Item 13
For Discussion and Noting

Glasgow Kelvin College

Finance and Resources Committee Meeting of 29 September 2026

Environmental and Sustainability Update

Report by Assistant Principal Estates, Corporate Planning and Governance, Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability and Environmental Sustainability Manager

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members in relation to environmental and sustainability matters, and it covers the following areas:

2. Engagement with Sustainability
3. EAUC Learning for Sustainability Pilot Programme – Update
4. Awards and Recognition
5. Funding and Investment
6. Network Rail – Springburn Station Connectivity
7. SSN Statutory Guidance and PBCCDR
8. SSN 24-25 PBCCDR Analysis Report

2. Engagement with Sustainability

2.1 Student Engagement

The College continues to develop opportunities for students to engage directly with environmental and sustainability activity. The Environmental Sustainability Manager supported student engagement activities during Freshers events at the start of the new academic year, with recruitment for the Students for Sustainable Futures Society a particular focus.

Interest in the Society has increased significantly, with over 40 students already expressing an interest in getting involved. This represents strong growth compared with the Society's inaugural year and provides a strong foundation for further student-led sustainability activity during 2026/27.

Planning is also underway for Green Week in October, which will provide opportunities for students and staff to participate in a range of sustainability-related activities across the College.

2.2 Staff Engagement and Learning for Sustainability

Work continues to embed Learning for Sustainability (LfS) across learning and teaching, with the Environmental Sustainability Manager working directly with curriculum areas and lecturers to identify opportunities to incorporate sustainability into teaching and learning.

Curriculum areas already engaged during the current academic year include Performing Arts, Fashion, Hairdressing, Sociology, ESOL, Childcare and Civil Engineering.

This work builds on the College's participation in the EAUC Learning for Sustainability Pilot Programme and demonstrates the increasing integration of sustainability across a diverse range of curriculum areas.

2.3 Engagement with the Sector

The College continues to contribute to national and sector-wide sustainability discussions. The Environmental Sustainability Manager delivered two presentations at the 2026 EAUC National Conference in Swansea, sharing the College's work on Learning for Sustainability, student engagement, and inclusive cycling initiatives.

The College's wider influence work has also been shared through the EAUC Autumn Forum as part of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting (PBCCDR) workshop. Engagement activity has increased following the Environmental Sustainability Manager's appointment to the EAUC Scotland Advisory Group, providing an opportunity to contribute more regularly to national discussions and represent the perspective of the college sector within wider sustainability policy and practice.

The Environmental Sustainability Manager has also been invited to contribute to a Zero Waste Scotland roundtable workshop on the Circular Economy and to represent the college perspective at a Scottish Funding Council Climate Week webinar for public bodies on engaging members of institutions with sustainability. The latter forms part of the wider Learning for Sustainability work developed through the EAUC Pilot Programme.

3. EAUC Learning for Sustainability (LfS) Pilot Programme – Update

Glasgow Kelvin College completed its one-year participation in the EAUC Learning for Sustainability Pilot Programme during 2026. The College was one of four Scottish institutions participating in the programme, which focused on embedding Learning for Sustainability across learning and teaching. The College's three pilot strands were student engagement, integration of LfS within the Teaching Development Programme, and identification of existing sustainability-related teaching practice.

Since completing the pilot, the College's approach has continued to develop and become embedded within established College processes. LfS has now been successfully integrated into the SEAP form used by Curriculum Managers across the College, providing a mechanism to support and identify the embedding of sustainability within curriculum planning. LfS also continues to form part of the Teaching Development Programme, while the Students for Sustainable Futures Society provides an established mechanism for student leadership and engagement.

The College's learning from the pilot has also been shared more widely across the sector through presentations and conference sessions. The Environmental Sustainability Manager contributed to the development of the Learning for Sustainability in Colleges Guide, published jointly by EAUC, Qualifications Scotland and the College Development Network (CDN). This provides an opportunity for the College's experience and learning to contribute to wider sector practice.

The link file is contained within the Portal for member interest:

Link 01 - Learning for Sustainability in Colleges Guide

4. Awards and Recognition

Glasgow Kelvin College has been shortlisted as a finalist in three awards during 2026:

- **Herald Inspiring City Awards – Youth Empowerment category**: Recognising the Students for Sustainable Futures programme for empowering students to shape sustainability activity, influence decision-making and create positive change within the College and wider community. Students have led initiatives including Veganuary, Sustainable Fashion Week, biodiversity projects and Earth Day activities, providing opportunities to develop confidence, leadership and employability skills while engaging hundreds of fellow students.

- **UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards – Student Engagement category:** Again, recognising the Students for Sustainable Futures project as it addresses the relative lack of sustainability-focused student societies within Further Education. Developed in partnership with students, the initiative demonstrates that meaningful student sustainability leadership can thrive within FE and provides a model of practice that could be adopted by other colleges.

- **CDN Awards – Sustainability Action category:** The College's submission demonstrates a whole-institution approach to embedding Learning for Sustainability across the curriculum, staff development and student experience. The initiative has supported the identification and sharing of sustainability-focused teaching practice and embedded LfS within quality assurance planning and the Teaching Development Programme, alongside the development of Students for Sustainable Futures as a mechanism for student leadership.

  In addition, the College's *Cycling for All* initiative received Highly Commended recognition at the **International Green Gown Awards**. This builds on the initiative's previous success at UK & Ireland level and provides further external recognition of the College's approach to inclusive and equitable sustainable travel.

5. Funding and Investment

The College has continued to secure external funding to support environmental sustainability activity and improvements to the estate.

Successful funding secured includes:

- **Business Stream Water Efficiency Fund** (£8,255) to support improvements at the East End Campus

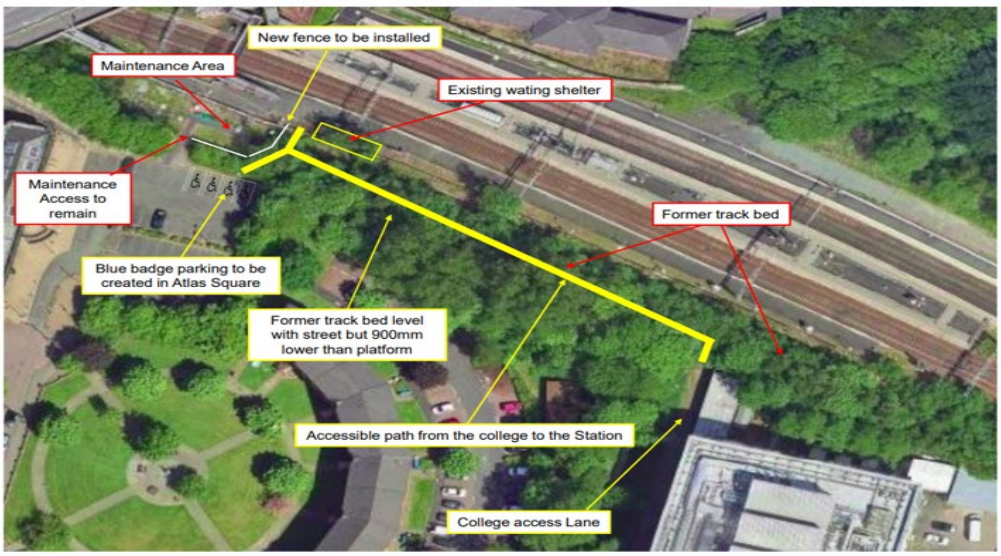
- **Cycling Scotland funding** (£45,096) to support the appointment of a new Campus Cycling Officer and improvements to cycling infrastructure at Springburn

- **Woodland Trust donation of** saplings and trees to continue improving campus green spaces

- Selection by **Butterfly Conservation** for a fully funded place in the Wild Spaces Glasgow programme. This will support biodiversity and pollinator-friendly planting and projects at the East End Campus community and sensory gardens, in partnership with Support for Learning classes.

6. Network Rail – Springburn Station Connectivity

Network Rail has confirmed that they have secured funding and are progressing the proposed path linking Springburn Rail Station to Glasgow Kelvin College. The improved connection will provide a more direct and accessible route between the College and the local rail network, supporting sustainable travel to the Springburn Campus and complementing the College's wider investment in active and sustainable transport. Network Rail have advised that this path will be fully installed and operational by the end of March 2027. The following map, provided by Network Rail, shows the proposed location of the path.



7. SSN Statutory Guidance and PBCCDR

Following the publication of updated statutory guidance for public bodies under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, the College has reviewed the implications for Glasgow Kelvin College and identified areas for continued development.

The updated guidance places increased emphasis on strong leadership and governance arrangements, embedding climate considerations into decision-making and corporate planning, climate adaptation and resilience planning, and adopting a whole-organisation approach to sustainability. It also reinforces expectations around monitoring and reporting, including greater consideration of indirect (Scope 3) emissions.

The guidance aligns closely with several areas already being progressed by Glasgow Kelvin College, including sustainability governance, Learning for Sustainability activity, active travel initiatives, emissions reporting and ongoing work to benchmark and improve performance.

The College will use this, alongside the SSN analysis of public body reports, to inform future actions and the preparation of the 2025/26 PBCCDR submission. The Environmental Sustainability Manager will continue to work with relevant colleagues to identify and progress any additional actions required to support compliance and sector best practice.

8. SSN 2024/25 PBCCDR Analysis Report

The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) has published its analysis of the 2024/25 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reports, providing a useful sector-wide benchmark of progress in climate reporting, governance and adaptation planning. The analysis identifies increasing expectations around comprehensive Scope 3 emissions reporting, strategic climate adaptation, and alignment of climate action with organisational governance and resource planning.

Educational institutions continue to demonstrate relatively mature reporting across a range of emissions sources, while natural gas remains a significant source of operational emissions across the public sector. The findings provide a useful benchmark for Glasgow Kelvin College as preparation begins for the 2025/26 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.

9. Impact on Students

There are several positive impacts for students detailed in this report, most notably the success of the Students for Sustainable Futures Society. In addition to those specifically listed, the Environmental Sustainability Manager has participated in many events with College students to raise awareness of environmental and sustainability matters.

10. Risk and Assurance

There are no additional risk and assurance implications that are not covered within this report.

11. Equality

There are no negative equality implications arising as a consequence of anything within this report.

12. Data Protection

There are no direct data protection implications arising as a consequence of anything within this report.

13. Environmental and Sustainability Impact

The Environmental Sustainability Manager continues to engage with students, teaching and support staff to raise awareness of sustainability and further the College's wider environmental and sustainability impact.

14. Resources

The College was successful in securing £45,096 of grant funding from Cycling Scotland to fund the position of Campus Cycling Officer and cycling infrastructure improvements at Springburn Campus. The College also secured £8,255 from Business Stream to fund water efficiency improvements at East End Campus. The College continues to apply for additional grant funding to support environmental and sustainability activities.

15. Recommendations

i) It is recommended that members note the content of this report and link.

16. Further Information

Further information can be obtained from Lisa Clark, Assistant Principal – Estates, Corporate Planning and Governance - lisaclark@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk, Claire Reid, Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability - creid@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk or Sarah Shea, Environmental Sustainability Manager - sshea@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

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