Performance and Resources Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Thursday 7 June, 2018
Paper Title	Developing regional approaches to student data management
Agenda Item	8
Paper Number	PRC5-D
Responsible Officer	Robin Ashton, GCRB Executive Director
Recommended Status	Disclosable
Action	For noting

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide members of the Committee with a further update on the development of regional approaches to student data management.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is invited to:

- **note** that following regional discussions of options, the three Glasgow colleges intend to procure separate MIS systems;

- **note** that the Glasgow Colleges Group are preparing a paper outlining how, on this basis, they will provide technical solutions to meet agreed regional strategic objectives;

- **note** the Scottish Government support within their Learner Journey Review Report for the development of coordinated approaches to college application within multi-college regions; and

- **request** a further update at a future meeting of the Committee.

3. Update on the development of regional approaches to student data management

3.1 At its meeting on May 22, 2017, the GCRB Board approved a regional strategic plan and requested that operational objectives are developed in support of its strategic goals. Following regional discussions, a set of high level key objectives was agreed and within these, a key objective is to:

"*Develop a regional approach to student data management to support the quality and impact of this information on services provided to learners and stakeholders, supporting*

improved learner outcomes. This work will support the development of a regional admissions system, which provides learners with access to, and progression within, the full regional curriculum."

3.2 Members will recall that at December and March Committee meetings, reports relating to the re-procurement of college student data systems were considered. In essence, this highlighted to Committee members the potential opportunities afforded by the re-procurement exercise to deliver more effective regional curriculum planning and monitoring, and to widen learner choice and support successful learner journeys across the Glasgow College Region.

3.3 Since the last Committee meeting, further discussions have taken place to consider student data development options. This included consideration of three technical approaches at a meeting of regional and college Chairs and Principals and the GCRB Executive Director. At this meeting, the colleges stated that they proposed to procure separate MIS systems and would provide a paper setting technical solutions which would meet regional strategic objectives on this basis. GCRB provided the colleges with a summary of regional strategic priorities (attached as Annex A). It was intended that the colleges' paper would be provided at this meeting of the Performance and Resources Committee. However, the colleges have yet to reach an agreed position on this and therefore it will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

3.4 Members should also note that on May 10, 2018, the Scottish Government launched the report of the Scottish Government's 15-24 Learner Journey Review (available at http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/05/4774). The review focused on a number of areas directly relevant to the development of regional approaches to student data management in Glasgow including widening learner choice, enabling easier application to college and supporting more efficient learning pathways.

3.5 The report includes a recommendation to work with the college sector to improve the ease with which learners can apply to college. The Scottish Government report states that this work will start in 2018 and will support multi-college regions in developing and piloting co-ordinated application processes.

3.6 The GCRB Executive Director will therefore progress discussions with Scottish Government officials and college staff as to how these recommendations could support developments with the Glasgow College Region.

4. Risk assessment

4.1 The development of a regional approach to student data management is intended to reduce the likelihood and impact of the following GCRB identified risks:

- *a failure to effectively plan/monitor our educational delivery results in the curriculum not meeting regional economic and social needs; and*
- *failure to achieve the targets set out in the Regional Outcome Agreement lessens our ability to meet regional needs.*

- *opportunities are missed/not resourced appropriately and the potential to add value via the strategic plan is overlooked;*

5. Legal Implications

5.1 No significant legal implications are identified in relation to the specification and procurement exercise. However, the implementation of new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will continue to impact on regional data management.

6. Resource Implications

6.1 There may be resource requirements related to the technical development of regional systems in the context of separate college MIS systems. These resource needs will be identified during the agreement of future regional development plans.

7. Strategic Plan Implications

7.1 Annex A sets out regional strategic priorities which will be supported by the development of regional approaches to student data management .

Annex A Regional strategic goals for student data arrangements

1. Widening Access and Learner Choice

We will enhance learner choice and provide learners with access to the full regional curriculum. We will promote regional curriculum pathways and increased access to the course offers across the three Glasgow colleges (e.g. by linking college application processes with regional curriculum maps).

2. Creating Seamless Learner Journeys

We will support more efficient learner journeys, including seamless inter-college progression. Flexible learning pathways across the region will support successful progression, with learning records transferring with students if they move from college to college within Glasgow. We will also enable opportunities for further regional collaboration on areas such as admissions and student support.

3. Improving Data Reporting and Analysis

We will support and inform curriculum planning and delivery through high quality data reporting which allows analysis of a single data set at college and regional levels. This will encompass the ability to analyse data relating to in-year and future-year curriculum plans, and provide enhanced reporting and monitoring of student outcomes. We will also encourage greater standardisation of data across the four Glasgow organisations and use of data analytics, particularly to support improved learner outcomes. Enhanced performance monitoring will support a clearer line of sight between outcomes and strategic aims (e.g. through dashboard functionality).