

**Glasgow Kelvin College**  
**Board of Management Meeting of 10 June 2026**  
**Principal's Update Report**  
**Report by Principal**

**1. Introduction**

This report provides the Board of Management with an update on strategy and partnership opportunities since the last board meeting held on 18 March 2026.

**2. Context**

The Principal provides regular updates to the Board of Management (BOM) on a range of activities across the College, not included in other reports pertaining to stakeholder engagement and strategic activity. This report covers activities over the period of 19 March – 3 June 2026.

**3. Strategic Implications**

**3.1 Opportunities**

- 3.1.1** The work to embed College Strategy 2030 is well underway. Through the three programmes of work; Curriculum 2030, Workforce 2030 and Growth and Income Diversification these are being progressed by the relevant members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and reporting on progress at the relevant Committee. A delivery plan will be developed over the summer for board to monitor progress across the timeframe of the new strategy.
- 3.1.2** SFC are consulting with the sector on the allocation of funds related to a new initiative focussed on Raising Income through Skills and Education (RISE). Whilst the allocation is yet to be formally announced, current indications are that the College is likely to receive around £500k for this project which represents a welcome investment to continue with work the college is progressing to tackle Child Poverty. Plans are in place to target the funds in a number of areas namely; additional ESOL activity and expansion of the community hubs. Glasgow as a city has received a significant allocation of this funding however of the three colleges GKC has seen the lowest level of resource.
- 3.1.3** Through discussion at GCLG on potential areas for transformation, Glasgow Colleges Group (GCG) are progressing a Curriculum Alignment Transformation Project. Although at an early stage, the project seeks to maximising Opportunities for Learners and creating an efficient learner pathway through SCQF levels,

responding in an agile and aligned way to workforce planning and skills needs for Glasgow, linked to Sector Priorities and improving productivity within key sectors and maximising curriculum expertise within each college to reduce overlaps. SFC have indicated support for this proposal.

**3.1.4** The College of the Future framework has now been launched and a series of workshops are being planned over the summer months. These will involve stakeholder groups including staff, students, employers and regional skills partners. At the time of writing the governance arrangements for this work are still to be outlined. The reporting timescale for recommendations are Autumn 2026.

**3.1.5** Following the recent Scottish Parliament elections and the new parliamentary session, Mairi McAllan, MSP has been appointed as Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic. In addition, Ben Macpherson MSP has been appointed as Minister for Innovation, Technology and Tertiary Education. I have written to both the Cabinet Secretary and Minister to congratulate them and to invite them to visit the College. From a constituency perspective we continue to work with re-elected MSPs Ivan McKee, Bob Doris and Paul Sweeney. We have written to all newly elected MSPs in our constituency and my intention is to work through a programme of engagement over the next few months and in the run up to the Programme for Government.

We are also hosting a visit from the Permanent Secretary, Joe Griffin and I continue to ensure that officials are aware of the work of GKC and its impact and link to key policy areas of government.

**3.1.6** I am pleased to report that we have been shortlisted for two Herald Higher Education Awards; the Partnership Award for the CLIC project, the Widening Access Award for our Community Hubs. The awards ceremony will take place on the 20th May 2026.

**3.1.7** I attended the College Alliance network meeting at Wigan and Leigh College in May 2026. The event brought partners together to discuss social partnership, tertiary coherence and stronger regional systems leading to meaningful, effective collaboration and what this actually looks like in practice. The two days focused on the shared learning from regional partnerships in the North West of England specifically Wigan and Leigh College's leadership of one of the eight Construction Technical Excellent Colleges.

There are lessons from our colleagues in the four nations on how meaningful regional collaboration operates with recurring themes from the two days around Systems Leadership, Purpose and Place. Along with Glasgow Clyde College, we will be hosting the College Alliance International Conference in January 2027.

## **3.2 Stakeholder Engagement**

**3.2.1** Below are key stakeholder engagements which I have undertaken over the course of the last quarter:

- Glasgow Colleges Group (Principal's) meetings
- NES/GKC Partnership meeting

- Colleges' Partnership West meeting
- Callum Chomczuk, Director, Colleges Employers Scotland (CES)
- John McKendrick, Commissioner for Fair Access
- Sean Duffy, Chief Executive of Wise Group
- Propser Event - 'Scotland Decides: Sir John Curtice's Predictions' event
- College's Principal's Group (CPG)
- Mairi Watson, Principal & Vice Chancellor, Glasgow Caledonian University
- Mags Simpson, Interim Director, CBI Scotland
- Executive team at SWGR
- Andy Schofield, Principal and Vice Chancellor, University of Glasgow
- Helen Cross, Director of Investment and Research, SFC
- Kenny MacInnes, Principal & CEO, Forthvalley College
- Susanne Millar, Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
- Visit to Cranhill Development Trust and FUSE
- College Alliance Network Meeting - Wigan and Bury College
- CS Chairs and Principals Session 'Post Election & College Sector of the Future'
- Presented at STEP Annual Conference 'Stepping Over the Threshold Belonging to Inclusion in the Tertiary Sector'
- Prosper Forum 2026
- Glasgow Colleges Leadership Group
- CS Annual Conference and Dinner
- Scottish Parliamentary Election Campaign Visit – Scottish Labour Leader, Anas Sarwar
- Hosted Scottish Green Co-Leader – Ross Greer at roundtable discussion with CEO of Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC), Charandeep Singh

### **3.3 Challenges**

**3.3.1** The bid for devolved powers for the City Region continues to progress. The FM made a commitment to progress legislative change to facilitate this process should he be re-elected in May 2026. Glasgow City Council (GCC) have set up a series of workstreams to develop propositions in relation to this. The workstreams are overseen by a steering group chaired by Sir Jim McDonald, Chair of GEL. One of the workstreams is Skills and is chaired by the current chair of College Partnership West, Stella McManus. Although there is nothing to suggest there will be devolved skills funding, nonetheless it is important that college expertise in skills planning and delivery help shape the propositions going forward. There is also a risk that without effective collaboration amongst CPW colleges then there is a risk of fragmentation.

**3.3.2** At the time of writing this report, the funding settlement for 2026/27 has not been published by the SFC. We understand from the indicative funding announcement that the funding settlement will provide a welcome uplift in resource, however the expectation is that this is to provide a degree of stability across the sector to then allow future sector transformation. Although at an early stage, discussions have been initiated across the three Glasgow colleges on what this could entail and a curriculum mapping project is being developed. The sector transformation activity will require a greater degree of collaboration and as has been outlined by the Minister in his communication in April, this may result in changes to the shape

and size of the sector. The college should be alert to this and it is critical that we continue to engage with the process as a partner of choice, helping shape what works best for our communities.

- 3.3.3** At the latest meeting of CES a number of proposals were presented, namely Lecturer's pay deal, review of a circular pertaining to transfer to permanency and promoted Lecturer roles. Future funding methodology for College Employers Scotland through a membership model, an update on national job evaluation and a research proposal to progress workforce reform.

Overall, the college faces a combination of financial, operational, and potential industrial relations risks arising from the ongoing negotiations and broader sector developments. The primary risk is affordability, with potential pay agreements creating ongoing cost pressures and budget uncertainty. This is compounded by the need to balance workforce reform with union expectations, creating a risk of limited flexibility and constrained operational change if compromises are required. There is also a heightened industrial relations risk, particularly if agreement cannot be reached or if contentious issues escalate. In parallel, evolving national initiatives introduce uncertainty, potential additional obligations, and reduced local autonomy. Collectively, these factors create a challenging environment where the College must carefully manage cost sustainability, workforce expectations, and strategic flexibility to avoid long-term impact on financial stability and delivery.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

Additional resource will be required for sectors identified in the curriculum plan for 2026/27. This will require a degree of agility in responding and flex to meet employer demand.

#### **5. Impact on Students**

There are no direct data protection issues arising as a consequence of this report.

#### **6. Risk and Assurance**

Financial risks are outlined in the corporate risk register along with mitigations.

#### **7. Equality**

There are no equality issues arising as a consequence of this report.

#### **8. Data Protection**

There are no direct data protection issues arising as a consequence of this report.

## **9. Environmental and Sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability issues arising as a consequence of this report.

## **10. Recommendations**

Members are recommended to:

- i) note the contents of this update report.

## **11. Further Information**

Members can obtain further information on the contents of this report from Joanna Campbell, Principal at [JoannaCampbell@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk](mailto:JoannaCampbell@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk)

Glasgow Kelvin College  
Joanna Campbell  
June 2026