

Glasgow Kelvin College
Learning and Teaching Committee - 10 September 2025
College Entrepreneurship and Innovation Activity
Report by Director of Student Experience and Enterprise

1 Executive Summary

Glasgow Kelvin College has established a leading role in entrepreneurship and innovation, regionally and nationally. Through flagship initiatives such as the College Local Innovation Centres (CLIC) project and co-chairing the Regional Innovation Strategy Group's Education and Skills Sub-Group, the College is shaping policy and delivery across key growth sectors. Significant funding bids with Innovate UK and others are advancing employer-focused skills pilots and entrepreneurial education programmes. These activities strengthen the College's profile, partnerships, and impact while directly supporting strategic priorities around employability, equity, and sustainability. This paper summarises current programmes, strategic implications, and next steps.

2 Introduction

This paper updates the Learning and Teaching Committee on the College's entrepreneurship and innovation activity and outlines opportunities linked to this work.

Since 2024, Glasgow Kelvin College has developed a city regional leadership role in innovation programme development and delivery, driven primarily by its lead role in the **College Local Innovation Centres (CLIC)** project. As a result, the regional college sector has become recognised as a credible partner in the innovation ecosystem. This is further underlined by the College's invitation to co-chair the **Education and Skills Sub-Group** of the Glasgow City Region's Innovation Strategy Group.

The College is also finalising additional Innovate UK funding to lead a pilot programme mapping employer innovation and entrepreneurial skills needs. If successful, this initiative will provide the foundation for a UK-wide programme.

This paper provides a summary of current programmes, strategic considerations, and next steps.

3 Summary of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programmes

Programme	Funder / Value	Partners & Stakeholders	GKC Role	Key Targets / Objectives
CLIC: College Local Innovation Centres	Innovate UK – £1.2M (2024/25) + £1.2M (2025/26)	Six Glasgow City Region Colleges, Innovate UK	Lead partner & project manager	Support 230 employers; 230 employees complete innovation programmes; 20 staff engage in development
Regional Innovation Strategy – Education & Skills Sub-Group	None (strategic role)	Colleges, universities, employers, government, innovation bodies	Co-chair (with UWS)	Map skills provision; address gaps across 5 clusters (Advanced Manufacturing, Health & Life Sciences, Net Zero, Creative Industries, Digital)
Innovation & Entrepreneurship Skills Pilot (TBC)	Innovate UK – £150K (to Mar 2026, pending)	Regional innovation strategy group, employers, universities, colleges	Lead partner	Test Innovation Skills Framework; Create open-source tools; Shape future skills development
NoCode Programme	UK Shared Prosperity Fund – £250K	3 Glasgow colleges, Glasgow City Council. Targets across three colleges. Individual college targets to be confirmed.	Delivery partner	Support 20 entrepreneurs; 160 participants in education; 10 enterprises created; 50 organisations engaged
Entrepreneurial Education Fund	Scottish Government: College application £70k.	National college and school partners	Applicant / delivery role	Build inclusive, sustainable entrepreneurial education projects for young people
Boosting College Capacity	£700K at national level	City Regional Colleges	Delivery partner	Support student business skills; Connect students to investors
Scottish College Innovation Group	None (sector-led)	Colleges Scotland; Scottish Government; SFC	Member	Advise Principals' Group; Influence future funding; Share intelligence; Foster collaboration

4 Strategic Implications

- **Profile & Influence:** Glasgow Kelvin College's leadership roles enhance its reputation as a central contributor to regional and national innovation policy and delivery.
- **Funding & Sustainability:** Success in Innovate UK and Scottish Government bids strengthens resources but requires careful coordination and reporting.
- **Collaboration:** Strong partnerships with colleges, universities, employers, and industry bodies reinforce the College's standing but require sustained engagement and delivery.
- **Capacity & Coordination:** Increasing activity highlights the need for an internal coordination mechanism to manage commitments and ensure accountability.

5 Next Steps

Funding Confirmation – Finalise Innovate UK pilot agreement and pursue other emerging innovation and entrepreneurship funding opportunities.

Governance & Coordination – Ensure that the college has a robust mechanism in place to oversee activity, reporting, and partnerships.

Collaboration Strengthening – Deepen cross-sector partnerships with universities, industry bodies, and regional employers to reinforce the College's leadership role.

Strategic Positioning – Leverage current initiatives to influence national policy through Colleges Scotland, the Scottish College Innovation Group and other relevant groups.

6 Impact on Students

A co-ordinated approach to embedding innovation and entrepreneurship into the curriculum and the college structures will equip students with the skills they need to understand how to engage with emerging technologies such as AI.

7 Resource Implications

Entrepreneurship and Innovation are two fields that are expanding considerably across the college sector. Consideration will be required as to how to adequately support these opportunities with staff, equipment and estates.

8 Equalities

Any significant opportunities and changes will be evaluated for equalities impacts.

9 Risk and Assurance

This report provides assurance that the College is reviewing and developing its approach to entrepreneurship and innovation in a way that manages risk and ensures relevance and impact.

10 Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report.

11 Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- i. Note the contents of this paper and the progress made by the College.

12 Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from Alastair McGhee, Director of Student Experience and Enterprise.