

Glasgow Kelvin College

Audit and Risk Committee – 26 November 2024

Governance Update

Report by Director of Estates and Corporate Services

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members in relation to the following areas of corporate governance:

2. West End Campus - Update
3. Cladding at Springburn Campus
4. Audit Scotland Fees - Update
5. Additional Security Arrangements - Easterhouse Campus
6. AG Lockdown - Update
7. Externally Facilitated Effectiveness Review
8. Land at Springburn Campus
9. Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting

2. West End Campus - Update

Our West End Campus sold on 10 October 2024. The campus was handed over completely empty of furniture and was in an orderly condition with no due diligence matters outstanding.

The College has liaised throughout this process with insurers, and they have been informed of this sale.

All other contracts, utilities and other bills associated with this campus have been cancelled.

3. Cladding at Springburn Campus

The College may require significant funding to address issues with the cladding panels at our Springburn Campus. At the time of writing this report, investigations are being undertaken by an external contractor, Wintech.

The Scottish Funding Council and Glasgow Colleges Regional Board are aware of this.

The College lawyer, Thorntons, are assisting with this matter.

A full report in relation to this matter will be presented to the Board of Management meeting in December 2024.

4. Audit Scotland Fees - Update

A letter to the Minister signed by Ian Patrick, Chair of the Board of Management in regard to the imbalance of audit fees across the College sector (which disproportionately and negatively affects Glasgow Kelvin College) has been sent. A response to this letter from Graeme Dey, Minister for Higher and Further Education has now been received. Both items of correspondence appear elsewhere on this agenda.

5. Additional Security Arrangements – Easterhouse Campus

As members of the Audit and Risk Committee are aware, we have been facing issues at our Easterhouse Campus with young people (who are not our students) behaving in an unacceptable manner, causing some distress to our students and staff and damaging the building and neighbouring properties.

We have been working with our neighbouring organisations, the Council, community police, local politicians and our Union colleagues to discuss the best way to tackle these shared problems. The antisocial behaviour appears to have escalated in the past few months leading to malicious damage to our campus and adjoining buildings, with windows smashed and external structures destroyed. Many meetings have been held with partners and key stakeholders to discuss various ways to tackle this issue of societal disorder i.e. Recording/Hate Crime reporting to Police Scotland and keeping detailed logs of all events.

Glasgow Kelvin College is also introducing some extra measures to address these concerns, i.e. additional security will shortly be trialled for a 6-month period at our Easterhouse Campus to allow students and staff to feel more secure as they exit the building at the end of the day. A security guard will be in the car park area between 3.30pm-5.30pm to provide a reassuring presence to students and staff leaving the building. The security guard will patrol the perimeter of the building after this period in an attempt to prevent further vandalism; exact times for the guard are currently being finalised. We are hopeful that these additional measures will lead to a de-escalation of the issues we have been experiencing and a normal working and learning environment will return imminently.

6. AG Lockdown – Update

Members will recall that the College has engaged the services of AG Lockdown who have developed a system that will ensure that the necessary measures are in place in order that the College is compliant with the requirements of Martyn's Law. To facilitate this process, AG Lockdown have been engaging with teams from Estates, IT Services, Administration, Health and Safety and Organisational Development.

A link to an overview of AG Lockdown can be found here:

[AG Lockdown](#)

Over recent weeks, the AG Lockdown team have been visiting College buildings, mapping floor spaces and room locations to inform the database which lies behind the system utilised by their 24/7 Emergency Response Centre.

In the event of a serious incident being reported, such as a marauding terrorist attack, a member of the College Incident Management Team will alert AG Lockdown using a unique number and PIN. AG Lockdown would then instantly send out messages via College Smart Boards and mobile texts informing staff and students that an emergency lockdown is in place and that they should lock themselves in their rooms.

The system utilises QR codes located in teaching and office spaces which, when scanned by e.g. a member of teaching staff, will provide the AG Lockdown 24/7 Emergency Response Centre with a 'real-time' account of what is happening in all parts of the building which, when fed back to the emergency services, saves vital minutes and informs the appropriate response for the emergency services on the ground.

Work is ongoing to install the remaining technical elements of the system across the college ahead of final testing.

Training will be carried out for all staff in the coming weeks when all elements are in place and testing is complete.

7. Externally Facilitated Effectiveness Review

At the time of writing this paper, the College is receiving an Externally Facilitated Effectiveness Review which is being conducted by David Archibald of Henderson Loggie.

The Secretary to the Board of Management and Director of Estates and Corporate Services have gone through the Code of Good Governance in detail, mapped compliance against the whole Code and provided evidence to back up statements made. Where we have evidence to back up each statement made, we have highlighted it in blue and we have inserted relevant documentation with a corresponding Code section number to easily enable cross-referencing.

This document is available via the link below:

[Code of Good Governance - Checklist November 2024.pdf](#)

Other pertinent/relevant and useful information has been provided to David Archibald of Henderson Loggie for his review.

At the time of writing this paper, David Archibald is in the process of conducting one to one meetings with all Board of Management members and he will attend the December 2024 Board of Management meeting as an observer.

The final report in respect of the Externally Facilitated Effectiveness Reviews will be available in March 2025.

8. Land at Springburn Campus

We have been advised by the College lawyers, Thorntons, that the minute from Hydepark Residents Association from their meeting on 27 June 2024 has now been received. This is attached as at [Appendix 1](#).

The College via Project Manager, Watts will now attend to the following:

- The College will dismantle the existing fence and re-instate this at the correct boundary line between the residents' land and the College. It will utilise the existing fence that it already owns.
- The College will remove and dismantle the portacabin and lamp posts and will disconnect and cap utility services. As per standard industry procedures, the underground cables and pipework will not be removed but will be disconnected.
- The College will re-grass the area the portacabin was situated on.
- The College will fill in the frog pond.
- The College will deliver a timeline and outline plans of works to HydePark Residents Association. It is the aim to have these works completed within three months.
- The College will employ contractors via APUC to do the works required ensuring, as is normal practice, that the contractors have appropriate experience and insurances in place.
- The College will provide to HydePark confirmation of the disconnection and capping of the utility supplies.
- A point of contact within the Estates Team at the College has been provided; this will be Michael Lacy, Estates Project Manager.

Michael Lacy has prepared a plan detailing above with related timescales and he has discussed this with Gordon Ross from Watts who has confirmed his contentment. This will now be shared with HydePark Residents Association. Contact has been made with HydePark Residents Association from Michael Lacy to instigate a meeting.

Audit and Risk members will be advised when this process is completed and this long-standing matter concluded.

9. Public Sector Climate Change Duties Reporting

At the time of writing this report, the College is in the process of completing its annual Public Sector Climate Change Duties Report for Academic Year 2023/24. The deadline for this submission is 30 November 2024.

The College is on schedule to complete this return by the aforementioned deadline and a fuller report will be made available at the Board of Management meeting scheduled for 11 December 2024. Audit and Risk Committee members will receive sight of the full report at the meeting scheduled for 11 February 2025.

10. Resource Implications

The College hopes to retain as much of the sale proceeds from our West End Campus disposal as possible. The SFC and GCRB are aware of the potential costs to repair the cladding.

As previously stated, the Audit Scotland fees are not proportionate to the size of the College.

The additional security measures being implemented at our Easterhouse Campus will cost circa £50,000 but the net saving from making security changes is still in the region of £150,000.

The Externally Facilitated Effectiveness Review is a governance requirement and will cost circa £6,000.

To attend to matters pertaining to the land matter at Springburn Campus will cost circa £30,000.

11. Impact on Students

The youth disorder at our Easterhouse Campus is negatively affecting our students and some individuals are remaining indoors over break periods; where appropriate, some parents have been contacted to provide an explanation.

It is hoped that the additional security measures being implemented in the form of a security guard will put an end to this unacceptable youth disorder and mindless vandalism that is blighting this area.

12. Risk and Assurance

This report seeks to provide members with assurance that a number of governance matters related to the smooth running and operations of the College are being taken forward accordingly and will be carefully handled.

The College will continue to closely monitor the random acts of vandalism around the Easterhouse campus area and will meet with community partners to discuss this further.

13. Equality

There are some equality implications arising as a consequence of matters contained within this report and this is in regard to youths in Easterhouse targeting our ASN students. Such incidents are being reported as a Hate Crime to Police Scotland.

14. Data Protection

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

15. Environmental and Sustainability

The random acts of vandalism experienced at our Easterhouse Campus could leave the environment in a poorer state for our students and staff. Costs to repair areas are unwelcome and are still being coded for easier reporting/observation purposes. Partners are also recording the costs associated with vandalism and this is being reported to Police Scotland.

16. Recommendations

It is recommended that members note the content of this report, link and Appendix.

17. Further Information

Further information can be obtained from Lisa Clark, Director of Estates and Corporate Services - lisaclark@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk or Jeanette Evans, Vice Principal Operations jevans@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

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November 2024