

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

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of recent developments which are of particular interest to them and to provide an outline of the activities undertaken by the Chair since the last Board meeting.

2. Glasgow Colleges' Leadership Group (GCLG)

GCLG met on 17 December and again on 3 February. At the December meeting it was agreed that each College would present notes of GCLG meetings at their following Board meeting.

The notes of the above meetings are appended as Annexes to this paper.

3. Colleges Scotland's Meetings

- Chairs and Principal Forum
- College Chair's Group
- Open Call with Board Members

Unsurprisingly the main topic of discussion at these meetings was the funding settlement which will be covered in the Principal's Report.

4. Other Meetings attended.

- Glasgow Kelvin Learning Foundation (ALF)
- Remuneration Committee x 2
- Learning and Teaching Committee
- Finance and Resources Committee
- Meeting with Bob Doris MSP
- Meeting with Chair of City of Glasgow College and Chair of Glasgow Clyde College x 2
- Various individual catchups with Principal and Secretary to the Board
- Meeting with The Lines Between a social research agency commissioned by SFC to do an early evaluation of the Outcomes Framework and Assurance Model.

5. Board 1-1 meetings

I have had very useful 1-1 meetings with 4 of the recently appointed Board members.

6. Principal's 6 monthly Performance Review

The Vice Chair and I had a meeting with the Principal to consider her performance to date against her objectives which were agreed in August and were noted by the Board in October.

It was agreed that the performance of the Principal was highly satisfactory to date and that there were no issues of concern raised which need to be reported to the Executive Committee.

Members of the Board of Management are recommended to note the content of the report.

IP/March 26

Notes of Meeting of 17 December

Key Discussions and Updates

1. Dissolution of the Glasgow Colleges Regional Board (GCRB)

Members raised concerns regarding the financial impact of the closure of the GCRB, particularly the expectation that unspent regional funds would be returned to colleges. It was noted that the absence of clarity around this issue caused disruption. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) acknowledged that communications at the point of closure were unclear and confirmed that affected colleges would receive a formal letter setting out the position.

The Group agreed that allocations previously directed to the GCRB should revert to the regional colleges and requested sight of the final audited accounts of the GCRB, which the SFC confirmed would be made available.

2. Colleges Scotland – Sector and Advocacy Update

The Group discussed the wider funding challenges facing Scotland's colleges and their critical role in poverty reduction, skills development, and business engagement. There was consensus on the need for sector reform and a clearly articulated funding settlement for government.

Proposed advocacy themes in advance of the Scottish Parliament elections were noted, including sustainable funding, colleges as community anchors, and the contribution of colleges to skills and the economy. Future Colleges Scotland membership fee structures, potentially tiered by institutional income, were also discussed.

3. Glasgow Colleges Group – Principals' Collaboration

An update was provided on ongoing collaborative work between the colleges. The Principals' Group focuses on student funding and benchmarking, while the Learning and Teaching Group addresses ESOL demand, self-evaluation action plans, and areas of underperformance.

The Group highlighted the importance of developing a strong evidence base to demonstrate the value for money of college education, articulate unmet demand for college places, and better understand the current college credit price model.

4. College Partnership West

An update was provided on regional collaboration activity, including engagement with government and a joint life sciences investment proposal involving six colleges, submitted to the Glasgow City Growth Scheme. Further updates on the funding bid will be shared as they become available.

5. Communications with College Boards

The Group agreed that a short, agreed summary of GCLG discussions should be shared with each College Board of Management, subject to agreement with the individual College Chair prior to circulation. It was emphasised that the GCLG is

a collaborative leadership forum, not a governance body, and that each College Board continues to operate independently in accordance with the Code of Good Governance.

6. Next Steps

The next meeting is scheduled for 3 February, following the Colleges Scotland meeting. Proposed agenda items include budget considerations and sector communications linked to election advocacy.

Notes of Meeting of 3 February

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the fourth meeting of the GCLG and extended a welcome to Linda McLeod (SFC).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 17 December 2025 was approved as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

- It was noted that summary versions of the December and February minutes would be produced using an AI tool and circulated to Board members. Members discussed the importance of using a secure and compliant AI platform.
Action: Ian Patrick to seek advice from Jason Quinn (Assistant Principal, Digital and Information Services, GKC) on AI security.
- Members were advised that SFC feedback on access to final audited GCRB accounts is expected in the coming weeks.
- Members agreed it would be helpful to reflect further on discussions from the recent Chairs' and Principals' Forum, particularly around funding and transformation.

4. Budget Discussion

Members noted that detailed SFC funding allocations for AY 2026/27 will be published on **19 March 2026**.

Jon Vincent provided an update on discussions within the Tripartite Alignment Group regarding post-budget funding models and credit pricing. Concerns were raised regarding transparency, with members noting the potential impact of the emerging funding model on colleges across the sector.

Joanna Campbell highlighted her need to withdraw from some discussions due to her role as an SFC Board member but confirmed her confidence in representation through the Tripartite Alignment Group.

Members noted that a joint meeting with the SFC CEO and Chair, requested by the GCLG to discuss chronic underfunding in Glasgow, was scheduled for **10 February 2026**. The importance of influencing funding decisions ahead of the end of March was emphasised.

5. Transformation Across Glasgow Colleges

Members discussed transformation funding referenced at the Scottish Parliament's Education, Children and Young People Committee (December 2025). Discussion focused on shared services, data and intelligence, and the costs associated with transformation, referencing recent Audit Scotland findings.

It was noted that transformation had not yet been considered by the Tripartite Alignment Group.

Joanna Campbell highlighted ongoing lobbying efforts and work underway by Vice Principal subgroups to build an evidence base demonstrating the impact and value of colleges, including comparative cost analysis with universities.

Members discussed alignment with Glasgow City Region priorities, skills devolution, and the strength of the Glasgow colleges' collaborative ecosystem. Paul Little provided examples of cross-college activity (including innovation zones, ESOL, student support, internships and SEAP) and confirmed that a Student Association Group has been established.

Agreed actions:

- Continue budget and transformation discussions at the next meeting (20 April 2026).
- Ian Patrick to formally invite the SFC CEO and Chair to attend the April GCLG meeting.
- Paul Little to produce a report on the work of GCG subgroups for the April meeting.
- Paul Little to draft a letter, as Chair of the GCG Principals' Group, inviting the Minister to attend a future GCLG meeting (June 2026).

6–7. Subgroup and Partnership Updates

Items were covered within the discussion on transformation.

8. Future Meetings

5. Monday 20 April 2026, 1.30pm – City of Glasgow College
6. Monday 8 June 2026, 1.30pm – Glasgow Kelvin College

9. Closure

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and closed the meeting.