

Board of Management

Date of Meeting	Wednesday 11 December 2024
Paper No.	BoM2-H
Agenda Item	4.2
Subject of Paper	Chair's Report
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Dave Anderson Chair of the Board of Management
Date of production	29 November 2024
Action	For Discussion

1. Recommendations

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

2. Purpose

- 2.1.** To update the Board of Management on the Chair's activities since the last meeting of the Board.

3. Consultation

- 3.1.** In progressing the matters outlined in the Chair's report, colleagues in the College and across the sector have been engaged.

4. Key Insights

- 4.1.** The Chair is responsible for the leadership of the Board of Management as the College's governing body. The Chair works in partnership with the Board and the Principal to set the strategic direction of the College, monitor performance and ensure high-quality learning and outcomes are delivered for students. The Chair also has an ambassadorial role for the Board within the College, and also for the College with external stakeholders.

5. Impact and Implications

- 5.1.** The Chair's report ensures that Board members remain informed of the Chair's recent activities and other key developments and activities of interest to members.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Chair's Report

Chair's Report to the Board of Management: November 2024

1. The past two months have been busy, with a range of meetings and other commitments to undertake.
2. I attended a briefing session on options for the development of the Charles Oakley Building. The building itself is now incurring a rates liability of £200k per annum and it will be important to secure a sustainable long-term solution for the building part of which has grade 2 listed status.
3. It was a pleasure on 3rd October to be invited by the College to the Glasgow Business Awards dinner at the Doubletree Hilton organised by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce. The event provided an excellent opportunity to promote the work of the College and to make connections with people in the local business community.
4. I had a productive meeting with the recently appointed Chair of Forth Valley College in which we were able to discuss key issues impacting the college sector and consider how best to press for the resources and local flexibility to deal with challenges and unlock opportunities.
5. On 25th October, I was delighted to be asked to address a meeting of 'All Managers' at the College's City campus to introduce myself to them and share some initial thoughts on the importance of the College's work and how we might build upon the successes achieved by the College to date.
6. Later that afternoon the Principal kindly guided me on a comprehensive tour around the Riverside campus, including a practical demonstration of the capability of the immersive technologies and other equipment, as well as the maritime, STEM and engineering workshops. I also saw the student residences and was extremely impressed both by the standard of accommodation and the enthusiastic and welcoming staff I met there.
7. On 28th October, I attended a meeting of the Glasgow Colleges Regional Board (GCRB) at the Langside Campus of Kelvin College. We discussed the current review of GCRB and the proposed appointment of an interim manager two days per week to cover existing responsibilities pending the conclusion of the review. There was also discussion around the recent Audit Scotland report on the sector which highlights the financial fragility of some Institutions and flags concerns about long-term sustainability.
8. In addition, at that meeting, the GCRB considered a copy of a comprehensive OECD-produced report on the Glasgow City Region labour market which reveals some worrying statistics – not least a rate of economic inactivity of almost 25% among the age 16-64 age groups, and a productivity rate in Glasgow that is only 91% of the UK average. Another key statistic is that only 9% of the city region workforce is engaged in ongoing work-related learning at any point in time while in Greater Stockholm participation in adult learning is around four times higher.
9. It was a pleasure on 28th October to support the Principal in hosting Graeme Dey, the Scottish Government Minister for Further and Higher Education, on a tour of both the City and Riverside campuses. While there was a limited opportunity to engage with the Minister on points of policy and resources, I am confident that he will have gone away from the visit hugely impressed by the facilities, staff, students and local customer businesses that he met. The Minister's itinerary was planned and organised in meticulous detail and showcased the College at its best.

10. On 31st October I attended a meeting of the Board of CGI Ltd, the College's wholly owned delivery company. Roy Gardner, Vice Principal of Corporate Development & Innovation, presented a draft business plan for 2025/26 and beyond and there was an opportunity for Board members to ask questions about the underpinning assumptions behind the plan and the rationale for targeting specific markets and opportunities. Several points made by the committee were taken on board and a revised version of the business plan will be prepared and presented to the Board of Management with a request for seed funding to enable the company to recruit a new Business Development Manager and seek out opportunities complementary to the College's wider commercial operations. Later that afternoon I attended the Development Committee of the Board of Management.
11. I would like to thank those Board members who were able to attend our annual Strategic Planning Day at the Riverside campus on 8th November and, especially, Ewart and Manira for preparing stimulating presentations on skills planning and the findings of public health data in Scotland, its implications for the college sector and our plans. We also spent time reflecting on the risks facing the College, our performance measured through the lens of the Balanced Scorecard and had an insightful presentation from Kevin Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth at Glasgow City Council, about the huge opportunities arising from the City Growth Deal, the Glasgow Investment Zone and the 2026 Commonwealth Games.
12. On 10th November, I attended a Colleges Scotland session with college chairs and principals facilitated by Interim CEO Graeme Jackson to prepare a 10-year vision for the College sector in Scotland. The report, available [here](#), promotes the positive impact the sector has in Scotland's economic, social and environmental development and reinforces the key points already made by Colleges Scotland in its submission to the Scottish Government in advance of the Scottish Government's budget.
13. This session was followed by a meeting of the College Chairs Group which provided a good opportunity for me to meet with the Chairs of other colleges and share opinions and perspectives. The financial challenges facing the sector and the need to present a united front to the Scottish Government were the primary concerns expressed.
14. On 14th November, I attended a selection panel involving the Principal, our Senior Independent Member Paul Hillard, and Associate Director Procurement Deborah Fagan to receive presentations from three shortlisted recruitment agencies bidding to manage the contract for recruitment of a new Depute Principal & Chief Operating Officer as discussed at our October Board of Management meeting.
15. We unanimously agreed a preferred agency and subject to necessary procurement compliance checks will be able to announce details of the contract award by the time the Board meets on 11th December. The presentations were very helpful in providing insights into how the College can best manage the recruitment process to identify the strongest possible candidate for the key role managed so ably by Sheila Lodge before her recent retirement.
16. Finally, but certainly not least, I had the privilege of attending our three Winter Graduation ceremonies to celebrate the success of our students from the class of 2023-24. While we were honoured to have three exceptional guest speakers, Chloe Oswald – our Professional Cookery and Patisserie alumna – shared an inspiring story that resonated deeply with our graduates and their families. Chloe's journey, from her time at the College to achieving success in her field as the proud owner of a luxury chocolate brand, stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and perseverance. Her words reminded us of the lasting impact the College has on shaping futures and realising ambitions.