

Board of Management

Date of Meeting	18 June 2025
Paper No.	BoM4-K
Agenda Item	3.3
Subject of Paper	Principal's Report: June 2025
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Dr Paul Little CBE DL Principal & Chief Executive
Date of production	June 2025
Action	For Discussion

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. To discuss the Principal's quarterly report to the Board of Management.

2. Consultation

- 2.1.** In progressing the matters outlined in the report, colleagues in the College and across the sector, as well as regional, national and international partners, have been engaged.

3. Key Insights

- 3.1.** The Principal is responsible for the operational management of the College, as outlined in the Scheme of Delegation, subject to the strategic and policy direction of the Board.
- 3.2.** The Board has the responsibility of setting the strategic direction of the College. The College's [Strategic Plan 2021-30](#), refreshed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, outlines our commitment to Let Learning Flourish through the inspiration, excellence and innovation of our leading teaching methods and world-class facilities. Our eight strategic priorities, shown below, are mapped across four strategic themes:

Students

- 1:** To be an inspirational place of learning.
2: To enable individuals to excel and realise their full potential.

Growth and Development

- 3:** To live our values, value our people, and innovate in partnership.
4: To be a valued partner in the city region, supporting the national economy, and the international learning community.

People and Processes

- 5:** To deliver excellence in performance.
6: To be efficient, effective, innovating, and vigilant.

Finance

- 7:** To maintain our long-term financial stability.
8: To secure diversity of income and sustainable development.

- 3.3.** Five supporting strategies – [Student Academic Experience](#), [People & Culture](#), [Corporate Development](#), [Digital](#) and [Sustainability](#) – have been developed to deliver on the Strategic Plan. Progress is measured and tracked through the College's Balanced Scorecard.
- 3.4.** By delivering on our strategic priorities, the College will facilitate opportunities for our students, support industry, build communities and, in so doing, affect positive change in people's lives in and beyond the city whose name we are proud to bear.

4. Impact and Implications

- 4.1.** The Principal's report ensures that Board members remain informed of the work of the College, delivery of the Strategic Plan and key developments affecting the College and sector.

Appendix 1: Principal's Report

Principal's Report to the Board of Management: June 2025

Students

1. 2024-25 Total enrolments currently stand at 24.3k, compared to 24.6k at the same point in 2023-24. Full-time HE Full-time enrolments are at a similar level at this point last year (6.5k, compared to 6.6k in 2023-24).
2. 2024-25 Headcount currently stands at 18k, compared with 18.3k in 2023-24.
3. Total offers for 2025-26 are 3.5% up on session 2024-25, while total offers accepted have increased by 3% from 2024-25.
4. The College has received 200 international applications for full time programmes in academic session 25/26, with an optimistic forecast of 110 sponsored International Students for 25/26, an increase of 8% on 2024/25.
5. Recruitment of 1+1 partners looks set to increase for academic session 2026/27 by around 75%, with 112 projected across 4 existing partner institutions in Nautical & STEM, and against the background of further discussions taking place with CFMA, Angola and former partner AMET, in India.
6. In Creative Industries, discussions with an existing partner hold the potential significantly to increase the number of students in the Faculty with the possibility of three new cohorts, each of 25 students.
7. May inductions are now complete, with 130 students beginning SVQs in various Social Care qualifications at SCQF levels 6 to 10.
8. SQA External verification visits have begun. Early indications are good with, visits receiving a high confidence result from the External Verifier.
9. Compass Scotland programme was launched successfully
10. New stakeholders on board include the Lisini Group and Glasgow Clyde College
11. The annual report from Skills Development Scotland helpfully highlighted several areas of good practice on the College's part.
12. Work has begun on streamlining processes with the SVQ team to improve efficiency and increase client satisfaction
13. Riverside is currently at 76% capacity, while St Luke's is at 91%. Capacity is temporarily reduced at Riverside owing to the first cohort of cadets departing in May. This month, the Business International Department will work with the Académie de Nice.
14. We are preparing to welcome some 500 guests from Italy, Spain, and Romania on a programme running from 30th June to 13th August. St Luke's will not be used for the Summer School because of continuing difficulties with the landlord.
15. Phoenix's lawyers have accepted our lease termination, and our tenancy at St Luke's will end in 2030; nonetheless, we remain in regular contact with lawyers as a result of continuing challenges.

16. The Procurement and Accommodation Teams are working jointly to begin planning refurbishment works. We have received £80,000 in capital funding for 2025/26, out of the £200,000 requested.
17. Applications for 25/26 accommodation are now live. We have reached capacity for non-cadet students.
18. A recent ASRA (Association for Student Residential Accommodation) Scottish regional meeting highlighted that occupancy rates in Glasgow for next term are averaging 55%. (City remains on course - as normal - to be at over 95% capacity from September.
19. I am delighted to report that our Student Satisfaction Survey saw some 5259 Students respond, the highest ever rate. Still better, 93% of respondents were satisfied by their experience – our *highest ever* student satisfaction rate.
20. For a second year in a row, we surveyed the highest number of college leavers; of those contacted (3950) 97% were in a positive destination, the highest in the sector, and an important metric for the Scottish Government.
21. Recruitment performance remains strong, with a 4% year-on-year increase in first-choice applications recorded at this stage. The College is currently on course to exceed its credit target, though we are actively monitoring progress to mitigate the risk of over-delivery. We are paying particular attention to the volume of conditional offers issued and associated conversion rates.
22. Preparations for induction and transition activities for new students in August 2025 are progressing well, informed by reflections and lessons learned from the previous academic year. Welcome and Induction Week is scheduled for 13 August 2025.
23. The Learning and Teaching Academy has secured funding from the Robertson Trust as partners in a 3-year project led by Edinburgh Napier University to consider how Scotland's post-16 education system supports students who have experienced poverty and trauma.

Growth & Development

24. Delivery of the Scotrail workshop has been extended to December 2025.
25. The roll-out of our work with Police Scotland has begun: the Education & Humanities Faculty is delivering Finance training, while colleagues in Business & International are providing Soft Skills and Change Management training.
26. A potential partnership with Optimiz3/Prospera Football Academy is in development that would, if successful, allow for full time student recruitment in Sports-related programmes.
27. The Business Development team is providing support to international and faculty teams for various international delegations and proposals, including those from South Africa (2 visits), Thailand and Germany. In all cases, colleagues are following up to explore partnership opportunities.

- In addition, we have forthcoming visits from VMA Iceland to discuss mergers / teaching pedagogies; and from IFCE Brazil (a reciprocal visit from a British Council Project).

28. Current international activity

- Funded Projects:
 - SEEP project successfully delivered with partners in Indonesia, Brazil and India. Now working on application for 2025/26; and
 - the British Council Ghana project was successfully completed with member of the teaching team invited to deliver a presentation at event in Accra in May 2025.
 - Turkish-Scottish Chamber of Commerce. One member of staff and two students are travelling to Turkey to promote Scottish food, drink, and culture at a Turkish Government event in June.
- Commercial Projects
 - Forthcoming business development visit to Shanghai as part of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce / CSITF – in early June.
 - Zhongyuan University of Technology (ZUT) is funding a visit from COGC staff to share expertise in ceramics. Business development opportunity to build partnership with ZUT and other universities and colleges in Henan.
 - ZJTIE: Contract extended to 2030 following recent visit by COGC. Exploring summer school project that could link to Canadian and German partners.
 - Angola (CFMA): Experienced Seafarer proposal accepted. Initial cohort of 14 students identified. Potential start date Jan 2026, and likely income between £150k to £225k. Additionally, we have submitted a new proposal for a soft /management skills bespoke programme; and a proposal to resume 1+1 nautical programme in is in progress.
 - Latin America. Proposal for innovation training for Paraiba Ministry of Higher Education successful – delivery Nov/Dec 2025, value £27k.

29. The College Local Innovation Centres (CLIC) project is a £2.4m Innovate UK-funded initiative across six Glasgow City Region colleges. It supports SMEs to adopt digital innovation aligned with regional economic priorities, fostering business productivity and inclusive growth.

- 307 companies have engaged across the region
- 264 digital assessments and tailored action plans have been developed
- There is a 42% increase in ‘digital maturity’ among participants (score increased from 34.03 to 48.18)
- 1800 hours of innovation support through 68 programmes
- Reached 24 economic sectors

- Engaged mainly SMEs (<£1m turnover, <50 staff)
 - 23 staff trained via CLIC Innovation Workshop (led by CoGC)
30. 6-month social media report (Jan–Jun 2025) highlights strong audience growth and reach across platforms, with over 92k followers and steady positive brand sentiment, particularly on LinkedIn and Instagram.
- Total followers: 92.7k (+3.4k net growth)
 - LinkedIn: +3.8k | Instagram: +1.3k | Facebook: +590 | X (Twitter): –362
 - Top channel reach:
 - Facebook: 587.2k, Instagram: 343.4k, LinkedIn: 170.8k
 - Brand sentiment overall:
 - 75%+ positive/semi-positive, only 5.3% negative/semi-negative
 - LinkedIn shows the strongest sentiment: 90%+ positive
 - Top global audiences: UK, USA, Singapore, Sweden, and Italy
 - Facebook: 587.2k, Instagram: 343.4k, LinkedIn: 170.8k
31. Following a successful business planning session on 29th April, plan owners were reminded of 3 strategic areas for consideration: Polytechnic, Renewal & Glasgow City Region. Operational Plans for AY25/26 are on track for ELT approval at the end of June.
32. The Business Case undertaken by Donal O’Herlihy Consultants will be concluded by the end of June 2025.
33. Further consultation with key stakeholders will commence over the summer with Scottish Government, SFC, UK Govt.
34. Invest Glasgow introduced key City investors (Legal & General and Aviva) to CFO & Depute
35. The Depute Principal & Chief Finance Officer attended UKREiiF - The UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum in Leeds, from 20th - 22nd May. The forum is the UK's leading event within the real estate, property and infrastructure sectors. The event aims to connect people, places and businesses to drive sustainable and inclusive investment. The College was invited to attend the forum in partnership with the Invest Glasgow Team from Glasgow City Council. City was the only College participating with Glasgow & Strathclyde Universities also present.
36. The College Riverside Innovation Centre project featured in Glasgow's pitchbook as an investment opportunity. The Leader of the Council, Susan Aitken and CEO, Susanne Miller led the Glasgow delegation. Initial discussions following this event participation expected to take place with Legal & General, who are actively pursuing investment opportunities in and around the City.

People & Processes

37. Engaging with ESS (UNITE suppliers) in a sector shared development for Support Funds software. Unique collaborative approach between 8 participating colleges.
38. Timetabling training workshops for CHs launched. Positive initial feedback. Timetabling on track for 2025-26.
39. The College won 3 awards at the Herald Higher Education Award ceremony – joint highest number on the night:
 - Inclusive Cross College Partnership (Enhancing Student Learning) - Hospitality & Leisure
 - Outstanding Business Engagement in colleges for CLIC - Innovation
 - Outstanding Contribution from a student Jorja Boyd - Education & Humanities
40. MCA Audit successfully completed in the Faculty of Nautical & STEM
41. 17 of 18 current SQA External Verification visits passed with High Confidence – 1 awaiting resubmission.
42. At time of this report, the newly appointed Depute Principal has been in post for some 11 weeks. He has received positive feedback from staff across all areas, and in both campuses his visibility and executive presence have been welcomed. He has attended all relevant committees and deputised for the Principal at Academic Board and All Managers. He has also agreed sign-off on Facility Time with the Branch convener; agreed two working groups to consider HR caseload and the Staff Survey. Both sides agreed ‘a reset of relationship’ which will be worked on herewith
43. Continued discussions with Unison HQ who highlighted their dispute with GMB on a perceived data breach of member email addresses. Internally investigating this with HR, DPO and IT.
44. Received numerous communications from GMB (2 members of staff have joined) with an ask for facility time and recognition. Politely declined and letter issued to GMB on 03 April 2025.
45. There are currently 4 lecturing colleagues and 1 support member of staff in the College’s employment whose roles have ceased or diminished and remain supernumerary. 3 colleagues are engaging with projects across the college, including provision of teaching cover on a short-term basis. HR continue to engage with Deans / Directors to ensure meaningful work is provided to those individuals and explore redeployment.
46. A further SSNC will be held in the forthcoming weeks with full-time Unison Representatives. Unison is continuing to hold events in the College to recruitment members and local stewards. The College is working with Unison national representatives to the support staffs LRPA.
47. The dispute with the EIS-FELA on facility time has been resolved and facilities are working on implementing the new facilities arrangements.

48. The reconvened LNC was held on Wednesday 14 May, which allowed us to conclude the agenda from the February meeting. A further LNC is arranged for Monday 16 June which will focus on the College's financial position.
49. The HR team continues to:
- support, develop and upskill managers to deal with absence management. Currently, the focus is on those that are on long term sick.
 - support absence review meetings, welfare meetings, capability meetings and dismissals on the grounds of ill health.
- The average absence rate in:
- March 2025– 4.7%
 - April 2025 – 4.7%
 - May 2025 – 4.5%
50. The total cost of sick pay for the period of March 2025 – May 2025 was £427,790 compared to March 2024 – May 2024 where the cost was £384,965.
51. Employee Relations Cases (active in the months of March, April and May)
- 0 Capability Cases
 - 28 Grievances
 - 11 Grievance Appeals
 - 10 Disciplinary Investigations
 - 6 Disciplinary
 - 1 Disciplinary Appeal
 - 0 Referrals to Disclosure Scotland for Consideration for Listing
52. 2 Early Conciliation requests from ACAS. The College has engaged solicitors accordingly, as the cases are currently the subject of an internal process.
53. The College has resolved 12 holiday pay claims. One remaining claim is pending confirmation that Unison has withdrawn its representation. Once confirmed, the College's legal team will proceed with an application to have the case dismissed by the Employment Tribunal. The next phase involves implementing holiday pay for support staff based on variable hours, including overtime and ad hoc additional hours.
54. ELT has approved the purchase of a new integrated HR System that will see the HR, Payroll, Recruitment and Learning systems merge on to one system. The project team has been formed and will now meet every 4 weeks to review progress.
55. Desired System Specification has been created by HR, IT, Legal Service and Procurement, and has been shared with Midland HR.
56. Employer Payment Submission (EPS) and HMRC payments has moved from Finance to Payroll from 1 April 2025. The EPS is part of the Real Time Information (RTI) reporting that is sent monthly to HMRC to inform them of any statutory payment reclaims, apprenticeship levy, national insurance contributions etc.

57. Year End now completed and P60's uploaded for all staff.
58. LGPS year-end reconciliation completed.
59. SPPA amended annual returns for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 completed and uploaded to the portal. SPPA Annual return for A/Y 2024/2025 still being finalised and will be uploaded within desired timescale.
60. Interim payroll audit carried out and completed
61. New Integrated HR & Payroll system demo attended with a follow up demo taking place for further detail full team input to provide feedback and consideration into system alignment with requirements.
62. Organisational Development – 4 March – 27 May 2025
 - 802 mandatory modules completed by staff.
 - 308 training sessions booked.
 - 56 total staff modifications to CV.
 - Cyber Security – 5% simulations failed from 4,108 sent, rated Green for risk by Boxphish.
 - 568 staff development requests received.
 - My Personal Development & Review (MyPDR) - now in the final stage of Review for line managers and participating staff.
 - 13 applications received for Enhanced Qualifications.
63. 11 managers attended 1-2-1 sessions with Robertson Cooper for more targeted advice and guidance. 8 OD and HR staff attended a Robertson Cooper Train the Trainer session to allow roll out of wellbeing training for managers.
64. Wellbeing Officer attended CPD and is now a certified Wellbeing Lead.
65. Wellbeing at One City – Edenred, Strathclyde Sport, NHS Inform and PAM Assist hosting information stalls.
66. Wellbeing activities including yoga, spin, badminton, walking and Zumba.
67. Benefits including SmarTech (5 registrations, total value £5,100), Cycle to Work (1 order, value £2839) and Cycle Solutions (3 orders, total value £3,998) – 9 transactions with total spend of £11,937 and average spend of £1,326.
68. Breastfeeding Friendly accreditation in progress.
69. Flu vaccination programme 2025 in planning stage.
70. Our EDI reports including Equality Outcomes Progress report 2021-2025, Equality Outcomes Framework 2025-2029, Mainstreaming report, and the Pay Gap report have now been published on the website. The new EDI&Me newsletter has now been published.
71. To support the Worker Protection Act 2024 amendment to the Equality Act 2010, further training on the prevention of sexual harassment has been arranged for all managers, HR and our Gender Based Violence (GBV) working group.
72. The GBV Working Group held its last meeting on 23 April 2025. Rape Crisis maintains to have a regular presence on campus to support students. We are

conducting an annual review of our Emily Test charter. A new Report & Support page has been created on MyConnect.

73. Mandatory ED&I module: 88% of staff have completed their mandatory module.
74. The Health and Safety Manager and Fire Safety Officer conducted a quarterly review of the College's emergency fire arrangements.
75. The Health and Safety Manager met with representatives from the College's insurance provider, UMAL, as part of a scheduled audit. A key outcome of the UMAL Insurance Audit was a notable improvement compared to the 2022 results.
 - In 2022, the College received nine ratings of General Compliance and one of Full Compliance.
 - In contrast, the 2025 audit shows significant progress, with four ratings of General Compliance and six of Full Compliance.
76. Health and Safety Team plans in place for over summer for review of Faculty audits. Will provide a comparison from previous year initial benchmarking audit. Schedule of inspections to take place during summer months.
77. Interactive Voice Response is now live on college external lines as part of the migration to teams – service level impacts will be reviewed weekly.
78. Townhead relationship continues to grow, with feedback from the community used to help steer targeted student communication.
79. The team will be supporting Greenock Oakers school's summer fete in partnership with our contract catering company Baxter Storey; this supports our strategic plan, living our values in our community
80. The team will be supporting Veterans Day 28th June at Riverside
81. 27 security incidents recorded
82. Paper prepared for ELT on proposed reduction to evening Student Access to teaching spaces on campus, improving capacity for security provision during low building occupancy.
83. Monthly contract reviews with out of hours security provider to ensure provision continues to match college and UMAL requirements
84. Prevent Awareness Webinar training booked for Front of House, throughout Summer provided by Police Scotland Counter Terrorism. Ongoing meetings with community police regarding campus safety advice.
85. New catering tender work has commenced with UIG (user intelligence group) with Facilities and Procurement Contract Strategy
86. Idverde have been awarded contract for needle sweeps, to be carried out fortnightly.
87. An audit has been built on the back of the feedback from the Henderson Loggie Audit to allow our cleaning team leaders to audit the work being carried out by the cleaning team. Each member of the cleaning team should be audited once

per month, and feedback will be given in the moment allowing us to drive a higher standard throughout the college.

88. Following Storm Eowyn a diver's survey is due to take place on the MSC jetty on 9th June to determine the extent of structural issues below the waterline. Discussions continue about damage to the fixed lifeboat davit, though a temporary repair has been undertaken to enable class delivery.
89. The Spirit of St Kentigern sculpture was also damaged by the storm and is off site. A report is awaited, though we have been verbally advised this can be reinstated after some strengthening work. It is hoped to have this completed by August 2025 and will be subject to an insurance claim.
90. The rooflight repairs over the Atrium at Riverside is complete and the College has signed this off as such. The contractual alterations for this change in design is contained in the Settlement Agreement which has been agreed between SRM, FES and the College. It was hoped that this would have been complete by now, but there have been some minor changes under consideration.
91. The College has instructed the Cyber Essential work to move the CCTV, BMS and door security system from our network to that of FES. The scope of work and timing of this work has still to be developed, but it is hoped to be complete during the summer recess under Scott Renton's leadership.
92. Simulators installation is complete.
93. Currently, the new teaching buildings are in joint ownership by GLQ, split 50% Equitix, 40% SRM and 10% FES. It is understood SRM wishes to sell its share with Equitix raising their share to 90%. Equitix is a global asset management company. This proposal has been under consideration for some time and has still to be concluded.
94. Lifecycle replacement works continue and there are significant works being undertaken including furniture replacement.
95. In the most recent round of recruitment, the College attracted 68 expressions of interest for our Board roles, with 34 applications received by the closing date. The selection panel has recommended 3 appointments. As the appointments would take effect after its dissolution, the GCRB is currently consulting the Scottish Government on how to proceed. Ronnie Quinn and Paul Hillard are stepping down as non-executive Board members on 31 July. Ciara McCarthy and Polly Vaker are also standing down as student Board members. This will be their final Board meeting.
96. The Audit & Assurance Committee has completed a self-evaluation, based on the model questionnaire provided in the Scottish Government's Audit & Assurance Committee Handbook, of the effectiveness of the Committee and the College's internal controls, financial reporting and internal/external audit arrangements. The Board's annual self-evaluation will also be completed by the end of June.
97. The Audit & Assurance Committee has also completed a review of the Assurance Framework and its assessment of the Sources of Assurance. Henderson Loggie supported us with a diagnostic tool, which will be used for the full Board next

year. This work is being demonstrated at the Governance Professional Steering Group by the Associate Director of Governance and Risk and Henderson Loggie to share best practice with the sector.

98. The College is undertaking work to ensure we comply with the new requirements of the Charities (Regulation & Administration) (Scotland) Act concerning the trustee register and automatic disqualification coming into force this summer. Our internal trustee schedule is now complete, and a self-declaration on the automatic disqualification criteria will be developed for Board members and senior staff.
99. We've received 38 FOISA requests this academic year so far – and our compliant response rate remains 100%. Volume is circa half that of the previous academic year.
100. An unannounced business continuity exercise, facilitated by Ashton Resilience and the Associate Director of Governance & Risk, was held in April to test our response to a simulated flooding and power outage incident. The exercise demonstrated a strong level of preparedness, with recommendations for continuous improvement already actioned.

Finance

101. 2025/26 Budget tabled at Finance Committee for recommendation to Board for final approval.
102. Q3 Forecast is predicting a small deficit (£68k) for year ended 2024/25, with a view to continue to work towards breaking even by end of July 2025.
103. College final allocation same from indicative allocation, small decrease for College once funding for pension and lecturers pay increases taken into account.
104. Meetings are taking place surrounding 2025/26 budgeted vacancies and whether there is scope to make savings in this area.
105. Finance Directors Network are meeting Friday where the Financial Forecast Return assumptions for the sector will be discussed.
106. CFO met with SFC to gain a better understanding of different basis of funding. SFC have provided data as basis of model which is being reviewed.
107. On track to deliver 100% of SFC Credit Allocation in 2024-25. Initial planning for 2025-26 shows credit target of 105% of Credit Allocation
108. Projections show we will spend 98% (approx. 250k) of allocated support funds, including IYR. Remaining 2% will be used to support emergencies and summer transition costs.
109. Improved Process for creating and maintaining SRP to increase reliability and engagement – improved collaboration with Deans and ADs for 2025-26.
110. Fee project making excellent progress, final testing to take place Aug-Dec 2025.
111. Bids have been received from five vendors for the installation and maintenance for the College's new Network. This is a 7-year project with a value of £3.5m.

Successful award and implementation of this project is expected in Summer 2025.

112. Following approval of the business case a Project Board has been established for the award and implementation of the College's new combined HR System (HR/Payroll/Recruitment/Development). Procurement is currently in the process of developing and negotiating the contract with Midland HR and Softcat. This contract has an estimated value of £800k with a planned implementation start date in August 2025.
113. Bids have been received from three suppliers. Technical and commercial evaluation is underway with supplier presentations scheduled for next week. The 4-year project which has an estimated value of £2.2m includes specialist spaces, informal spaces, hybrid, and non-interactive classrooms and has an estimated implementation start date in late summer 2025.
114. Our current contract with Baxter Storey expires in Jul 2026. Procurement and Facilities have begun work on the 2026 tender, with a focus on completing the Contract Strategy and establishing a cross-collaborative User Intelligence Group (UIG). The first UIG will be held in June. This 6-year contract will provide the successful bidder with an estimated income of £8.4m over the life of the contract.
115. All tenders for the 25/26 Capex have been added to our Future Contracting Plan with resource allocated. The planning stages on the larger projects are underway however no awards/purchasing will take place until 25/26.
116. The Procurement & Asset Management Operational Plan for 25/26 has now been finalised with the top three priorities being Student Added Value, Contract & Supply Chain Management and Sustainability.
117. Q3 24/25 spend was fully compliant, another quarter of 0% non-compliance. This will be reported to the Finance Committee on 4th June.
118. Audits on both Contract Management and Asset Management have just concluded. Both audit reports will be shared with the Audit Committee with action plans established to implement improvement recommendations.
119. Cyber Essentials (CE). CE Status Achieved, and we now have 3 months to complete the annual reaccreditation of CE+.
120. GLQ/FES Network: The GLQ/FES Network has undergone two design changes, transitioning from a 2-tier to a 3-tier topology solution. Additionally, a firewall is now required for AC2000 (door access system) data flow and remote access for FES for the Building Management System. We are currently awaiting a finalised Low-Level Design (LLD) to allow a more detailed project plan/timeline to be created. SR keeping AD and JG informed of progress on weekly basis.
121. College Network Tender: 5 replies were received, two based on an HP Aruba Solution and 3 based on Cisco Technology. The technical evaluation is complete, and we are now evaluating the commercial aspect with further meetings to discuss the options, including purchase and leasing. The commercial submissions have been complex, with some suppliers opting to only provide a buy price or lease price, or even only providing APR figures. This has led to a

requirement for a further set of meetings with each supplier to clarify their submission and the optional extras listed.

Strategic Positioning

122. The UK Government launched its White Paper on immigration, seeking to increase compliance and reduce student immigration, with the prospect of making the UK a less attractive place to study. Main proposed changes were:
- Tougher UKVI compliance requirements in respect of core compliance metrics for visa refusal, non-enrolment and course completion.
 - Graduate Route Visa – Length of visa reduced from 2 years to 1.5 years

I was pleased to be invited to a small, high-level roundtable with First Minister John Swinney to discuss the UK Government's proposed immigration white paper. I made clear that City strongly opposed the planned changes to Graduate Visas, particularly the reduction in post-study work time and a proposed 6% levy on international student income. Our successful lobbying against the levy saw it subsequently dropped for Scottish colleges and universities; and the episode illustrates the value of high-level lobbying, and maintaining contacts with Government and regulatory partners.

123. I was pleased to host the College's Maritime Security Conference, an event that attracted a wealth of senior shipping, defence, and foreign policy figures including the Acting First Sea Lord, and Lord Robertson, the former NATO Secretary General.
124. Overseas, I participated in a highly successful Tartan Week in New York City, in which we agreed two substantial new partnerships – with the Culinary Institute of New York at Monroe University, where I signed a Memorandum of Understanding further adding to the College's international credentials; and at the State University of New York, where our planned collaboration has a maritime focus.
125. Finally, I participated in a high-profile two-day conference convened by the Royal Society of Edinburgh to discuss tertiary funding in Scotland. Unsurprisingly, this drew a full audience of senior education figures, and highlighted the difficulties many institutions are facing.

Forward Look

126. Award entries being compiled for the College Development Network awards and the UK wide College Beacon Awards.