



**Falkirk Campus, 5pm – prior the Board meeting we have a meeting with the SIM (Senior Independent Member)  
4.30pm-4.50pm**

|   | <b>Publish on Web?</b> | <b>Type</b>                   | <b>Lead</b>                                       |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 <b>Apologies, Declaration of Interests and Changes to Members' Register of Interest</b>   | N/A                    | Discussion<br><i>(Verbal)</i> | Abhi Agarwal                                      |
| 2 Draft <b>Minutes</b> and Matters Arising of meeting of 26 February 2026   | Yes                    | <b>Approval</b>               | Abhi Agarwal                                      |
| 3 Review of <b>Action Tracker</b>   | Yes                    | Discussion                    | Lynn Craig  |
| 4 <b>Chairs</b> Update  | Yes                    | Discussion                    | Abhi Agarwal                                      |
| 5 <b>Principals</b> Executive Summary Report<br>(Paper 5 is withheld from publication on the Forth Valley College website under Section 36 Confidentiality of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.)  | No                     | Discussion                    | Kenny MacInnes                                    |
| 6 <b>Forth Valley Student Association</b> Report  | Yes                    | Discussion                    | FVSA  |
| <b>STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</b>  |                        |                               |   |
| 7 <b>Financial</b> Update inc Transformation Programme Update<br>- Update on the Political Landscape with Message Matters<br>(Paper 7 is withheld from publication on the Forth Valley College website under Section 36 Confidentiality of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.) | No                     | Discussion                    | Alison Stewart<br>(Andy Maciver and Alison Moore) |
| 8 <b>Forth Valley College Foundation Grant Application</b><br>(Paper 8 is withheld from publication on the Forth Valley College website under Section 36 Confidentiality of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.)  | No                     | <b>Approval</b>               | Alison Stewart                                    |
| <b>GOVERNANCE</b>   |                        |                               |   |
| 9 <b>Local Recognition Request - GMB</b><br>(Paper 9 is withheld from publication on the Forth Valley College website under Section 36 Confidentiality of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.)  | No                     | <b>Approval</b>               | Keir Greenaway<br>GMB<br>representative           |
| 10 <b>Outcome Framework and Monitoring (OFAM)</b><br>(Paper 10 is withheld from publication on the Forth Valley College website under Section 36 Confidentiality of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.)  | No                     | Discussion                    | Sarah Higgins-Rollo<br>/ Alison Stewart           |



**OPERATIONAL OVERSIGHT**

|   |  |     |                               |                       |
|---|--|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 11  | <b>Strategic Plan Monitoring Dashboard Demonstration</b>   | Yes | Discussion<br><i>(Verbal)</i> | Kenny MacInnes        |
| 12  | <b>Review of Risk</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identified in meeting</li><li>Risks which sit with Board</li></ul> | Yes | Discussion<br><i>(Verbal)</i> | All                   |
| 13  | <b>Summary of the Board sub-Committees:</b>  |     |                               |                       |
|   | - <b>Learning &amp; Student Experience Committee</b><br>(LSEC) on 19 March and 2 April 2026                                    | No  | Discussion                    | Lorna Dougall         |
|   | - <b>Finance, Resource and Infrastructure Committee</b><br>(FRAIC) on 26 March 2026  | No  | Discussion                    | Liam McCabe           |
| (Paper 13 is withheld from publication on the Forth Valley College website under Section 36 Confidentiality of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.) |  |     |                               |                       |
| 14  | <b>Any Other Competent Business</b>  | Yes | Discussion<br><i>(Verbal)</i> | All<br>Kenny MacInnes |
| 14.1  | <b>Graduation Speakers</b>   |     |                               |                       |

**FOR INFORMATION**

|    |                       |     |             |  |
|----|-----------------------|-----|-------------|--|
| 15 | 2026/2027 Board Dates | Yes | Information |  |
| 16 | Forward Agenda        | Yes | Information |  |

Date of next meeting: **18 June 2026, 4.30pm.**



| Meeting                                  | <b>Academic Year 2026/27</b><br>(All meetings start at 4.30pm unless stated otherwise)     |   |   |   |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Board of Management</b>               | Thursday/Friday<br>24/25 September<br>2026<br><b>Strategic Session</b><br>Venue <b>TBC</b> | Thursday<br>3 December 2026<br><b>Stirling</b> Campus<br>S1.20 (Morning<br>meeting and<br>xmas lunch) | Thursday<br>25 February 2027<br><b>Falkirk</b> Campus | Thursday<br>22 April 2027<br><b>Falkirk</b> Campus  | Thursday<br>17 June 2027<br><b>Falkirk</b> Campus  |
| <b>Remuneration</b>                      |  |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Audit</b>                             | Thursday<br>3 September<br>2026<br><b>Online</b>   | Thursday<br>19 November<br>2026<br><b>Stirling</b> Campus<br>5pm start                                |   |   | Thursday<br>13 May 2027<br><b>Online</b>           |
| <b>FRAIC</b>                             | Thursday<br>17 September<br>2026<br><b>Stirling</b> Campus                                 | Thursday<br>19 November<br>2026<br><b>Stirling</b> Campus   |   | Thursday<br>25 March 2027<br><b>Stirling</b> Campus | Thursday<br>10 June 2027<br><b>Stirling</b> Campus |
| <b>Learning &amp; Student Experience</b> |  | Thursday<br>12 November<br>2026<br><b>Falkirk</b> Campus  | Thursday<br>18 March 2027<br><b>Falkirk</b> Campus    |   | Thursday<br>3 June 2027<br><b>Falkirk</b> Campus   |
| <b>Nominations</b>                       | As required  |   |   |   |  |
| <b>Other Key Dates</b>                   |  | Graduation 9<br><b>October 2026</b><br>(Provisional Date)   |   |   |  |



**FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Standing Agenda Items:</b><br/><i>(to all meetings)</i></p> <p><b>BoM Regular Items:</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Apologies, Declaration of Interests</b> and Changes to Members' Register of Interests</li> <li>2. <b>Minutes</b> and Matters Arising <i>(for approval)</i></li> <li>3. Review of <b>Action Tracker</b></li> <li>4. <b>Chairs Update</b> – Abhi Agarwal</li> <li>5. <b>Principals Executive Summary Report</b> (Kenny McInnes)</li> <li>6. Forth Valley <b>Student Association Report</b> (FVSA President)</li> <li>7. <b>Alloa Campus Update</b> – (Kenny McInnes and Alison Stewart)</li> <li>8. <b>Review of Risk:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identified at meeting</li> <li>- Risks which sit with the Board</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |
|--|---|

| Adhoc Items to be considered:   | Date of Meeting  |                 |                         |                    |                     |                  |                 |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|   | 23 April<br>2026 | 18 June<br>2026 | 24/25 September<br>2026 | 3 December<br>2026 | 25 February<br>2027 | 22 April<br>2027 | 17 June<br>2027 |
| <b>Local Recognition – GMB representation</b> – <i>Note: b/f from the February 26 Board meeting - GMB Official to present (linked to action 1 on the Master Actions List)</i> | Yes              |                 |                         |                    |                     |                  |                 |
| <b>Strategic Plan Monitoring Dashboard</b> – <i>Kenny/Alison item</i>   | Yes              |                 |                         |                    |                     |                  |                 |
| <b>Student Collaboration with External Partners</b> <i>(video and presentation)</i>   |                  | Yes             |                         |                    |                     |                  |                 |
| <b>Transformation Programme Update</b>  | Yes              | Yes             | Yes                     | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes             |
| <b>Student Association Constitution</b> – <i>Alison/Lisa Baxter item</i>  |                  | Yes             |                         |                    |                     |                  |                 |
| <b>Project Updates – STC</b> – <i>Colin McMurray item</i>   |                  | Yes             | Yes                     | Yes                | Yes                 | Yes              | Yes             |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Standing Agenda Items:</b><br/><i>(to all meetings)</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Any Other Competent Business</b></li> </ol> |
|---|--|

Present: Dr Abhi Agarwal, (Chair),  
Mr Kenneth McInnes, (Principal),  
Mr Liam McCabe, (Chair of the Finance, Resource and Infrastructure Committee),  
Ms Lorna Dougall (Chair of the Learning and Student Experience Committee),  
Ms Rhona Geisler (Chair of the FVC Audit Committee),  
Mr Craig Arthur,  
Mr Chris Brodie,  
Mr Angus Gray,  
Ms Yvonne Harley,  
Mr Phil Harris,  
Ms Emma MacGregor,  
Ms Mary McLuskey,  
Ms Suzanne Reynolds,  
Ms Grace Hepburn (left for part of item 14),  
Ms Anne-Marie Harley,  
Mr Graham Leebody (left for part of item 14),  
Mr Martin Podhorsky,  
Ms Monika Smith.

In Attendance: Ms Alison Stewart,  
Ms Sarah Higgins-Rollo,  
Mr Colin McMurray,  
Ms Lynn Craig,  
Mr Andy Maciver (Message Matters, item 8),  
Mr Daniel Lockwood (Atkins Realis, item 8),  
Mr McCart (Atkins Realis, item 8),  
Ms Julie MacKenzie.

Apologies: Ms Hogarth.

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting and introduced:

- Ms MacKenzie, co-opted member of the Learning, Student Experience Committee, noting he had invited all the co-opted members to join the Board meetings on an ongoing basis as observers.
- Mr Archibald, from HLCA, who was observing the meeting as part of the external Board Effectiveness Review. and
- Ms Craig as the new Board Secretary, for the Forth Valley College (FVC) Board of Management.

### **1. Apologies, Declaration of Interests and Changes to Members Register of Interest**

The Chair noted apologies from Ms Hogarth. No new interests were declared.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting on 4 December 2026**

After due and careful consideration IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes from the meeting on 4 December were approved.

The members ratified the appointment of Ms Craig which had been approved via email in December 2025.

The Chair explained the FVC International Strategy had also been circulated and approved via email in December. The members ratified the offline approval.

### **3. Review of Action Tracker**

Verbal updates were provided with regards to the Action Tracker.

#### 4. Chair's Update

The Chair provided an overview of his recent activity, noting that much of his time had been focused on the ongoing financial challenges facing the College. Significant engagement had taken place with MSP, Keith Brown and others as part of this work.

The Chair also highlighted participation in a recent event co-chaired by Ben Macpherson, Minister for Further and Higher Education, and confirmed continued involvement with Colleges Scotland, now as part of the Chairs Group rather than as a Trustee. He noted this has allowed him to dedicate more time to College matters.

The Chair noted regular meetings with the Principal continue to take place, usually weekly, as well as weekly meetings with the Governance Team.

The Chair noted that activity was lighter over December and January and confirmed that the previously missing Chair's Update (from the last meeting) had been emailed to members and was included in the pack for information.

The Chair invited questions. A question was raised with regards to the issue of recording external briefings, noting that a recent Colleges Scotland session for Board members had not been recorded. The Board requested that, where possible, such sessions be recorded to allow Board members unable to attend to review the material. The Chair agreed to pass on this feedback, noting that recording is sometimes limited by the format of the session (e.g., high levels of participant discussion requiring consent). **(Action: The Chair to email Gavin Donaghue to provide feedback to Colleges Scotland requesting that future briefing sessions be recorded where possible for circulation to members unable to attend.)**

The Board commented that the adhoc Board session focussing on the Colleges financial position on 19 February, was very helpful and informative giving excellent background for the discussions planned for later in the meeting.

#### 5. Principal's Executive Summary Report

The Principal reported a particularly busy period of engagement involving himself and the senior team. Discussions continue with the Scottish Funding Council, Scottish Government, and local MSPs regarding the College's financial position and wider sector challenges.

The Principal highlighted:

- 2025–26 Enrolments are currently ahead of last year, representing a positive trend;
- January Starts reached target, which is historically challenging, and the current intake reflects strong performance;
- Skills Transition Centre (STC): Year 2 Q3 expenditure has been approved by the Falkirk Grangemouth Programme Board and the Scottish Government; and
- Capital investment is progressing well with high-quality equipment now being procured and installed.

With regards to Strategic Commercial Developments, the Principal explained the College has secured its largest ever intake of modern apprentices, a 15% increase on previous years. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on Tuesday with Babcock, Fife College, and Forth Valley College to support Babcock's global skills development ambitions. The Minister for Defence Training and Industry, Luke Pollard, and Babcock's Chief Operating Officer were present. The MOU is open-ended but aligns with Babcock's projected growth to 2030 and beyond. He explained growth in defence-related skills and potential investment streams present significant long-term opportunities for the College.

With regards to Babcock, the Principal confirmed Babcock was experiencing large increases in demand for skilled labour noting College campuses, including Alloa, will all play a role in delivering future training noting the constraint is funding rather than capacity. He noted the College's messaging will continue to emphasise that all campuses form part of the commercial growth strategy.

The Principal informed the Board that the Scottish Parliament had approved the 2026–27 budget, with the anticipated 10% uplift having limited material impact on the long-term financial challenges facing the College sector. Indicative allocations for 2026–27 will not be available until 26 March 2026.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Principal noted himself and the Chair attended a cross-party event on the Future of Colleges, where there was a shared recognition that the college sector has historically been disadvantaged in policy prioritisation. He noted that Colleges Scotland reported a positive meeting with the First Minister regarding future skills, poverty reduction and the role of Colleges. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Board encouraged continued alignment of the College with priority skills areas emerging from government.

The Chair thanked the Principal for his sustained effort and leadership during an exceptionally demanding period.

## **6. Forth Valley Student Association (FVSA) Report**

The Chair invited Ms Smith and Mr Podhorsky to present the Forth Valley Student Association Report which was included in the pack, noted and taken as read.

Ms Smith provided an update on recent FVSA activity. She confirmed that the Student Association Workshop has now been scheduled for 31 March, 2pm–5pm, with the College being one of the pioneering participating institutions.

Ms Smith informed the Board three class representative meetings were delivered across all campuses during Block 2, and FVSA has now successfully achieved its target of 231 Class Representatives. She also highlighted the success of the Welcome Fair events held on all three campuses, which aimed to ensure both new and returning students felt welcomed and included.

Mr Podhorsky reported on Executive Officer activity noting at the Welcome Fair, was well attended, with students engaging positively with cultural items and information supplied by Ms Smith.

Regular monthly meetings with the Principal continue to ensure ongoing alignment and communication with College leadership.

Mr Podhorsky noted planning is underway for the 2024 Student Awards, which will take place in Stirling this year to refresh the event. The FVSA is coordinating venue arrangements, catering, and guest invitations.

Mr Podhorsky reported continued discussions with Ms Tervit around broader cross-College collaboration noting the FVSA is exploring engagement with external charities, with a view to increasing visibility and support for students. Two charities were noted:

- HSR (Stirling) – Women’s Mental Health
- Breathing Space Scotland – Men’s Mental Health

The Chair encouraged further detail on the impact of mental health-related collaborations, be provided in the FVSA report to the Board going forward.

Board members commended Ms Smith and Mr Podhorsky for their professionalism, engagement activities and the strong feedback received from staff and partners. The Board asked for further information on the cultural information shared at Welcome Fair. **(Action: Mr Podhorsky to provide a summary of the cultural information and items shared at the Welcome Fair, including the countries represented and fun facts discussed with students.)**

### 7. Board Members' Responsibilities

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Mr Lockwood, Mr McCart and Mr Maciver joined the meeting.

### 8. Atkins Realis Options Appraisal Paper

The Chair welcomed Mr Lockwood (Atkins Realis) and Mr McCart (Ekos), who attended in person to present the Options Appraisal report commissioned by the College. Mr Maciver from Message Matters joined the discussion via Teams.

Mr Lockwood outlined the remit of the Atkins Realis work, noting the College had asked the team undertake a more detailed analysis of the options for the Alloa Campus identified during the initial phase of work completed in late 2024. The study considered curriculum delivery requirements, space utilisation across all three campuses, and the modifications that would be required under each potential scenario.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- | [REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]
- | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mr Lockwood, Mr McCart and Mr Maciver left the meeting.

**9. Appointment of Mr Craig Clinton as Co-opted Member of the Audit Committee**

The Chair thanked Mr Harris for introducing Mr Clinton as a prospective co-opted member of the Audit Committee. Mr Clinton met with Ms Stewart (Vice Principal and Chief Operating Officer), Mr McCabe (Chair of the Finance, Resource & Infrastructure Committee) and the Chair of the Board of Management, and demonstrated strong enthusiasm and relevant professional experience, particularly in accountancy, which will support the Committee's skills requirements.

It was noted that Mr Clinton's appointment will also alleviate the additional workload currently carried by Mr McCabe.

Mr Clinton will participate as a co-opted committee member, with the understanding that the College will continue to run an open recruitment campaign for a full Board Member with financial expertise, for which Mr Clinton may apply in the normal competitive process.

After due and careful consideration IT WAS RESOLVED that the appointment of Mr Craig Clinton as a co-opted member of the Forth Valley College Audit Committee be approved.

[REDACTED]

## 10. Financial Regulations

The updated Financial Regulations were taken as read and presented for approval. Although authority previously sat with the FRAIC, the Chair requested that the full Board approve the revised version. It was highlighted the changes are minor and were highlighted in the paper.

After due and careful consideration IT WAS RESOLVED that the Revised Financial Regulations be approved.

## 11. Adoption of the Code of Good Governance for Scotland's Colleges

The Board noted the updated Code of Good Governance update which was included in the pack, noted and taken as read.

After due and careful consideration IT WAS RESOLVED that the updated Code of Good Governance be approved.

## 12. Modern Slavery Statement

The Chair invited Ms Stewart to present the Modern Slavery Statement which was included in the pack, noted and taken as read.

Ms Stewart introduced the updated Modern Slavery Statement noting although statutory requirements apply only above certain turnover thresholds, many Colleges, including FVC produce a statement voluntarily in line with good practice and procurement expectations. She explained the statement outlines:

- Current policy commitments;
- Supplier due-diligence processes;
- Sector-standard reporting structure; and
- Future actions to strengthen compliance.

The Board enquired on the reporting obligations. Ms Stewart explained there are no standalone statutory reporting requirement unless requested through contract conditions, however, monitoring will continue through procurement reporting channels.

After due and careful consideration IT WAS RESOLVED that the Modern Slavery Statement be approved.

## 13. Review of Risks

The Board reviewed the strategic risks in light of earlier discussions noting the following key points:

- Political Landscape: Continued uncertainty and political messaging around funding and campus decisions must be carefully monitored through coordinated communications.
- Financial assumptions risk: If current assumptions (particularly funding allocations) do not materialise as expected, risks to long-term sustainability remain significant.
- Mitigation: Ongoing and proactive engagement with Scottish Funding Council, including pursuit of agreed support measures.

The Chair requested the risks noted and updates given be incorporated into the risk register accordingly.

The Chair introduced the next agenda item 14 and asked that Ms Hepburn and Mr Leebody left the meeting.

## 14. Local Recognition Request – GMB

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

**15. Any Other Business**

The Chair noted the date of the next meeting was 23 April 2026 in Falkirk.

As there was no further business to be discussed, the Chair closed the meeting.

.....  
Chair

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**MASTER ACTIONS LIST**

| Action # | FRAIC | Date of meeting  | Action from meeting   | Action Owner                      | Status of Action     | Update on Action  | Target Completion Date |
|----------|-------|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| B/24/075 | Board | 19 June 2025     | Charts to be added to strategic plan monitoring to allow trends to be seen  | Kenny MacInnes                    | Outstanding          | April 26 - work in progress   |                        |
| B/24/075 | Board | 19 June 2025     | Can the Board get access to the dashboard?  | Kenny MacInnes/<br>Alison Stewart | Outstanding          | April 26 - Work is ongoing on automating the Dashboard wherein live access will be discussed once this work is complete.  |                        |
| B/24/78  | Board | 19 June 2025     | SFC to be notified of the boards decisions regarding Alloa when made  | Kenny MacInnes/<br>Alison Stewart | Outstanding          | <b>Propose to close</b> - Kenny/Alison are in regular dialogue with the SFC. Any decisions made by the Board will be communicated to the SFC as soon as possible. |                        |
| B/25/005 | Board | 14 August 2025   | Board short life working group to be established to support the transformation project work   | Alison Stewart                    | Outstanding          | Will be covered as part of approval of the overall College transformation project   |                        |
| 3        | Board | 26 February 2026 | Mr Podhorsky to provide a summary of the cultural information and items shared at the Welcome Fair, including the countries represented and fun facts discussed with students.  | Martin Podhorsky                  | Not Yet Due          | The Board will be provided with "Student Showcase" at the June Board, which will include the collateral that was used at the Welcome Fair.                        | 18 June 2026           |
| B/25/013 | Board | 12 April 2025    | Ms Stewart to prepare an update highlighting the financial position of other colleges   | Alison Stewart                    | Not Yet Due          | Work in progress. The financial position of other colleges will not be available until end April.   | end June 2026          |
| B/25/027 | Board | 04 December 2025 | Members requested that the use of acronyms be considered for future reports   | Lynn Craig                        | Not Yet Due          | Ms Craig will prepare a glossary and present back to a future meeting of the Board.   | end year               |
| B/24/042 | Board | 20 February 2025 | Student constitution to come to April meeting   | Sarah Higgins                     | Not Yet Due          | The Student Association Constitution is being updated and will be presented to the June Board.  | 18 June 2026           |
| 1        | Board | 26 February 2026 | Ms Hepburn to inform the GMB Office that the Forth Valley College Board requested that the GMB present a robust business case on "Local Recognition - GMB" and re-presented this to the April meeting of the Board, if still required, noting this should be presented by an independent GMB Officer and clearly outline:<br>othe purpose and rationale for local recognition,<br>overified membership data,<br>othe impact of being recognised vs. not recognised, and<br>oclarity on what GMB seeks to achieve that current arrangements do not provide.) | Grace Hepburn                     | Completed at meeting | An updated paper has been drafted and is being presented to the Board on 23 April 2026.   |                        |
| 4        | Board | 26 February 2026 | Principal to prepare a brief, measured written response to MSP correspondence, acknowledging the letter, reaffirming the Board's understanding of its responsibilities, and noting the  | Kenny MacInnes                    | Completed            | Completed - Kenny sent an email (27 February) to all parties post the Board meeting.  |                        |
| 2        | Board | 26 February 2026 | The Chair to provide feedback to Colleges Scotland requesting that future briefing sessions be recorded where possible for circulation to members unable to attend.   | Abhi Agarwal                      | Completed            | Ms Craig emailed College Scotland with the request.   |                        |
| 5        | Board | 26 February 2026 | Ms Craig to circulate a full version of Mr Clinton's CV to the Board for information.   | Lynn Craig                        | Completed            | Completed - Mr Clinton's full CV was circulated to the Board by email on 27 February 2026.  |                        |



## 5. Chairs Board Update For Discussion

23 April 2026

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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### Purpose

**For Discussion – this is an update from the Chair highlighting any key items and areas of focus.**

### Chair's Introduction and Update

Welcome to our April Board. Since our meeting in February I have been involved in a number of meetings/discussions. I attended the:

- **College Scotland AGM:** In addition to the standard business of the Annual General Meeting, several key amendments were proposed to Colleges Scotland board structure and rules. These updates are intended to strengthen the governance framework and ensure clear accountability. Furthermore, a new subscription model for college members was proposed, which may result in a revised fee structure for the **2026-27** period, with payments due by **1 August 2026**. Following members' request for further justification, a revised business case and the formal amendments have been distributed via email. These changes require a simple majority vote from the membership before being submitted to the Colleges Scotland Board for a final decision. I will report the outcome once finalized.
- **College Scotland Manifesto** Launch and Cross-Party Political Hustings. The key focus was on branding colleges as 'skills engines' and 'community anchors. The strategy calls for sustainable, long-term investment to tackle skills shortages and poverty while supporting the net-zero transition through regional economic development. The launch served as a critical forum for Scotland's largest political parties to debate the future of the college sector. The central takeaway was a rare cross-party consensus that the college sector is currently under-resourced and must be protected and supported as a national priority. [The College Sector of the Future](#) workstream was also announced, and it is now launched. It is aimed at shaping colleges for the next generation and ensure they are a first choice for future learners.
- College Chairs Group Meeting at which I received an update on a meeting between representatives from Colleges Scotland, the First Minister, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, and the Minister for Higher and Further Education. Discussions focused on the current budget and the strategic transformation of the sector over the longer term. The Scottish Government outlined three core priorities for the transformation of the college sector: Addressing economic needs specifically through the lens of regionalisation; Directly addressing anti-poverty needs; and, Ensuring the learner journey remains central to all strategic developments. In addition, I have been invited by the Chairs' group to share the lessons learnt in relation to our recent estate challenges and turnaround, as part of sharing best practice among the Board Chairs.

Kenny and I also met with Edinburgh College to discuss opportunities for collaboration across the two Colleges. It was a very productive meeting, and I am sure there will be a lot more on this in the future.

On to the Board, I would like to welcome Craig Clinton, to his first FVC Board. Craig is our new co-opted member of the Audit Committee. His appointment was approved at the 26 February Board meeting and he commenced his induction this afternoon with introductions to the SMT and the Chairs of our sub-Committees.

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## 5. Chairs Board Update For Discussion

23 April 2026

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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We have a full and informative agenda today and appreciate Management's updates on the topics at hand. We also have a number of **approvals** which needs our attention.

- **Forth Valley College Foundation Grant Application**, (item 8);
- **Local Recognition Request GMB**, noting Keir Greenaway from the GMB is joining us to present the request, (item 9).

Note: as an appendix to my update I have included a list of meetings/sessions I have attended post the February meeting for your information. If you have any questions on any of these please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Resource Implications (Financial, People, Estates and Communications) - None**

**Equalities: Assessment in Place?** – Not applicable

**Communities and Partners** - n/a

### **Risk and Impact**

There are no risks associated with this update. Any risks with regards to the individual papers mentioned in this update will have assessed separately and highlighted on the individual update.

**Resource Implications (Financial, People, Estates and Communications) - None.**

**Equalities** - This is a summary report so there are no equalities implications

**Communities and Partners** - None

**Paper Author** – Dr Abhishek Agarwal, Chair

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# Chair's Update



## Stakeholder Engagement (External)

- 23 February – Colleges Scotland Strategy Launch and Political Debate
- 3 March – College Chairs Group Meeting
- 23 March – Meeting with Nora Senior, Edinburgh College Board Chair
- 26 March – Colleges Scotland Annual General Meeting

## Board Member Engagement

- 15 April – Julie McKenzie and Suzanne Reynolds met with Alison Stewart (VP/COO FVC) and the FVC HR Director to discuss Leadership and Culture within the College.
- All Board members participated in 121's with David Archibald with regards to the Board Effectiveness Review.

## Governance & Stakeholder Engagement (Internal)

- 26 February – Board of Management Meeting, Alloa
- 5 March – Principals Staff Briefing
- 17 March – Met with Sarah Higgins-Rollo, VP LSE
- 9 March – FVC Board Effectiveness Review Meeting
- 26 March – Finance Resource and Infrastructure Committee Meeting
- 9 April – Board Committee Chairs Meeting
- Attending regular weekly meetings with Principal and Governance Team



**1. Purpose**

To seek discussion from members on the recent activities of Forth Valley Student Association ('FVSA').

**2. Recommendation**

That members note the contents of this report.

**3. Background**

Members are asked to note the ongoing work and activities of FVSA.

**4. Key Considerations**

Since the last report to the Board of Management, FVSA has conducted several activities.

Staff update

Core funding from July 2026 for the Student President, Vice President, Administrator, and Student Engagement Co-ordinator posts has been confirmed.

Constitution Review

Stephen Jarvie, Corporate Governance & Planning Officer alongside Lisa Baxter, SAUPM, continue to work on drafting a new Constitution. Lisa has consulted with staff at sparqs and their forum for staff working across students' unions, NUS Scotland, the NUS CEO and Senior Managers Network. We will submit an updated draft to LMT and the Board of Management before the summer.

OFAM

Martin and Monika, together with Rob McDermott and Sarah Higgins, met with staff from the Scottish Funding Council as part of the Outcomes Framework and Assurance Model (OFAM) activity to discuss the involvement of FVSA's Student President and Vice President in the creation of this year's SEAP along with other student engagement activities.

The conversation covered many aspects of the activities that the SA has been involved in as well as the role that Martin and Monika play as part of the Board of Management.

Scotland's Tertiary Enhancement Programme (STEP) - Project

As FVSA's Vice President, Monika is the College's lead student representative for the STEP Project, "Strategies to Support Student Engagement and Partnership Within an Increasingly Time-Poor and Cash-Poor Student Population".

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The programme runs on a four year cycle—Discovery, Implementation, and Reflection—and is jointly managed by QAA and CDN to deliver sector-wide enhancements aligned with the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework (TQEF).

We are currently in the Implementation Phase, which includes hosting an interactive self evaluative workshop.

Staff from sparqs lead the project, with Forth Valley College one of the 8 institutions involved in the project team.

Alongside staff from sparqs, we delivered a workshop at Falkirk campus on 31 March. This involved 6 students and 5 members of staff. The aim of the workshop was to:

Gather staff and student opinions on the barriers created by time and financial constraints

Conduct self-evaluation and action planning exercises

Create recommendations for the wider Scottish FE/HE sector

sparqs staff will evaluate the responses from the workshop and shall follow-up in due course.

#### Student Partnership Agreement ('SPA')

With our Student President is now in post, the Student Partnership Agreement document for was updated 2025/26, and the working group has been fulfilling the objectives of the Action Plan.

#### Student Mental Health Agreement ('SMHA')

The working group has been working towards the objectives of the Action Plan, following the first meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The Self-Evaluation for *Think Positive!* shall take place before the end of May.

Our student representatives have been involved in the delivery of projects and events, in collaboration with College teams including the LRC.

#### Monthly Meetings with the Principal

FVSA staff continue to update the Principal on our activities, and continue to provide a summary of any student complaints, and an overview of student engagement data

Student Community Teams group:

- Current membership: 2429
  - In the 30 days previous to 9th April 2026 we have had 997 active users
  - Engagement over last 30 days: 45 posts, 30 replies, 162 reactions
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### January start students – Class Reps and Class Visits

FVSA's engagement with January start students has been limited, despite promotions, however this will reflect the small number of courses. The team has carried out 4 class visits – plus 2 informal engagements - and 4 January start Class Reps have been recruited from across 16 January start courses.

For context, there are 230 Class Reps are currently registered, a 10% increase from last year's total.

We are hoping to continue with this increase across the college with a target of 5% for next year

As part of this there will be a concentrated effort on boosting engagement for those starting courses January 2027 as well as engaging with other groups where representation is low such as apprentices.

The team delivered 'Connect with Us' tables until the Easter break to raise awareness of the Association. We will continue to deliver Connect with Us until mid-May.

### Comments Box

Martin has introduced Comments Boxes across all three campuses. Students can submit their comments on paper. Martin checks the boxes every week and records information on a spreadsheet. He responds to all comments and will post a summary to students via the Student Community Teams group.

### Welcome Fairs – Block 2

The team delivered a successful run of Block 2 Welcome Fairs at the start of February, supported by staff within the Quality & Teaching Enhancement team, as well as the wider College staff network. Exhibitors included internal college services, third sector organisations, and entertainment. All students were encouraged to attend, and 48 students submitted responses to our Big Survey. 10 out of 28 exhibitors submitted feedback forms on their experience of the Welcome Fairs. Exhibitor satisfaction was 7.89 out of 10 and was affected by where they were situated on the floorplan. We will take this into consideration for our floorplan for the next event. Student satisfaction rate was 8.27 out of 10. The top 3 favourite stalls for students were: FVSA's stall (including the smoothie bike), Escape Rooms, and the Active Travel stall, with many students commenting that they benefitted from every stall.

### Executive Officers

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Following the promotion of the by-elections, we received no interest in any of the vacant posts. We continue with 1 active Executive Officer. The challenges we have experienced in recruiting and retaining students in these positions has prompted ideas for improvement, and these will be reflected in the updated Constitution and Schedules.

Sabbatical Officer Elections

We will soon be recruiting our Student President and Vice President for session 2026/27.

Key dates are as follows:

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Nominations OPEN</b>            | Tuesday 20 April @ 9am  |
| <b>Nominations CLOSE:</b>          | Friday 1 May @ 4pm  |
| <b>Candidate Briefing Sessions</b> | Wednesday 6 May<br>Thursday 7 May<br>Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May |
| <b>Campaign Begins/Voting Open</b> | Monday 18 May @ 9am   |
| <b>Campaign Ends/Voting Closes</b> | Friday 29 May @ 4pm   |
| <b>Results announced</b>           | Friday 5 June @12:00  |

Student Awards 2026

Each year FVSA organises the FVSA Student Awards to celebrate students' – and staff - achievements and give them recognition for "going that extra mile." FVSA aims to build on its corporate award sponsors from the 2025 event, and further increase the nominations submitted for the student categories.

FVSA Student Awards 2026 is planned for Thursday 21st May 2026, Stirling campus. We received 193 nominations in total. Our efforts to encourage staff to nominate students resulted in 120 nominations from staff members, and 73 nominations from students. Judges' panels will meet on Thursday 16 April to determine the winners of each category.

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We are grateful to have secured the support of 6 sponsors: Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce, OCS, Mediascape Ltd, Prestige Network Limited, McLaughlin & Harvey, and Proudly Served by Starbucks. We look forward to welcoming their representatives at the event.

International Women's Day

We were overwhelmed by the number of students who took part in our International Women's Day project. The project was a collaboration between the Student Association and the LRC. We facilitated a session in which students wrote about and shared stories of women who inspired them. The students' work was displayed across all three campuses to help inspire others.

Monika: "I was inspired and touched by the response from the students who shared their stories and feelings about the strong female figures in their lives."

**5. Resource Implications (Financial, People, Estates and Communications)**

None

**6. Equalities**

Staff and students are impacted by the delivery of FVSA activities; however, there are no special considerations in relation to any objectives.

**7. Communities and Partners**

NUS, sparqs and the FVC student community are key stakeholders who influence and benefit from FVSA's activities

**8. Risk and Impact**

Please complete the risk table below. Risk is scored against Likelihood x Impact, with each category scored from Very Low through to Very High. Risks should be robustly scored and, if the combined score (Likelihood x Impact) is higher than the Board Risk appetite for the risk category identified, additional justification must be provided on why this risk is necessary.

If the paper is an approval, please reflect on whether the approval will have any direct or indirect impact for any other areas of operational activity internally or externally within the College – No

|               | Likelihood | Impact |
|---------------|------------|--------|
| Very High (5) |            |        |
| High (4)      |            |        |
| Medium (3)    |            | X      |
| Low (2)       | X          |        |
| Very Low (1)  |            |        |



**Total Risk Score – 6**

The College has a Strategic Risk appetite for categories of risk as defined by the Board of Management. Decisions being taken at LMT/SMT/Board level must have cognisance of this. Please indicate the single most relevant risk category in the table below.

| <b>BoM Risk Categories &amp; Risk Appetite (Select one area only)</b> |  |                           |                     |
|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Cautious &lt;15</b>  |  | <b>Open 15&gt; &lt;20</b> | <b>Eager &gt;20</b> |
| Governance  |  | Strategy                  | People x            |
| Legal   |  | Financial                 | Project/Programme   |
| Property  |  | Reputational              |                     |
|   |  | Technology                |                     |

FVSA co-leads with FVC teams on the delivery of the Student Partnership Agreement and the Student Mental Health Agreement. FVSA also delivers key events such as Welcome Fairs and delivers processes to ensure students can participate in student voice projects and activities.

**Is the score above the Board Risk Appetite level? No**

**Risk Owner – Sarah Higgins**

**Action Owner – Lisa Baxter**

**Paper Author – Martin Podhorsky/ Monika Smith**

**SMT Owner – Sarah Higgins**

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