

Glasgow Kelvin College

Finance and Resources Committee Meeting - 28 February 2023

Capital and Sustainability 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 capital, estates and environmental matters.

2. Capital Planning/Expenditure for 2022/23

Capital planning for Academic Year 2022/23 is well underway with an allocation of £500,000. The deadline for this spend is 31 March 2023. Funds received have been allocated to essential/high priority items. The list of projects and any progress to date, which is routinely submitted to GCRB, in relation to these funds is provided in **Appendix 1** attached.

College/Region	Capital maintenance		
	Capital funding for backlog maintenance FY 2022-23	Capital funding for lifecycle maintenance FY 2022-23	Total capital funding for maintenance FY 2022-23
	£	£	£
City of Glasgow College	-	1,336,088	1,336,088
Glasgow Clyde College	2,089,284	946,678	3,035,962
Glasgow Kelvin College	500,000	598,873	1,098,873
Glasgow	2,589,284	2,881,639	5,470,923

A note of the completed capital work to date, with a few photos, is provided in **Appendix 2**.

3. Campus Re-investment Project

Progress continues to be made in relation to the College Environment strand of the Campus Re-investment Project.

4. Other Estates Activity

Dilapidations within previously rented Blairtummock and Tradeston premises are now concluded and signed off accordingly.

5. Audit Scotland - Auditing Climate Change Our Strategy

This document is also contained at [Item 13a](#) on this agenda and outlines Audit Scotland's proposed strategy to hold public bodies to account for their actions and spend on Climate Change. It outlines a role for public audit in helping to ensure that good practice is shared, targets are well defined and that the profile of the climate change response is increased. Audit Scotland does not intend to audit emissions data published by public bodies.

As part of the recent Environmental and Sustainability Internal Audit conducted by Henderson Loggie, it was recommended that a section is inserted into all Board level reports to highlight the considerations given in respect of environmental and sustainability matters. This is being taken forward accordingly by members of the SMT.

6. Audit Scotland - Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity - Annual report 2021-22

This document is contained at [Item 13b](#) on this agenda and details Audit Scotland's progress in reducing their carbon emissions and managing climate change activity. Audit Scotland began measuring carbon emissions in 2008 and since then has developed their strategy for reducing carbon emissions. The years between 2008-20 focused on reducing the size of their estate and projects to reduce emissions through efficient use of digital information technology.

A review of their first [Climate Change Plan \(2015-20\)](#) was put on hold in 2020 owing to the pandemic. In May 2021, Audit Scotland published its new [Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity Plan 2021-2025 \(ESBP\)](#). The ESBP continues to reflect Audit Scotland's emissions reduction aspirations as well as introducing a focus on reaching net zero.

7. Audit Scotland - Addressing Climate Change in Scotland

This document is contained at [Item 13c](#) this agenda and details Audit Scotland's review of the numerous national reports published over the last two years recommending the action needed to make the shift to more sustainable living.

The aim of this review is to draw out the key themes identified in the published recommendations for Scotland. This provides a high-level summary of the key improvements that need to be made across the public sector if Scotland is to reach its climate change ambitions of a just transition to net zero and adapt to improve resilience to the effects of the global warming we are already experiencing.

8. Race to Net Zero Reporting – Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF) for Further and Higher Education

[The Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework for Further and Higher Education \(SCEF\)](#) was developed by EAUC - The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education in consultation with the Platinum Jubilee Challenge participants (led by 21 higher and further education institutes from across the UK) and the sector via member bodies, including the Association of Colleges (AoC), Colleges Scotland and Universities UK (UUK). The Framework, which was launched in January 2023, will bring good practice and guidance and will develop a fuller understanding of how institutions contribute to the climate emergency and enable them to take action.

The Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that universities and colleges will be reporting their carbon emissions by 2024 as per their Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy.

SCEF is a voluntary guidance document developed by the sector. It does not replace any official guidance or reporting requirements set out by the UK, Scottish, Welsh governments or the Northern Ireland Executive.

The DfE currently has no plans to make reporting mandatory while the sector is in the period of recovery from the pandemic. With increased legislation on net-zero, environment and nature, however, it is inevitable that the sectors are going to have to increase reporting on their activity. The first step to this is ensuring consistency of data which the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework provides. The government's Net-Zero Strategy commits to legislate reporting of emissions if insufficient progress is made voluntarily.

Finance and Resource Committee members are reminded that FE and HE institutions in Scotland already employ an agreed framework for reporting their carbon emissions. The latest full Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report for 2021-22 for the College can be viewed on the College website at the following link:

[Climate Change Reporting - Glasgow Kelvin College](#)

9. Environmental Sustainability Audit by Henderson Loggie

The College had an audit of the area of [Environmental Sustainability](#) and we were pleased to be awarded a **Good** in this area with only 4 minor recommendations made for improvement.

10. Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020

The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020 comes into force on 16 August 2023. As such, the College will be required to ensure reverse vending is implemented in all campus buildings.

Details of the scheme can be found at the following link:

<https://depositreturnscheme.zerowastescotland.org.uk/regulations>

At the time of writing this report, a number of organisational and operational mechanisms will require to be fully thought through. Liaison will take place with our catering contractor in regard to the management of these reverse vending machines.

Notwithstanding, there are a significant number of practical concerns regarding the implementation of the scheme. These include, but are not limited to:

- Timescale – in common with the rest of the sector and other businesses, the College is under pressure to be ready for the scheme to go live on 16 August 2023 – despite there being a significant number of logistical issues that would currently appear unresolvable;
- National shortage of Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) – the market for RVMs is dominated by two producers Norway's Tomra and the Netherland's Envipco. Given Scotland will be the first nation in the UK to implement the scheme, demand in Scotland is outstripping supply;
- Cost – Purchase of machines for all four College campuses would be significant. According to Zero Waste Scotland, a standard RVM* e.g., reVend 800 Reverse Vending Recycling Machine (non-compacting) would be c.£7,000 + VAT. By comparison, over a 5-year lease for the same machine would be £36.00 per week or £428.85 per quarter excluding VAT. **The College may require larger or a greater number of machines for its needs.*
- Maintenance – the scale of, and the responsibility for, daily maintenance of the machines is currently unclear. Biffa has been appointed as waste managers for the scheme and will collect cans, bottles etc. (the machines have a telemetry system to alert the collectors that a machine is ready for emptying). However, management of daily issues such as storage of excess waste bottles and cans, timely supply of coins and tokens, cleaning of spillages, jamming and malfunction, repairs etc. has yet to be clarified.

It is generally accepted across all sectors in Scotland that, while the Scheme aims to further address Scotland's move towards net zero by further embedding practical measures to improve recycling of single-use drinks containers, the Scheme, as it is currently set-out, is impractical and potentially unworkable. It is hoped that the Scottish Government will reconsider and revise the planned scheme and delay its introduction until concerns have been addressed.

11. Environmental Funding Activities

- 11.1 The College has secured £38k of funding to review the sustainability of campus infrastructure and has been working successfully with Ameresco to carry out the pre-capital feasibility studies of Springburn and Easterhouse campuses. A business plan will then be developed for installation of low-emission and renewable energy technologies. Pre-capital work is concluding in February, with the plan to apply for capital funding of the projects by 31 March 2023. Projects under consideration by Ameresco and the College include replacing gas boilers at Springburn with an Air Source Heat Pump, PV Panels at both Springburn and Easterhouse or provide zero-emission energy, and improved LED lighting and Wind Turbine refurbishment at Easterhouse.
- 11.2 The College has been successful in applying for 200 trees from Woodland Trust. These trees will be planted at Easterhouse campus, to act as a natural enclosure for the green learning space currently being developed. These trees have been selected, with input from the Support for Learning team, to increase the biodiversity of the area, attract

wildlife, and produce harvestable fruit when mature. The Environmental Sustainability Manager and Estates Team hope to partner with students in a tree planting event, that will serve as a learning experience and a way to celebrate nature.

12. Sustainability Questionnaire

Collaborating with the Project Manager of Environment and Sustainability at Glasgow Colleges Regional Board (GCRB), a questionnaire has been created and distributed to all College staff and students to gather their views on the environment and sustainability. This questionnaire was created as part of the College's participation in the Scottish Colleges' Commitment on the Climate Emergency, and it should provide valuable insight on the opinions and interests of the Glasgow Kelvin community surrounding environmental sustainability.

While all three Glasgow Colleges have been invited to participate in survey distribution, Glasgow Kelvin College has led the way with high participation from both staff and students. The survey will remain open, with the hope of collecting even more responses.

At this time, results indicate that both staff and students at Glasgow Kelvin College are concerned about the environment and would be interested in more climate literacy instruction. Specifically, staff would be interested in the following environment and sustainability training options: Sustainable Development, Food Waste, Circular Economy, Carbon Literacy, Fast Fashion, and Plastics. 68% of staff would like this training online, and 73% would like it to be part of their formal CPD.

13. Staff Development & Partnership

- 13.1 Following the successful panel event, *Embedding Sustainability in the Curriculum*, a monthly discussion group has been formed. The 'Sustainability in the Curriculum Discussion Group' (composed of Teaching and Support Staff) will share knowledge, best practices, and strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) within the teaching and learning at the College. The upcoming March meeting will focus on the Global UN Sustainable Development Goals Teach In and how the College can have maximum participation.
- 13.2 The Environmental Sustainability Manager and the Head of Facilities and Environmental Sustainability attended the Annual EAUC Scotland Conference, held at Strathclyde University 9 February 2023. The event provided a fantastic opportunity to learn from and network with professionals from peer institutions, as well as members of EAUC, the Scottish Funding Council, and experts in the field.

14. Other Projects and Initiatives

- 14.1 The College is pleased to be participating in The Planet Earth Games, a campaign to raise awareness of the climate crisis and promote sustainable behaviours at colleges. Earth Game events at the College include the following: Sports in the Outdoors Classes, a Bike Breakfast, Cookery stalls showcasing vegan & vegetarian dishes, a Clothing Swap Shop, a Led Cycle Ride, tree planting, and social media competitions.
- 14.2 The Environmental Sustainability Manager has been visiting classes throughout January, delivering lessons on recycling at the College and adopting more sustainable

behaviours. She also facilitated a Cycle Maintenance Course for the Outdoor Sport students. In all, she has worked with 55 students throughout the month of January.



- 14.3 January also featured a series of 'Green Resolutions', which the Environmental Sustainability Manager promoted through social media, as well as College Teams and SWAY. These 'Green Resolutions' gave suggestions of how to live more sustainably, including information on why certain behaviours harm the environment and resources on how to make a change.



14.4 The following events have been developed at Glasgow Kelvin College by the Environmental Sustainability Manager, in partnership with multiple teaching and support staff members. Each event offers the opportunity to engage with staff and students around the themes of sustainability to promote behaviour change and raise awareness of environmental challenges and solutions.

- Planned Led Cycle Ride as part of the March Staff Development Week to promote active travel. This event is being facilitated by Certified Ride Leaders, members of the Outdoor Sport classes.
- Sustainability Art Exhibition: *Creative Climate Action*
- Planned litter survey and awareness campaign with Employability students at Easterhouse, and recycling campaign with Support for Learning students at Springburn.

15. Other Projects and Initiatives

Race to Zero - Glasgow Kelvin College has been a Signatory to and a member of the Race to Zero for Colleges and Universities campaign since May 2022. Since then, the GKC Race to Zero Action Plan has been approved by SMT and published to the College Webpage. Glasgow Kelvin College has therefore progressed from the 'Pledge' stage through 'Plan', 'Proceed', and 'Publish', as outlined in the original Race to Zero criteria.

It is important to note that through the work of the *2022 Criteria Consultation*, the Race to Zero team have updated the Signatory criteria to include the following:

- A delineation between 'Starting line' criteria which are minimum requirements which all members must meet should they wish to remain in the campaign, and 'Leadership practices' specific to leading entities within the Race to Zero campaign.
- In addition to Pledge, Plan, Proceed, and Publish, a fifth 'P', Persuade, has been introduced to the criteria to recognise the importance of each institution capitalising on its influencing capacities to reach net zero.

Glasgow Kelvin College has already met the 'Starting line' criteria in terms of the College's: *Pledge* to reach net zero before 2050, it's publicly disclosed *Plan* of how Race to Zero criteria will be met, it has *Proceeded* to act toward net zero through available pathways, and it has *Published* annual carbon emissions data through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report.

However, the addition of the *Persuade* criteria could have an impact on the College's external engagement and associations. To address this updated criterion, the College will need to continue to evaluate policies external to the College, such as mapping out the College's strategic procurement goals through the recent APUC Sustainability Reporting, FNT2030's.

Estates and Sustainability Webpage - Also being progressed are the updates and improvements to the Estates and Sustainability Webpage for the new Glasgow Kelvin website, promotion of sustainability via social media platforms, continued development of relationships with external groups and forums, and the continued support of the College's wellbeing initiative by promoting time in nature and green spaces. The College also continues to offer cycling events, made possible through the Shift grant awarded from Cycle UK.

16. Land at Springburn

A meeting was held on the evening of Thursday, 16 February 2023 involving HydePark Residents Association and their Factor with J Evans and L Clark.

Members will be aware that the land valuation for both parties arrived at the figure of £25,000 for this parcel of land and that a provision has been made in the College accounts to purchase this. Glasgow Colleges Regional Board are aware of this situation.

HydePark Residents Association, and their Factor, have now stated that they have been advised by their legal representatives that title deeds for each individual dwelling would require to be changed, the legal fees would therefore outweigh the value of the land.

Following advice from J Evans and, at the time of writing this report, the Factor is exploring a "general disposition" which may negate the need for each individual title to be changed with immediate effect.

A further meeting will be held in due course.

Members of the Finance and Resources Committee will be kept apprised accordingly.

17. Resource Implications

As previously reported, there continues to be resource implications in terms of progressing capital/estates works due to the ongoing negative impact of Covid-19, Brexit and also the war between Ukraine and Russia.

Securing goods/material and contractors has become very problematic, coupled with staff absences and materials costs/quotes escalating exponentially. Despite the aforementioned challenges, work has progressed very well in the complex arena we are working in.

18. Impact on Students

There is no adverse impact on students as a consequence of anything within this report. Capital money will continue to be spent to ensure the campus buildings are in good order and carbon is reduced as far as possible with initiatives undertaken.

19. Equalities

There are no equality implications arising as a consequence of this report from a Glasgow Kelvin College viewpoint.

20. Risk and Assurance

Escalating materials and contractors' costs (that can change on an almost daily basis) means that budgeting for estates projects is very complicated. COVID/long COVID is also affecting contractors in terms of having staff available to work.

There are also significant delays on materials arriving and the costs of these are escalating which makes planning very difficult indeed.

Staff absences due to illness, COVID and bereavement leave have impacted on the overall estates team who are endeavouring to manage as best they can in the window of time available to complete projects.

Members of the Finance and Resources Committee will be kept apprised of developments with the capital plan and other ongoing sustainability works.

21. Data Protection

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

22. Environmental and Sustainability Impact

The College continues to take due cognisance of reports/guidance received in relation to environmental and sustainability matters and seeks to secure funding to take forward projects as evidenced within this report.

23. Recommendations

It is recommended that members:

- i) note the content of this report and its appendices.

24. Further Information

Further information can be obtained from Lisa Clark, Director of Estates and Corporate Services - lisaclark@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

Lisa Clark
Director of Estates and Corporate Services
Glasgow Kelvin College
February 2023

Appendix 1

Project	Description	Status	Initial Budget	Revised Forecast	Spend to 31 Mar 23 (£'000) (as at 21-2-22)
			(£'000)	(£'000)	
Springburn Campus					
Refurbishment of remaining toilets.	Nearing completion.		50	42	42
Redecoration of Student Common Room (water damage to ceiling & walls.)	Work underway.		20	18	18
Air ducting of ventilation systems - weather damaged.	Undertaken.	Complete	10	5	5
Replacement of cracked/rusting panels on building. Subsidence/cracked floor - structural support required.	Report awaited.		50	114	16
Clean of building to remove moss build-up.	Undertaken.	Complete	15	2	2
Repair to entrance door.	Undertaken.	Complete	5	6	6
Repair drainage and gully works	Undertaken.	Complete	10	14	14
Replacement of pump	Undertaken.	Complete	10	5	5
Easterhouse Campus					
Clean & paint building exterior.	Work scheduled.		30	40	43
Paint yellow lines for charging point & parking college vehicles.	Work being scheduled.		3	3	
Install new toilets and showers.	Work underway.		40	61	61
Replacement of worn carpets and painting of staff areas.	Work underway.		50	7	7
East End Campus					
Main Entrance – replace main door entranceway.	Undertaken.	Complete.	69.5	54	54
Student Common Room - refurbishment.	Undertaken.	Complete.	25	3	3

Project	Description	Status	Initial Budget	Revised Forecast	Spend to 31 Mar 23 (£'000) (as at 21-2-22)
			(£'000)	(£'000)	
Redecoration of interior common areas.	Undertaken.	Complete.	50	58	58
All Locations					
Fast charging point for electric vans.	Work underway.		7.5	10	
Boiler Room Repairs	Undertaken.	Complete.	5	8	8
Project Management	Underway.		50	50	12
Total			500	500	354

Note: The above capital plan was slightly amended as we still await a report in relation to the Springburn external cladding panels and how this matter will be fixed. The spend allocated to this project was not possible to complete prior to 31 March 2023. Other projects that were on the list have been slotted in instead and these are denoted in [blue text](#).

Some of the carpets will also be fitted early April 2023 to avoid disrupting learning and teaching during March 2023. All of the aforementioned changes have been agreed with Jim Godfrey, Glasgow College Regional Board.

East End Campus

Main Entrance – replace main door entranceway



Old entrance before - from outside



Old entrance before - from inside



New Entrance - from outside



New Entrance - from inside