FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	22 April 2026
Paper Title:	Glasgow Clyde Education Foundation Legacy Commitments
Action:	Decision
Prepared by:	Jon Vincent, Principal & Chief Executive
Agenda Item:	N/A
Status:	Disclosable

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Finance & Resources Committee on the current position regarding the Glasgow Clyde Education Foundation (GCEF) legacy projects, with particular focus on the funding commitments for both the Learning Spaces and Financial Sustainability projects. The report seeks Committee decisions on how the College should proceed with the Langside Learning Space project, the remaining GCEF Financial Sustainability balance, and the College's improving financial outlook.

2 ACTION FOR THE BOARD

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the current position relating to the GCEF Learning Spaces and Financial Sustainability funds;
- agree a recommended approach for progressing the Langside project, recognising the limitations on delivering learning spaces at other campuses within the remaining GCEF budget; and
- consider the reallocation of all or some the current Financial Sustainability monies back to the Learning Spaces project (see section 5).

3 BRIEF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Five tender submissions have been received for the Langside Learning Space project, with costs circa £720k. Through value engineering, there is an aspiration to reduce costs to circa £700k without undermining design integrity. Tender decisions are required imminently.

3.2 The remaining GCEF allocation for Learning Spaces is currently £953k. Following delivery of the Langside project, the remaining balance of approximately £250k would be insufficient to deliver a project at either Anniesland or Cardonald.

3.3 The Learning Spaces project was originally proposed by the Board in autumn 2021. In March 2022 GCEF trustees approved up to £2.3m to create a learning space at each campus. In November 2023, £1.6m was reallocated to financial sustainability, conditional on the College maintaining its commitment to delivering the learning spaces project over the following years.

3.4 In summer 2024, GCEF commenced discussions with the Chair and Principal regarding its dissolution. These discussions were reported to both the Finance & Resources Committee and the Board of Management in June 2024. Board minutes recorded *'The Board discussed GCEF and the potential handover of the remaining fund to the College. It was agreed that this money must be used, in the terms granted by GCEF, to make improvements, and not as a means of subsidising revenue.'*

3.5 At the dissolution of GCEF in December 2024 its balances (£253k) transferred to the College and were recorded as deferred income. At the request of GCEF trustees the balance was allocated to the Learning Spaces project. Two projects remain live: Learning Spaces (£700k + £253k) and Financial Sustainability (£1.2m).

3.6 Indicative SFC allocations published on 25 March 2026 include an additional £3.8m of revenue for the College in Academic Year 2026/27. Forecasts for Academic Year 2025/26 indicate performance significantly ahead of budget. This improved financial outlook creates an opportunity for the College to reconsider how to invest the remaining funds of GCEF to create a legacy which is aligned with its charitable objectives.

4 RISKS

4.1 The following risks are worthy of note:

- Delayed decision-making on the Langside learning space project may necessitate re-procurement, causing further delay, cost escalation and/or reduced design integrity.
- Due to increasing costs of refurbishment works the current Learning Spaces project budget is insufficient to fund more than one campus.
- Auditors may challenge the justification for retaining £1.2m of Financial Sustainability funds as deferred income given the College's improved financial outlook and the College may be directed to release the funds.
- Release of deferred income without clear alignment to a GCEF project commitment could result in a significant surplus position with subsequent challenge from the Scottish Funding Council and reputational risk for the College.

5 PROPOSAL

5.1 The College proposes the following approach to the use of the remaining funds of GCEF to ensure that the Learning Spaces project is delivered in accordance with the agree objectives and commitments previously given to GCEF trustees at the time of dissolution.

5.2 The Finance & Resource Committee acting with the delegated authority of the Board of Management agree to reallocate all or some the Financial Sustainability project budget to the Learning Spaces project. In so doing, this will allow the Langside project to progress and provide adequate resource to progress a significant project at Cardonald in Academic Year 2026/27. The case for a learning space at Anniesland is yet to be fully considered.

5.3 The original GCEF budget for Learning Spaces awarded in March 2022 was £2.3m. If this proposal is approved, it would provide a revised budget for the project of up to £2.2m. It is worthy of note that the College has previously funded the feasibility and planning activity for Learning Spaces from its own resources (circa £27k).

6 ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT IMPACT eg STUDENT EXPERIENCE/LEGAL/FINANCIAL/EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

6.1 *Student Experience*
Delivery of the Langside Learning Space would represent a significant enhancement to the College environment and part fulfilment of the commitment to the terms of the GCEF project.

6.2 *Financial*
The current funding position materially reduces the likelihood that Financial Sustainability monies will be required in Academic Year 2025/26 or Academic Year 2026/27, strengthening the case for refocusing GCEF legacy resources on the Learning Spaces project rather than revenue support (which would be counter to the wishes of GCEF trustees).

6.3 *Governance & Compliance*
The College must continue to demonstrate that GCEF legacy funds are used strictly in accordance with agreed conditions to maintain confidence among auditors, funding bodies and other stakeholders. The Financial Sustainability monies were originally reallocated, with the approval of GCEF trustees, from the Learning Spaces project.