

Performance and Resources Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 16 March 2022
Paper Title	Student Funding 2021-22
Agenda Item	12
Paper Number	PRC4-G
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance and Resources Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an update of progress by college colleagues on the Student Funding Review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:

- **Note** the progress to date, and
- **Request** that the final report is provided to this committee at its next meeting.

3. Report

- 3.1.** Members will recall that the issue of Student Funding 2020-21 was discussed at its last meeting in December 2021. It was agreed that the GCG Sustainable Institutions Group would discuss this matter further and report back to this committee. The following progress update has been provided by college finance leads on this group:

“The GCG Sustainable Institutions Group (SIG) met on 4 March 2022 to discuss a review of Student Support Funding with a focus on gaining a clearer understanding of the reasons for the differing outturns for AY20/21 across the three Colleges. All three Glasgow Colleges did, to varying degrees, underspend the 20/21 student funding allocation necessitating a Regional clawback. 20/21 included several additional in year allocations and volatile demand due to the pandemic. These added increased complexity and difficulty in modelling estimated expenditure.

It was agreed that a Short Life Working Group (SLWG) would be set up to enable the Student Funding Leads within the three Colleges to collaborate and compare approaches in order to then brief members of the SIG accordingly. It is anticipated that some of the 20/21 variations may be linked to COVID19 and also possibly to wider Scottish Government/SFC policy changes, however it is difficult to make any definitive statement on this until data from all three Colleges has been collated and analysed.

Once the SIG has had an opportunity to review the findings of the SLWG, a summary paper will be provided to the GCRB Performance and Resources Committee in June 2022.”

4. Risk and Compliance Analysis

- 4.1.** The provision of student funding supports learners to undertake, and complete, their learning outcomes. Therefore, the opportunity to enhance the way in which student funding is provided will help to address the risk that ‘Fewer learners achieve positive outcomes’ (Risk 007).
- 4.2.** There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5. Financial and Resource Analysis

- 5.1.** There are no direct financial implications regarding this paper. However, the review of student funding has clear financial implications for learners and these will be considered as part of the final report.

6. Learner, and Equalities, Implications

- 6.1.** The provision of student funding supports all learners, including those most disadvantaged, to study at college.