

Performance and Resources Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Thursday 7 June 2018
Paper Title	Funding Approaches
Agenda Item	10 (d)
Paper Number	PRC5-M
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance & Resources Director
Recommended Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Report Purpose

- 1.1. To update the Committee on developments in respect of the funding approaches.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:

- **note** the recent developments in respect of the national funding formula;
- **support** the proposal to hold a workshop to consider future funding approaches;
- **agree** a date to host the workshop; and
- **invite** members of the GCRB Board to attend the workshop.

3. Background

- 3.1. At the last meeting of the committee the issue of the funding formula was discussed in the context of aligning funding to regional strategic goals. As a result, the Committee agreed that it would be helpful to organise a meeting to discuss the formula.

4. Report

- 4.1. It may be helpful to summarise three further developments:

- Representatives from the Scottish Funding Council are meeting with members of Colleges Scotland on 13 June 2018 to discuss a review of the national funding formula. This meeting follows on from an initial meeting that took place earlier in the year. Colleges Scotland is hosting a pre-meeting on 6 June 2018 to collate feedback from the college sector in preparation for their meeting. The GCRB Finance & Resources Director will attend this meeting.
- At the meeting of the Board on 26 March 2018 it was agreed that the Chair of the Board would write to the Scottish Funding Council expressing the Board's dissatisfaction with the progress towards the implementation of the simplified funding model. There has not been a formal written response to date.

- Concerns have been raised in other forums, during the last few months, with regard to inadequacies in the national funding formula. One such example was a Strategic Dialogue Meeting between a Glasgow college and the Scottish Funding Council.

4.2. It might be summarised that there is a level of dissatisfaction with the current national funding model. However, at the same time, there are no clear, universally agreed, solutions.

5. Proposal

5.1. It is proposed that a workshop is held to discuss funding approaches in terms of both potential national and regional developments. The purpose of the workshop would be to enable GCRB to develop its position in respect of potential future changes to the funding model nationally, so that it can more effectively make the case for Glasgow, and regionally, to enable it to align funding more closely to regional strategic goals.

5.2. The format of the workshop could include an initial session attended by representatives of the Scottish Funding Council. This might be helpful in providing context from their perspective. It might also be helpful to receive an update of the discussions taking place on 13 June between the Colleges Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council.

5.3. This could be followed by an interactive session that enabled GCRB Board Members, and the Executive, to engage. It is suggested that GCRB Board Members are invited to attend if they are available and would like to contribute.

5.4. In terms of timescales, it is proposed to hold the workshop before the start of the summer and the week commencing 25 June is suggested as a suitable timeframe.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1. There are opportunities and risks associated with the funding model both now and in the future. There is likely to be universal support for a fair funding model.

6.2. This report proposes an initial workshop regarding a future funding model and the risks of the recommendations are low.

7. Legal Implications

7.1. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

8. Resource Implications

8.1. The cost of the workshop is limited to the cost of catering and travel expenses. The main resource commitment relates to the time invested in the preparation of, and attendance at, the workshop.

9. Strategic Plan Implications

9.1. The fair allocation of funding is a key driver behind the achievement of our regional ambitions.