

Glasgow Kelvin College

Board of Management Meeting of 28 August 2024

Regional Skills Update

Report by Principal

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Principal's engagement over the past twelve months in the development of college education, skills and innovation partnerships and collaboration within the socioeconomic region of East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, and West Dunbartonshire. An area with a population of circa (c) 1.85 million, c33.7% of Scotland's population.

This area is served by six colleges, City of Glasgow College, Glasgow Clyde College, Glasgow Kelvin College, New College Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire College, and West College Scotland; representing c42% of all Scottish Government (SG) funded college student activity in Scotland.

The area is also covered by a Regional Economic Partnership (REP), Glasgow City Region (GCR). *"About Glasgow City Region: We are eight partner councils working to improve Glasgow City Region, one of the largest UK city regions and Scotland's economic powerhouse. Together with key partners we are delivering a programme of work to grow a strong, inclusive and sustainable City Region, and an economy which delivers for all our people and businesses."*

<https://glasgowcityregion.co.uk/>



Courtesy of Glasgow City Region

GCR have strategic responsibility for economic recovery, Regional Economic Strategy, City Deal, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Clyde Mission, Investment Zone, Innovation Accelerator, and economic intelligence and research. The City Deal Agreement, August

2014; £1.13 billion Infrastructure Fund; £1 billion UKG and SG funding; £130 million Local Authority funding.

Key priorities:

- Innovation
- Skills
- Consolidation of existing Regional activity

2. Colleges' Partnership West (CPW)

Jun 2023

CPW was formed following ongoing discussions between the six college principals over a considerable period. The membership was established as follows:

- Principal City of Glasgow College
- Principal Glasgow Clyde College
- Executive Director Glasgow Colleges Regional Board
- Principal Glasgow Kelvin College
- Principal New College Lanarkshire
- Principal South Lanarkshire
- Principal West College Scotland

Aug 2023

D Smeall appointed first Convenor of CPW

[Terms of Reference.pdf](#) and a supporting [Context Statement.pdf](#) were agreed in August 2024.

Engaged in partnership discussions with GCR senior executives.

Secured membership of Glasgow City Regions Regional Partnership for the Convenor of CPW.

D Smeall invited as current Convenor of CPW to work with GCR in establishing and Chairing a new regional partnership for skills. Established the Regional Skills Devolution Group and Convenor of CPW appointed as Chair.

Nov 2023

Senior staff from member colleges were assigned to engage and seek opportunity by exploring partnership with Catapult – Connected Places, the UK's innovation accelerator for cities, transport & place leadership; and UK Research & Innovation's (UKRI's) Innovate UK.

Feb 2024

£1.2 million innovation funding secured for the six partner colleges. College Local Innovation Centres CLIC project under development to empower local businesses with the tools, resources, and expertise needed to thrive in today's dynamic business landscape. It is hoped that more than 200 businesses across GCR will benefit from the project, which was scheduled to start at the end of March 2024. GKC established as project lead.

CPW Project – Innovation established, and project managers appointed to implement monitor and report to CPW Principal members with the CPW Principal's

reporting through normal college governance structures. A McGhee appointed as Lead.

CPW Project – HeatSync; Colleges Powering the Future Workforce for Decarbonised Heating approved, R Ashten appointed as Lead.

April 2024

Meeting with officials from UKRI's Innovate UK.

CPW Project – Innovation and CPW Project – HeatSync progress.

CPW's position and input to the ongoing regional skills development discussions and exchange between GCR through the RSDG (Chaired by D Smeall as Convenor of CPW) and SG officials agreed.

25 Jun 2024

Member agreed to initiate discussions with Interface (*a central hub connecting organisations from a wide variety of national and international industries to all of Scotland's universities, research institutes and colleges*) to explore support for the College Local Innovation Centres [CLIC] Project and explore other potential opportunities.

Request from Innovate UK, FE Innovation for Glasgow to host the next Innovate UK, FE Innovation Fund conference. Agreed by members.

Significant interest from GCR regarding our CPW Project – HeatSync decarbonisation project. Prospects to pursue future funding via GCR. Agreed to pursue on behalf of CPW.

01 Aug 2024

AY rotation of CPW's convenorship and consequently GCR representation has taken Place place:

CPW Convenor	Liz Connolly, Principal of WCS
GCR Regional Partnership Member	Liz Connolly, Principal of WCS
GCR Skills Devolution Group Chair	Liz Connolly, Principal of WCS

3. Glasgow City Region (GCR) Regional Partnership & Regional Skills devolution Group (RSDG)

Members of the GCR Regional Partnership are from Colleges (only since Jun 2023), Universities, employers, Chambers of Commerce, prominent academics and experts in the fields of economic development and skills development, local government officials, Scottish Government and UK Government officials etc. Business includes Economic intelligence; Regional economic growth; Regional partnership; Regional Economic Strategy; Regional Transport Strategy; Regional Innovation; Future Skills Programme supported by the RSDG; Investment zone; UK government; Scottish Government. This is an important forum for CPW to be recognised as the biggest player in skills delivery and to exert our influence across all partners with a stake in skills development. We must maintain a presence in the development of a successful GCR economy as a major

driver of Scotland's economic growth by being a lead in the devolving of skills planning to the City Region. We are currently doing just that. The only frustration is the slow pace of Central Government.

The RSDG continues to be Chaired by the Convenor of CPW which has already identified several 'early actions' which have been submitted to the Scottish Government to consider. Discussions are ongoing with the SG's Education and Skills Directorate in relation to progressing these. CPW and therefore GKC continue to exert significant influence in this development.

Glasgow City Region recognise the emerging collaboration between the six colleges through the establishment of the CPW as a positive example of the existing educational institutions interacting with GCR governance structures through the Regional Partnership. This partnership is driven by the six college principals/chief executives as a means to plan, co-ordinate and deliver skills provision in the City Region.

GCR control significant funds. CPW and therefore GKC are recognised more and more as a trusted and proactive partner.

4. Resource Implications

£1.2 million secured for College Local Innovation Centres (CLICs). Opportunity to access more resource in partnership with GCR.

5. Impact on Students

Increased opportunity in the future especially in the areas of apprenticeship, upskilling, reskilling and skills development

6. Risk and Assurance

The only risk is the consequence of not being directly involved and continuing to exercise our influence for the common good of our employers, communities and students.

7. Equality

No negative impacts on people with protected characteristics have been identified because of this paper.

8. Data Protection

There are no direct data protection implications because of this paper.

9. Environmental and Sustainability

Gaining support in the future for CPW's decarbonisation skills project could contribute considerably to GCR's environmental and sustainability ambitions.

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 Derek Smeall, Principal dsmeall@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

Glasgow Kelvin College

DSm

21 August 2024