

Performance and Resources Committee

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 13 December 2023
Paper Title	GCRB Costs – 2023-24
Agenda Item	9
Paper Number	PRC2-E
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance & Resources Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Noting

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report compares actual income, and expenditure, for the academic year against the GCRB budget for 2023-24.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to **note** the actual outturn compared with budget for 2023-24.

3. GCRB Running Costs 2023-24

3.1. The table below provides a summary of the actual income and expenditure for the year ending 31 July 2024.

	4 months ending 30 November 2023		Revised Forecast 2023-24		Original Budget 2023-24	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income						
Allocated from Regional Grant	153		459		459	
Brought forward funding	10		30		54	
Total		163		489		513
Expenditure						
Staffing	108		323		345	
Board Costs	30		90		90	
Audit	14		43		35	
Other	11		33		43	
Total		163		489		513
Surplus/(Deficit)		0		0		0

3.2. The key points to note:

- The cost of staffing includes the agreed pay increase for the years beginning 1 September 2022 and 1 September 2023). The pay increase is lower than the budgeted amount and has resulted in a saving to GCRB of £11k.
- The forecast staffing cost includes the reduction in the employer's pension contribution (from 1 April 2024). This has resulted in a saving, compared to the original budget, of £11k.
- The increase in audit costs is due to the rise in the external audit fee (as advised by Audit Scotland to the GCRB Audit and Assurance Committee).
- Forecast other expenditure is expected to be lower than originally budgeted. This is due to patterns of expenditure, on communications and staff development, tending to be lower than originally budgeted.

4. GCRB Programme Costs 2023-24

4.1. The regional Programme of Action is part of the Outcome Agreement for 2023-24. The cost of delivering the programme is detailed in the table below:

	4 months ending 30 November 2023		Revised Forecast 2023-24		Original Budget 2023-24	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income						
Allocated from Regional Grant	77		232		232	
Brought forward funding	70		210		213	
Total		147		442		445
Expenditure						
Action for Children	35		105		105	
Young Enterprise Scotland	5		15		15	
ESOL	32		96		96	
Mental Health	0		5		5	
Counsellors	48		144		144	
Climate Change/Sustainability	26		77		80	
Total		146		442		445
Surplus/(Deficit)		1		0		0

4.2. The following comments are provided in respect of the Programme of Action budget:

Expenditure

- **Action for Children** – the project is progressing well and the service provision is supported by additional external funding (in addition to our regional contribution).
- **Young Enterprise Scotland** – the core project is funded directly by the Scottish Government. The additional funding, provided by GCRB, supplements the core project.
- **ESOL** – funding continues to be provided by GCRB, as in previous years.
- **Mental Health** – no expenditure has been incurred so far in 2023-24.
- **Climate Change/Sustainability** – expenditure has been incurred on staff costs with some additional project support.

5. Risk and Compliance Analysis

5.1. There are no specific risks, or legal implications, associated with this report. The delivery of the regional programme of action addresses key elements of the strategic plan and mitigates some of the regional risks.

6. Financial and Resource Analysis

6.1. The financial implications associated with the year 2022-23 are set out in the body of the report.

7. Equalities Implications

7.1. The regional programme of action provides support to learners who are at risk of exclusion.

8. Learner Implications

8.1. The resources utilised for the purpose of GCRB, and the regional programme of action, contribute to the achievement of the agreed learner outcomes in 2022-23.