

Glasgow Kelvin College
Board of Management Meeting of 18 March 2026
Principal's Update Report
Report by Principal

Read time: 5 Minutes

1. Introduction

This report provides the Board of Management with an update on strategy and partnership opportunities since the last board meeting held on 10 December 2025.

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 11 December 2025 – 6th March.

3. Strategic Implications

3.1 Opportunities

3.1.1 College Strategy 2030

The new college strategy has been launched along with the new Values Framework - TIME. It has been well received by stakeholders. The supporting strategies are under development and will be presented to the relevant Board Committees in May 2026 then to the Board of Management in June 2026. The three strategic projects to deliver the strategy in year one namely; Future Skills, Workforce 2030 and Growth and Income Generation updates are provided separately.

3.1.2 Raising Income through Skills and Education (RISE) Funding

The Scottish Government is currently progressing action to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030 through key policies. Together these policy interventions are ameliorating the financial pressures facing families that have been created by the broader economic and political conditions. Colleges are in a unique position to provide a national offer for Adult Learning in Scotland, leading directly to a reduction in child poverty by providing pathways into positive destinations for adults. This will be delivered through the creation of a College Sector Child Poverty Programme. At the recent budget there was an

announcement of funding of £8m in 2026/27, as the first instalment of a £40m commitment from Scottish Government over five years. The aim of the funding is to increase household income from work and, therefore, reduce the number of children living in absolute poverty in Scotland whilst reducing economic inactivity levels across the country.

The College is uniquely placed to support this activity building on our existing positive track record in similar activity. Therefore, I have had several discussions with SG and SFC to provide insights into how this could be apportioned to maximise impact. Furthermore, Robin Ashton is a member of the College Sector Steering Group and has been pivotal in providing support to develop the sector proposal that has been approved by government.

A strategic partnership has also been developed with the WISE Group, who we are having ongoing dialogue with on a range of partnership opportunities. The first of which is support for our Community Hub activity through their Relational Mentoring Programme.

3.1.3 Glasgow Colleges Group (GCG)

The three Glasgow college Principals meet regularly, supported by a number of subgroups led by our executive colleagues. At the most recent meeting we were joined by the CEO of SFC and her Executive Team to discuss the inequalities of college funding in Glasgow in comparison with the rest of the college sector. The discussion was positive and there are a number of follow up actions which will now be progressed.

3.1.4 Colleges Scotland

I attended a Hustings Event at Edinburgh College hosted by Andy McIver (Message Matters). The event was a panel session with the Minister, Ben MacPherson and his opposition parliamentarians. Colleges Scotland also used the opportunity to launch the Colleges Scotland Manifesto [CS - 2026 Scottish Parliament Election - Opportunity That Works](#) which will now be used ahead of the next election to position the sector around three key asks. Following the event there has been some publicity around what the Minister said in relation to support for a review of college sector funding pre-election.

3.1.5 College Partnership West

College Partnership West continues to meet and at present the focus has been on a joint funding proposal for UKRI monies to support Health and Life Sciences and also an expansion to the CLIC Innovation Programme.

There is ongoing discussion on how skill planning will operate from 2027 as part of a reformed system. Within the new model, SDS will take additional responsibility for new Skills Needs Assessments (SNAs) through sectoral and regional lens as part of the wider skills planning reforms. All partners have been asked to participate in a co-design workshop to support this activity.

3.2 Stakeholder Engagement

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

- Audrey Cumberland, Principal and CEO, Edinburgh College
- GEL Higher & Further Education Workstream meeting
- Stuart Patrick, CEO, Chamber of Commerce, and his colleagues
- Glasgow Colleges Leadership Group (GCLG)
- Paul Little, Principal and CEO, City of Glasgow College and Jon Vincent, Principal and CEO, Glasgow Clyde College
- Glasgow Colleges Principal's Group (GCG) and follow up session with CEO SFC, Francesca Osowska
- Joanne Maguire, Managing Director and David Ross, Chief Operating Officer of Scotrail
- Listening Lunches with groups of staff and students
- Sean Duffy, Chief Executive, Wise Group and his colleagues
- Colleges Partnership West
- Shirley Laing, Director of Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice, Scottish Government
- Hosted Maureen Burke, MP along with Chair at Burns Lunch, Easterhouse Campus
- Angela Cox, Principal & CEO, Ayrshire College
- Paul Sweeney, MSP
- Met Bob Docherty, Business Engagement Manager Scotland, Railway Industry Association
- Stewart McKinlay, National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS)
- WorldSkills UK (Scotland) Advisory Group
- John McGhee, Glasgow's Interim Executive Director, Glasgow City Council Education Department
- Attended an event re. Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, facilitated by Phil Batty OBE
- David Mouldsdale, Chair, Gibson's Engineering
- Reception to celebrate Glasgow hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games, hosted by the First Minister at Edinburgh Castle
- Andrew Cupples, Babcock International
- Naureen Ahmad, Deputy Director Learner Experience, Scottish Government
- Paul O'Kane, MSP
- Bob Doris, MSP
- Kirsty Evans, CEO, CITB and visit to National Construction College, Inchinnon
- Jim Metcalfe, Principal & CEO, Fife College
- Ivan McKee, MSP
- Colleges Scotland, Scottish Parliamentary Election Hustings and Manifesto Launch
- Lee Pounder, SPL Powerlines
- Olly Newton, Executive Director, the Edge Foundation
- Miles Briggs, MSP

- Scottish Apprenticeship Award and parliamentary event hosted by CBI Event, Scottish Parliament
- FM Child Poverty Event, Centrestage, Kilmarnock

3.3 Challenges

3.3.1 Draft Budget 2026/27

- 3.3.2** The draft budget was announced in January and although there is a headline 10% uplift, it is yet to be determined what the final funding allocations for each college will be. At the time of writing the indications are that there is a desire to maximise the unit of teaching resource with the NI and pension costs included in the revenue allocation, each college is expected to receive an uplift – the amount of which is still to be determined, capital will be maintained at a similar level to 25/26 allocation with the uplift ringfenced high priority needs. There is potential for transformation funding to support sector reform but to date this has not been determined.

3.3.3 Sector Reform

The Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill was passed by MSPs in the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 20 January 2026. It will become an Act of the Scottish Parliament once it receives Royal Assent from the King. This usually happens after around 4 weeks. During that time the Bill will be looked at to ensure it is within the powers of the Scottish Parliament. It may not be sent for Royal Assent if an issue is found. There are specific changes to the skills delivery landscape namely the re- alignment of functions between SFC and SDS. I have attached Colleges Scotland briefing on the main changes in **Appendix 1**.

As part of the TET Bill there is a requirement to develop a national funding strategy for the college sector. Both Jeanette Evans and I participated in an SFC workshop to input into the development of this. The new funding strategy will be completed over a 2 year time period.

The funding settlement for the college sector has been provided “stability”, but the Minister has been very clear that the expectations are that this will also provide some space for transformation/reform. An announcement is expected over the next couple of weeks outlining a College Sector of The Future Framework which is expected to report on its finding in late Autumn.

3.3.4 College Employers Scotland (CES)

College Employers Scotland (CES), in partnership with recognised trade unions and the college sector, developed a revised National Recognition and Procedures Agreement (NRPA). Following extensive discussions, agreement was reached with the trade unions on the proposed revisions, achieving a mutually acceptable outcome without any party resigning from the process. The revised NRPA was presented for ratification in December 2025 and approved by the Central Committee. The NRPA came into effect on 1 March 2026 and was shared with members of the Finance and Resources Committee meeting on 10th

March 2026. Members are asked to note the implementation date of the revised NRPA.

A joint communication on the status of Job Evaluation has been added to the [Latest News](#) section on the NJNC website. Colleges were asked to share the latest communication via college locally. A communication was issued to support staff by the College.

EIS-FELA Pay Claim

The CES Team received the EIS-FELA pay claim on 9 February 2026 which seeks a multiyear settlement. An extraordinary meeting of CES was scheduled for 6 March 2026 to consider the claim in full.

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 could be a negative impact on the student experience should the wider sector budget allocation fail to cover inflationary costs in 2026/27. Mitigations will be considered in due course once the final budget allocation is known.

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

Glasgow Kelvin College
JC
March 2026