

Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 29 November 2021
Paper Title	Delegated Decisions to Executive Director
Agenda Item	9
Paper Number	BM2-D
Responsible Officer	Martin Boyle, Executive Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Noting

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.** This report notifies the Board of a series of decisions delegated to the Executive Director under revised delegated decision-making procedures agreed by the Board in June 2021.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** The Board is invited to **note** decisions relating to:

- allocated targets for Flexible Workforce Development to each Glasgow college for 2021-22;
- allocation of additional funds for Mental Health Counsellors to each college in Glasgow for 2021-2;
- allocation of additional funding for free period products 2021-22;
- arrangements for disbursement of Saltire Funding 2021.

3. Background

- 3.1.** Under the procedure for the delegation of decision-making powers approved by the Board in June 2021, the Board Chair may decide, in consultation with the Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee, whether a decision on allocation of additional SFC funds may be made by the Executive Director, or the Performance & Resources Committee, or should be referred to the full Board.
- 3.2.** Since the last ordinary meeting of the Board in June, the Executive Director has brought the following allocations of funding to the attention of the Board Chair.
- Flexible Workforce Development Funds
 - Funding for Mental Health Counsellors
 - Funding for free period products
 - Saltire Scholarship Funding
- 3.3.** In all cases the funding allocation has been time-specific, and the Executive Director has confirmed with College Principals their support for the proposed allocation of funds. On that basis, the Chair of the Board determined, further to consultation with the PRC Chair, that the allocations were non-contentious and the allocation decisions should be made and implemented by the Executive Director.
- 3.4.** In line with the agreed procedure, the Board has been notified by email of decisions. The Performance and Resources Committee noted the first two items at its meeting in September, and will note the later items at its December meeting.
- 3.5** A more detailed report on each of the funding allocations has been saved onto BoardEffect for Members' reference:
- <https://gcrb.boardeffect.com/downloads/vfile/1301978>
- <https://gcrb.boardeffect.com/downloads/vfile/1301975>
- <https://gcrb.boardeffect.com/downloads/vfile/1395599>
- <https://gcrb.boardeffect.com/downloads/vfile/1395596>
- 3.6** A summary of the funds' purposes and decisions made is provided below.

4. Flexible Workforce Development Funding

- 4.1.** The amounts allocated to the Glasgow college region for 2021-22 are similar to 2020-21 i.e.
- £2,440,224 – Levy Paying employers
 - £428,270 – Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- 4.2.** The allocation of funding to the Glasgow colleges is on the same same basis as previous years, which results in the following distributions.

Flexible Workforce Fund 2021-22 (Levy Payers)	City of Glasgow College £'000	Glasgow Clyde College £'000	Glasgow Kelvin College £'000	Total £'000
Initial allocation	£1,137	£803	£500	£2,440

Flexible Workforce Fund 2021-22 (SMEs)	City of Glasgow College £'000	Glasgow Clyde College £'000	Glasgow Kelvin College £'000	Total £'000
Initial allocation	£199	£141	£88	£428

4.3. The allocations outlined represent the maximum amounts that can be claimed by each college. Funding is paid to each college when delivery of a course commences.

4.4. It is important to note that all training (within the 2021-22 allocation) must be contractually agreed by 31 July 2022 and must commence by 31 August 2022. There is one change to the allocation for 2021-22 relating to the carry forward of activity from 2020-21. The latest SFC guidance advises that activity, that was not contractually agreed at 31 July 2021, must be delivered from within the 2021-22 allocation. The effect of this change is to prevent the carried forward of an underspend to a future year (for non-contracted activity).

5. Mental Health Counsellors

5.1. The Scottish Funding Council has provided £404,500 of funding to the Glasgow college region for 2021-22. This is sufficient to employ 7.75 counsellors in 2021-22. The amount of funding provided for each counsellor is therefore £52,194.

5.2. In each of the previous two years, GCRB agreed to allocate the funding equally to all 3 colleges (after meeting the cost of the Togetherall on-line service from March 2020 to February 2022).

5.3. The SFC guidance no longer permits the use of future funding for the Togetherall service. However, GCRB did agree to allocate funding (from the separate allocation for mental health in 2021-22) to ensure that this service can continue throughout the academic year.

5.4. It has been determined that each college is allocated £134,833.33 in 2021-22. This amount provides sufficient resources to enable each college to employ 2.58 FTE counsellors in 2021-22 (an increase of 0.27 FTE per college).

6. Free Period Products

6.1. A regional funding allocation of £84,500 was allocated to Assigned Colleges on the following basis:

- Proportion of female student numbers (excluding school pupils) at each institution.
- An estimated 5% uptake from students at colleges and a 10% uptake at universities, reflecting the estimated average uptake in Academic Year (AY) 2018-19.

- An increased cost of 19.4p per product, reflecting the average unit price of period products purchased by colleges and universities during AY 2018-19.

6.2. The basis of the allocation is the same as has been used previously for 2020-21. Therefore, the proposed allocation (2021-22) for each college in Glasgow is as follows:

College Funding	Free Period Products	Administration	Total
City of Glasgow College	£32,647	£2,806	£35,453
Glasgow Clyde College	£26,034	£2,238	£28,272
Glasgow Kelvin College	£19,131	£1,644	£20,775
Total	£77,812	£6,688	£84,500

7. Saltire Fund

7.1. For the financial year 2021-22, the Scottish Government has provided additional funding to support scholarships in the college sector.

7.2. The funding allocation is to allow institutions to cover a proportion of the tuition fees for some of their incoming students from the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) starting in Academic Year 2021-22.

7.3. Summarised eligibility criteria are:

- This funding is to be used by institutions as an award against EU and EEA students' tuition fees only.
- Students must be citizens, or permanent residents, of an EU or EEA country and have a conditional or unconditional offer of a place at a Scottish university or college on an eligible course that will be delivered physically in Scotland.
- Courses must be full-time, in any subject area, at the Higher National (HN) level, i.e. Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND)¹.

7.4. One scholarship place is based upon an allocation of £4,000 for a college place. For colleges/college regions, the allocations were based on the average percentage shares of the sector total number of EU students in the academic sessions 2017-18 to 2019-20. This has resulted in an allocation of 9 places (£36,000) to the Glasgow college region (out of a total allocation to the college sector of 18 places and £72,000).

7.5. Initial feedback from colleges executives, indicates that there are few current students who will meet the criteria. Applications, from eligible students, are submitted to the GCRB Executive Director (with an initial closing date of 30 November 2021). At this point, there is uncertainty as to whether the number of eligible students, in the Glasgow college region, will exceed the number of scholarships available.

¹ Within the College setting. Other courses are eligible within a University.

8. Risk & Compliance Implications

- 8.1.** Revised decision-making arrangements are designed to minimise risk (002) that “GCRB does not develop/maintain effective working relationships with key external stakeholders”.
- 8.2.** The provision of additional funding mitigates the risk that ‘Financial Sustainability is jeopardised by a reduction in funding and/or an increase in costs’ (Risk 008).
- 8.3.** Reports available on BoardEffects (on the links above) include an assessment of risk in relation to individual decisions.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1.** The provision of additional funding for counsellors and for free period products support equalities aims.

10. Finance and Resource Implications

- 10.1.** Financial and resource implications are outlined in the report.

11. Learner Implications

- 11.1.** The funds will provide significant support to learners directly, through the provision of enhanced services, and by contributing to the achievement of ambitions set out in the Glasgow Region Strategic Plan.