5,219	£4,567	£652	14.2%
Total	**£21,946**	**£1,265**	**£23,211**	**£21,806**	**£1,405**	**6.4%**

3.3. We were informed in January 2018 that the requests for additional funds would be met in full and this was confirmed by SFC in February 2018. A copy of the circular is available via the SFC website:
http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/announcements/announcements-2018/SFCAN052018.aspx

3.4. Regular monitoring of the revised forecasts during the financial year provides an opportunity to redistribute funds between the Colleges.

4. **Independent Review of Student Financial Support in Scotland**

4.1. An independent review of Student Funding was commissioned by the Scottish Government and the final report was published in November 2017. This review proposes some significant changes to the current arrangements and copy of the full report is available via the following link:
http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/11/3884?_ga=2.196131820.1795612737.1511359429-1491431551.1511359427

4.2. The Scottish Government is currently considering the independent review of student support. One further development is that a sum of £5m has been set aside within the Scottish Funding Council's budget for 2018-19. This amount is to meet some of the initial costs of implementing recommendations arising from the report.

5. **Risk Analysis**

5.1. There is a risk that student funding poses a threat to the financial sustainability of the colleges. The reason for this is that colleges are required to meet the cost of providing student funding but the level of grant income is fixed.

5.2. The review of student funding recommends a number of wide-ranging changes. If implemented, this will result in significant change to the student funding landscape. It is anticipated that the changes will have a positive impact on learners but there are also potential implications for colleges and their funding teams.

6. **Legal Implications**

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

7. **Resource Implications**

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

8. **Strategic Plan Implications**

8.1. 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.