**University of Glasgow
Sustainability Working Group**

**Minute of 6 December 2023**

Present: Jaime Toney (Chair) (JT), Anna Brown (GUEST) Chrissy Sanachan (CS), Gioia Falcone (GF); Josephine Gallagher (JG), Laila Elaasar (GUEST) Peter Craig (PC), Peter Haggarty (PH), Roddy Yarr (RY); Stewart Miller (SM), Mariama Bah (SRC), Matthew Gilmour, Molly Davison, Ross Barker, Anna (GUEST), Laila (GUEST)

Apologies: David Duncan, Fabrice Renaud, Alasdair Thomson, Minty Donald, Barry Morton, Hailie Pentelton-Owen, Charlotte Michel (SRC)

Attending: Inge Sorensen & Gordon MacLeod for Minty Donald, Natalie Welden for Fabrice Renaud, Mariama Bah for Hailie Pentelton-Owen, Rhona Little (Clerk)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

2 **Previous Minutes and Actions**

Minute approved subject to change in section 9 ‘Divestment Update’. Change wording from “divest from the energy sector” to read “divest from the fossil fuel industry”.

 GF asked if there was any update regarding the completion of divestment from fossil fuels and whether an announcement should be considered to inform both staff and students about this development. GF raised the point about the need for clarity on differentiating between divestment from the fossil fuel sector and continued collaboration with energy companies involved in both oil and gas and alternative energies. There are issues relating to freedom of information and public inquiries regarding engagement with corporates funding renewable energy projects, even if they operate in both fossil fuel and alternative energy sectors. GF suggested addressing this issue to avoid potential public queries and concerns.

 CS raised the question of adopting a policy of maximum transparency and emphasised the importance of being clear and transparent about all collaborations. There was a consideration of whether there is an existing policy dictating transparency expectations for companies providing funding, recognising potential commercial constraints. The suggestion was raised that there might be a need for a policy stating that the University will only accept funding if it can be publicly disclosed.

 GF emphasised her personal choice and does not collaborate with energy companies that operate in oil and gas and her personal research contribution is only on new alternative energies and sustainable solutions. The group was not aware of any specific guidance to academic staff from the University or the Russell Group regarding similar research principles.

 **Action**: JT to speak to DD about University policy/statement

 A recent survey conducted by Open Democracy, which included a large number of universities in which UofG was specifically mentioned for responding with a "no comment" regarding divestment from fossil fuels. The reason given was that disclosing funding sources goes against institutional policies and this response was noted to potentially reflect negatively on the University. The survey highlighted that other institutions were cited as still being involved in fossil fuels.

 It was recognised that the issue of the University's relationship with fossil fuel companies is complex but it was agreed that the message from students is they do not want fossil fuel companies on campus. It was suggested that the SWG sets up a short-term working group [led by GF] to define the relationship with companies that fall into the more complex category.

 **Action**: JT to raise with DD

 It was noted that several comms issues were still ongoing - e.g. bulletins about SWG activity, divestment, Cochno tree planting, app-based cycle storage/racks, SUDS etc and have not yet been cascaded down to staff.

 **Action:** RB to discuss with Nick Wade, Internal Comms Manager

 Draft Carbon Management Plan

 RY acknowledged that this is a work in progress and is reluctant to provide a definitive projection or message due to the complexity of the situation and incomplete information. The current approach involves working with a straight-line projection but the challenge is making accurate projections without being fully informed. The feasibility studies for which funding has been secured play a significant role in shaping projections. Factors like fluidity in business travel post-COVID add uncertainty and while assumptions can be made based on trends they are subject to change. RY emphasised the importance of bringing a well-informed projection to discussions possibly starting with a draft containing assumptions and caveats. Managing expectations and refining the projection as more information becomes available is seen as a work in progress.

3. **Thermal Comfort Policy**

 The objective of this policy is to establish guidelines and principles that ensure optimal comfort for our colleagues and students in work areas and teaching spaces, including office areas across the University of Glasgow estate, while minimising the energy required to condition each space. RY emphasised the importance of seeking input from the group to formalise the policy but acknowledged the challenges in creating a one-size-fits-all policy due to the diverse estate with varying heating systems, fabric types, and space uses. The policy is presented as a starting point for conversation and collaboration, focusing on user comfort and experience, especially during periods when buildings are not in use. The intention is to set guidelines for energy use considering factors like temperature adjustments during holidays and evenings to optimise space utilisation. This is the first in a series of documents to be shared with the group with upcoming topics including metering and monitoring of spaces. Feedback on the draft policy is welcomed, including suggestions on language and a recognition of the imperfections inherent in adapting to different building conditions and systems.

 If individuals feel that their working conditions do not align with the policy there is an expectation for them to contact the helpdesk. The question then focuses on how these helpdesk requests are communicated to the sustainability team to ensure visibility and coherence with the broader sustainability plan for the University.

 The issue of inadequate working conditions, particularly in older buildings, highlights issues with the handling of reported cases through the helpdesk. Priority Level 4 cases are not effectively addressed with false claims of issue resolution. Problems include temperature control and ventilation, with temperature monitoring lacking in lots of rooms. Requests for solutions are often met with suggestions for staff to make their own measurements, leading to disputes over the reliability of the technology used. The need for transparency in reporting requests is evident and suggests that if a request cannot be met, an alternative solution should be provided and communicated back to the school and college levels. There is a broader concern about inefficient energy use, such as lights being left on during the day. The importance of reducing demand, increasing efficiency, and promoting user responsibility is highlighted and it is acknowledged that current technology limits the ability to match certain building fabrics with clean energy supplies.

 The policy lacked reference to staff with disabilities or medical needs. It was noted that addressing the needs of these individuals should be an exception rather than the general rule. The statement highlights a recognition that special considerations may be required for staff with disabilities or specific medical requirements within the broader context of the discussed policies or plans.

 CS acknowledged the trade unions receive regular complaints about buildings and the old buildings pose challenges, particularly with zero temperature control which in extreme cases can impact on equipment. The changing climate and warmer springs also encourage considerations for adjusting heating practices. Equality issues, including the specific needs of menopausal women, should be recognised in the system. The concerns about the outsourced ticketing system, suggesting a preference for in-house staff to handle building-related issues. Prioritising tickets, setting service level requirements, and offering alternative spaces for staff in case of prolonged issues are proposed. There is a need to highlight the diverse roles of staff, including security, cleaning, and janitorial staff who may face challenges due to extreme temperatures during non-standard hours. CS happy to speak to RY offline if helpful.

RY acknowledged the complexity and diversity of this issue and welcomed the feedback - particularly the valid points raised regarding equality considerations and the need for a responsive ticketing system. He assured the group that addressing user experience is a priority and the intention is to bring the discussion back to the group as a draft. RY is willing to engage in further discussions or meetings with individuals who have specific concerns. The overarching goal is to refine the policies to make them achievable and align with operational responses to Glasgow Green, ensuring optimal user comfort.

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The paper was endorsed by the group.

4. **Offsetting Position Paper**

 SM discussed the University's commitment to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 and the need to offset around 30,000 tons of carbon emissions annually from that point onwards. In addition there is also a commitment to addressing the carbon impact of international student travel. The Scottish Government's guidance suggests a preference for investing in projects within Scotland rather than international offsets. The paper outlines five potential offsetting options, including local partnerships for nature restoration and carbon offset generation and off-the-shelf carbon credits. The two recommended options are the local partnership approach and off-the-shelf carbon credits from the EAUC Carbon Coalition via what is already an existing national framework. The local partnership approach aims to involve staff and students in monitoring and researching co-benefits, such as biodiversity enhancement, flood risk reduction and community impacts. Due to the scale, costs, and long-term nature of these partnerships, a public procurement exercise is proposed. The purpose of the paper is to seek comments and approval to proceed with this approach, which involves defining high-level principles, conducting workshops and eventually initiate a procurement exercise in the next 6 to 8 months.

 SM invited feedback and comments from the group on this proposed plan.

 One suggestion was an innovative approach to incentivising sustainable behaviour among international students perhaps by way of a "climate buddy," drawing parallels to mental health buddies. The idea would be to give credit or recognition to students who choose eco-friendly travel options, such as taking trains instead of planes.

NW raised a couple of concerns on behalf of FR about the potential impacts of widespread offsetting, particularly in the regions around Glasgow. There is a focus on being cautious about the knock-on effects of extensive afforestation, considering its long-term usefulness and potential implications on local communities and land use change and suggested that these considerations should be part of the long-term discussions mentioned earlier.

It was of note that ongoing partnerships in the local area with groups like Nith Fisheries and the Nith Life group, were involved in reforestation for biodiversity and environmental purposes and proposed including these groups as potential on-the-ground partners for the University's offsetting efforts at the Dumfries campus.

The complexity of developing policies in the offsetting area was acknowledged recognising the ongoing debate around whether it is perceived as greenwashing or genuinely beneficial and appreciate the clarity in identifying local projects with measurable and positive effects that can be monitored and verified. A broader question was raised about whether offsetting should be the last resort, urging consideration of whether the University should prioritise addressing and reducing its own carbon footprint instead of relying on offsetting measures. The paper was commended for making a conscientious effort to approach offsetting in a more ethical manner.

 It was reaffirmed that offsetting should not take precedence over efforts to reduce our carbon emissions but acknowledged that the reality of achieving the net-zero target by 2030 may not involve a complete elimination of all carbon emissions and that some level of offsetting or carbon capture may be necessary ahead of or by the target date. There was emphasis on the need to balance both reduction efforts and offsetting measures to achieve the overall net-zero goal.

GF expressed concerns about the terms partnership and procurement in the context of offsetting agreements and emphasised the novelty and uncertainty of new business models related to offsetting and suggest caution in entering contractual and commercial agreements. GF had suggested framing these arrangements more as research collaborations or partnerships with exit clauses, a perspective she feels has not been adequately reflected in the current wording of the document.

GF referenced discussions with Glasgow City Council regarding sustainable food and highlights the council's statement about the limited land available for agricultural use in the region and raised a question about the potential conflict between reforestation efforts and land availability for sustainable food supply. GF advocated for including wording that emphasises the need to scrutinise each project as a unique and one-off endeavour, considering sustainability aspects and potential competition with other priorities in Glasgow and the broader region.

CS expressed a reluctance to support offsetting as a policy, considering it more of an accounting trick. She suggested tying offset purchases to specific milestones and reductions to ensure accountability and demonstrate progress before unlocking the option to buy offsets. CS proposed exploring the possibility of creating an internal offsetting scheme, focusing on local investments in Glasgow such as community energy projects, retrofitting buildings, and protecting brownfield sites. This approach would allow for greater control and monitoring of the investments throughout their lifecycle, as opposed to purchasing offsets from external sources.

 RY viewed the discussion as a crucial starting point for evolving solutions and cautioned against relying solely on an offsetting strategy, emphasising the need for deep decarbonisation across all scopes within the University's influence. The focus should be on unshiftable emissions, including business travel and refrigerants and encouraged alignment with existing and emerging projects in the region, highlighting inclusivity. The market is ahead of regulations and RY expressed concerns about relying on a single offsetting scheme and emphasised the potential risks and costs associated with offsetting and suggested leveraging the University's estate, such as the sequestration potential of the Cochno soil asset and tree planting initiatives. While acknowledging the immediate need for offsetting due to grant requirements, RY emphasised the ongoing and iterative nature of the discussion, an off-setting solution is required now as grant funders need this information and this topic should be discussed regularly.

 GF expressed reservations about committing to long-term agreements and emphasised the need to avoid binding commitments for 10, 20, or 30 years. She advocated for openness to exploration while acknowledging the inherent risks in uncharted territory, stressing the importance of a pragmatic and flexible approach. GF suggests that pursuing the net-zero target should not come at any cost and urges a careful consideration of unintended consequences that may extend beyond 2030 and proposed a transparent approach, openly discussing proposed plans and schemes and prioritising them based on perceived risks and available flexibility. She questions the sustainability of aiming for net-zero at the individual building or organisational level, suggesting a more realistic approach might involve contributions from each organisation to collectively achieve net-zero at the city, regional, or national level and highlighted ongoing international research and suggest a reconsideration of the goal to achieve net-zero by 2030, recognising the need for flexibility and a sustainable, realistic approach.

 PC acknowledged the dangers of both excessive caution and haste in the approach to offsetting and cautioned against tying offset amounts strictly to emissions reduction targets, as this might artificially impede progress if the targets are not met. PC was supported of the presented policy and sees it as a significant step towards a practical and beneficial approach to reducing the University's net carbon footprint. He advocated for moving forward swiftly, emphasising the distinction between the discussed schemes and the issues associated with commercial carbon markets and encouraged an open-minded stance towards offsetting, particularly in cases involving local partnerships with charities rather than purely commercial entities. Overall he commended the policy and advocated for prompt implementation without undue hesitation due to theoretical risks.

NW suggested exploring a contract-based approach that involves creating a prize or award to incentivise sustainable and socially impactful local enterprises and proposed establishing a fund accessible to individuals working within the region who are developing projects aligned with the University's objectives. This fund could support projects that contribute to carbon drawdown and sequestration while positively influencing the University's impact in the region and sees this approach as a means of promoting the University's initiatives and attracting new groups. By structuring the fund to align with broader group objectives, there is potential to influence a greater number of small-scale impacts distributed more widely.

 GMcL reflected on the importance of mitigating risks associated with short-term offset schemes, and expressed concern about initiatives with a transient timeline, especially those lasting only 30 years. Projects planning to cut down trees shortly after maturity may not provide significant offsetting benefits and instead suggested exploring longer-term local planning strategies, spanning 100 to 200 years, to achieve meaningful biodiversity growth in a sustainable manner. GMcL highlighted the need for initiatives that are both enduring and contribute positively to the local environment.

 PH updated the group about ongoing discussions and initiatives and upcoming talks with Scottish Gas Network, Scottish Power, and the NHS regarding various projects, including heat recovery at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and sewage pumping stations in Dumbarton Road. PH emphasised that the paper under consideration is just one aspect of the multifaceted approach, assuring the group that numerous conversations and partnerships are actively being pursued. The importance of robust business cases and commercial considerations is vital, assuring that as these initiatives develop, options will be presented to the group for advice and input. PH concluded by underscoring the University's commitment to advancing on a broad front.

 SM thanked the group for the feedback and indicated the intention to review further and have additional discussions before making decisions on the next steps. The speaker sought approval from the group to move forward with the approach outlined in the paper, expressing a willingness to consider and ponder on the suggested next steps.

**Action**: a motion was proposed to endorse the presented actions with consideration given to the comments raised during the meeting. CS may provide additional feedback after consulting with the wider trade union groups.

5. **Travel Policy Working Group**

 RY thanked those who volunteered for a short-term working group tasked with improving and reviewing the existing policy. The group will meet on 10 January and will involve 8 or 9 colleagues. The initial meeting will focus on defining the scope of the work and will aim to present updated reflections and potentially a revised policy shortly after the group's efforts in early January.

6. **Glasgow Green Feasibility Projects funding**

 RY discussed ongoing efforts to develop a plan supporting Glasgow Green, focusing on feasibility projects funded with 1.3 million over two years. Approximately 32 projects aim to inform the climate-neutral estate approach discussed in previous meetings. The primary focus involves addressing the thermal comfort policy, decarbonising the estate and transitioning away from gas. While acknowledging the time needed for these changes, collaborations at a macro scale are underway. RY highlighted various aspects of the plan, including strategic travel planning, residences, operational asset management, life cycle analysis, building energy management systems, and sustainable labs. Approximately half of the allocated funds will contribute to this work. The team is in the early stages of launching the initiative, working closely with Jo and the procurement team and will provide updates on progress at future meetings.

7. **Centre for Sustainable Solutions update**

 JT provided a brief update on recent work in the CfSS highlighting the launch event for the Thriving Glasgow Portrait in November. Developed through collaboration with Glasgow City Council, the Doughnut Economics Action Lab, and University stakeholders, the portrait utilises the doughnut economics framework. It defines 44 areas reflecting a stakeholder vision for how the city can thrive socially and ecologically. The city has approved these definitions and the next steps involve developing indicators and measures to track progress. The next plan of the work will be integrated into the Council's Climate Impact Assessment. The launch event engaged participants from workshops and aimed to involve new stakeholders across the city. Upskilling courses, particularly the Systems Thinking course funded by the Scottish Funding Council, has received positive uptake and the course will be reevaluated and redesigned with partners in the private and public sectors early in the New Year.

 RY added that the potential for the Clyde Mission's transition to the Glasgow City region, presented an opportunity for increased involvement from the CfSS and emphasised the importance of leveraging the Centre’s knowledge, processes and methodologies to engage effectively with communities, businesses, and organisations. The existing capabilities in areas like the macro energy system and climate resilience, stress the critical role of community engagement in ensuring the success and meaningful impact of the entire system and is confident in the synergy between the CfSS and the region, underscoring its significance for the success of the Clyde Mission transition.

8. **GUEST update**

 Laila Elaasar updated the group on GUEST activity. A bike mechanic has now been recruited and the bike hub is up and running again. A clothing swap shop took place in November with plans for another next semester. Cycling week in scheduled to start in January after the Welcome Fair. The team have undergone Climate Fresk training, aiming to become facilitators after completing subsequent steps. EcoHub updates include a vision to transform a corridor into an eco-focused space, and there will be discussions about budget considerations and whether there is scope to keep on the current graphic designer. There are plans for separate social medial pages for the EcoHub that will probably come later as part of the Comms plan and once the date for the EcoHub is more substantial.

 SM informed the group that a job description for the Ecohub Developer has been drafted which will be a G5 MPA post. Costs are back from Taylor and Fraser for the refurbishment work and this will need looked at closely before there is an agreement on a final cost but it is not clear when the EcoHub will be ready for opening. SM has been thinking about how the Hub will operate on a day-to-day basis and in particular what type of till system will be required to support all the different functions that the space is going to carry out.

 The Glasgow Goes Green event originally planned for the first week of February has been shifted by a week due to venue considerations. The ARC has offered a venue free of charge and the change of date allows for an extra week of planning and the event has been promoted across all social media channels.

9. **Cochno Tree Planting update**

 SM updated the group to say that the tree planting was all but completed and the delivery phase has gone smoothly. The fencing is up, trees are planted and a closing ceremony is organised which will be published by both the Estates and University Comms teams. Looking ahead as we update our Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan it is hoped this will be a starting point in terms of what we do to enhance biodiversity at Cochno rather than an ending point. A couple of MVLS academic staff are interested in monitoring the long-term biodiversity impacts associated with the tree planting in the future.

 One additional point to highlight is the installation of signage along the path where the tree planting blocks are located. The aims to inform the public about the nature-based initiatives in partnership with the University. It emphasises the broader impact beyond tree planting, showcasing the University’s commitment to sustainability and collaboration. The effort aligns with ongoing discussion on offsetting and extends across all operating assets emphasising the importance of transparent communication and community engagement in these initiatives.

 GF proposed the implementation of public engagement events as an opportunity to gather feedback on ongoing pilots. These pilots, particularly those at Cochno, represent valuable learning experiences that we should showcase. While there might be a contradiction in simultaneously initiating a cognitive project it is essential to maximize opportunities for lessons learned from these controlled experiments. Public engagement events, potentially linked to ongoing workstreams, can involve inviting both non-expert and expert members of the public to visit the site, share their impressions, and provide feedback. This feedback can be crucial for refining our initiatives. GF suggested these events should be recurrent, perhaps annually, to track changes in the landscape, biodiversity, and overall project development. This approach turns our unique testing ground into a continuous learning experience.

 During the summer, a group of student interns, part of the city working group, collaborated with professional services, academics, researchers and students to conduct a phase one habitat survey on campus. This collaborative effort involved various ad hoc plant and animal surveys and they are interested to see what happens on the areas that have been planted with trees. The group is also considering additional interventions such as hedgerow planting and it will be important to bear these opportunities in mind for future initiatives.

 NW informed the group that Dumfries conducted its own planting and the progress has been monitored since implementation. It would be beneficial to connect this with the city-wide initiative when results are available and this could create a unified story.

10. **Public Bodies Reporting duties – sign off and submission update**

 SM presented the completed version of the public body's climate change reporting duty data, which was submitted to the Scottish government ahead of the deadline. The complex Excel file includes separate worksheets covering organisational profile, governance, emissions and projects, adaptation, procurement, validation, and wider influence. Notably, the carbon footprint has increased due to post-COVID business travel and increased usage of the gas-fired CHP engine. While project-related carbon savings have improved, there's concern about meeting the carbon savings commitment for the upcoming year. The report also highlights participation in climate partnerships, sustainability rating systems for suppliers and involvement in a peer-reviewed validation process with the EUC. The speaker invites questions and discussions on the submission and future steps.

 CS asked what the obstacles were preventing the execution of the remaining 90% or approximately 360 tons of projects. SM emphasised the need to reassess the projects in the pipeline and plans to engage with colleagues and projects to identify and understand any issues that may exist. The aim is to figure out how to address these concerns and fill the existing gaps.

PH informed the group about an ongoing discussion regarding the potential construction of a new building, the Keystone building, on the Western Infirmary site. This building, approximately 25,000 m², is anticipated to be the largest, equivalent to the combined size of the ARC and the Clarice Pears buildings. A key decision on its construction is expected in the new year and will be considered by the niversity court. The potential impact of declining student numbers on the decision is acknowledged as a broader sector concern. If the Keystone building proceeds, there is a possibility of closing the Saint Andrew's Building entirely and relocating to the Gilbert Scott Building. Similar considerations are in progress for the Rankin Building and the former Adam Smith Business School sites. The decision involves weighing the options of building new, which would enable exiting from certain buildings but with a carbon impact, versus investing further in the existing campus if the new build does not proceed. The outcome depends on factors like student intake and international student impact on finances. A workshop and meetings, including those of the University Court and Finance Committee, are scheduled for discussion and decision-making in January and throughout the first and second quarters of the upcoming year. The delicate position will influence projects mentioned by SM.

RY discussed a longer-term plan with various metrics in place and expressed determination to expedite funding for existing projects and implement them sooner. Collaborating with colleagues he aimed to secure the necessary funding from multiple streams. The focus is on addressing a 360-tonne gap and advancing operational changes to make these changes happen.

The speaker discusses a longer-term plan with various metrics in place. However, they express determination to expedite funding for existing projects and implement them sooner. Collaborating with colleagues, particularly Stuart and Peter, they aim to secure the necessary funding from multiple streams. The focus is on addressing a 160-tonne gap and advancing operational changes promptly. The speaker mentions a recent visit to Dumfries, where potential changes are considered, contingent on approvals. The team anticipates a busy period ahead, actively working on bringing these projects to fruition.The speaker discusses a longer-term plan with various metrics in place. However, they express determination to expedite funding for existing projects and implement them sooner. Collaborating with colleagues, particularly Stuart and Peter, they aim to secure the necessary funding from multiple streams. The focus is on addressing a 160-tonne gap and advancing operational changes promptly. The speaker mentions a recent visit to Dumfries, where potential changes are considered, contingent on approvals. The team anticipates a busy period ahead, actively working on bringing these projects to fruition.The speaker discusses a longer-term plan with various metrics in place. However, they express determination to expedite funding for existing projects and implement them sooner. Collaborating with colleagues, particularly Stuart and Peter, they aim to secure the necessary funding from multiple streams. The focus is on addressing a 160-tonne gap and advancing operational changes promptly. The speaker mentions a recent visit to Dumfries, where potential changes are considered, contingent on approvals. The team anticipates a busy period ahead, actively working on bringing these projects to fruition.The speaker discusses a longer-term plan with various metrics in place. However, they express determination to expedite funding for existing projects and implement them sooner. Collaborating with colleagues, particularly Stuart and Peter, they aim to secure the necessary funding from multiple streams. The focus is on addressing a 160-tonne gap and advancing operational changes promptly. The speaker mentions a recent visit to Dumfries, where potential changes are considered, contingent on approvals. The team anticipates a busy period ahead, actively working on bringing these projects to fruition.Top of Form

11. **Any Other Business**

 CS had been contacted by UCU members who raised concerns about divesting from the arms industry due to its environmental impact. There is a shared belief within the group that divesting from fossil fuels has been largely agreed upon and implemented. The next proposed step is divesting from arms given the environmental impact of militarism. CS acknowledged it was a heavy topic to discuss at the end of the meeting but highlights the support from trade unions to the student organization GAAF on this issue.

 **Action:** to be raised as an agenda item at the next meeting.

NW had been asked by FR to inform the group about the initiation of a local sustainability working group in Dumfries which would address specific issues and opportunities distinct from the main campus. The group is gearing up for its second meeting after engaging with RY. There is an assurance that there should not be any clashes with ongoing activities with the focus being on exploring smaller-scale local opportunities unique to the area while potentially serving as a test bed for broader initiatives. NW emphasised the potential for more opportunities given the fewer buildings in the area and extended an invitation for collaboration, welcoming any ideas or initiatives that could be tested at Dumfries.

 The group noted the offer.

PC highlighted the recent improvement in secure cycle parking on campuses with the installation of nine app-operated cycle hangers but was concerned that the lack of publicity might lead to the pilot's failure as people remain unaware of these secure facilities. PC proposed increasing awareness through University channels, such as the website or news, to encourage more usage and ensure the success of the pilot program.

**Action**: RB confirmed he had raised this with the internal comms team but would do so again and GUEST would advertise these through the student network.

12. **Date of next meeting**

 Thursday 8 February 2024 @ 10:00am