

SISC Advisory Group – 29th April 2026

Minutes of the 4th SISC Advisory Group Meeting

AG Attendance

Present:

- **SISC:**
 - Prof Matt Hannon (SISC Director, University of Strathclyde) (MH)
 - Dr Jen Roberts (SISC Deputy Director, University of Strathclyde) (JR)
 - Dr Iain Cairns (SISC Head of Research, University of Strathclyde) (IC)
 - Dr Finlay Bain Kerr (SISC Post-doctoral Research Associate, University of Strathclyde; Minute Taker) (FK)
- **Advisory Group:**
 - Prof Tavis Potts (University of Aberdeen) (Deputy Chair) (TP)
 - Dr Mel Rohse (Anglia Ruskin University) (MR)
 - Elizabeth Docherty (Scottish Community Alliance) (ED)
 - Rachel Nixseaman (Deciding Matters) (RN)
 - Dr Victoria Loughlan (National Wealth Fund) (VL)
 - Prof Carly McLachlan (Tyndall Centre, University of Manchester) (CM)
 - Euan Leitch (SURF, Scotland's Regeneration Forum) (EL)
- **Apologies:**
 - Dr Sam Gardner (chair)
 - Neil McInroy (The Democracy Collaborative)
 - Laurie Macfarlane (Future Economy Scotland)
 - Sarah Madden (Scottish Land Commission)
 - Rachel Searle (Foundation Scotland)
 - John Bachtler (University of Strathclyde)

1 Agenda

Date: 29th April 2025

Location: SW106, Stenhouse Wing, Strathclyde Business School, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Chair: Tavis Potts

Time		Item
9:00	9:30	Tea and Coffee
9:30	10:00	Welcome Apologies Key updates since last meeting
10:00	10:45	Research showcase • Community engagement and benefits • Water • Empowering tenements for transition to greener and healthier homes • PhD overview
10:45	11:00	Break (Tea and Coffee)
11:00	11:45	Reflections on progress, two years on... • Progress against original objectives • Reflections on the journey so far (successes, failures, surprises) and lessons learned • Prompts for AG discussion
11:45	12:00	AG updates • Voluntary update from AG members to flag forthcoming opportunities and challenges (e.g. events, initiatives, policies etc.) for SISC's forward planning.
12:00	12:15	Items to cover at next AG AOB Close and next steps
12:15	13:00	LUNCH

2 AG Meeting Headlines

The AG:

- Were updated on SISC's research portfolio past, present and future, as well as a progress update on SISC's achievements since launching 2 years ago.
- Recognised that SISC continues to make excellent progress, despite a very challenging environment for the Higher Education sector.
- Emphasised the importance of identifying 'pinch points' that are undermining SISC's progress and how relatively small and swift investments could address these over the near-term.
- Identified the potential to change the format and frequency of AG meetings, so that they are more useful to SISC.

3 Actions

Below outlines progress on Actions identified by the AG at the previous AG meeting (#3 October 2025) and forward actions set at this AG meeting (#4 April 2026).

3.1 Forward actions set at this AG meeting (April 2026)

Below is a consolidated list of ongoing actions set at previous AG meeting (see Section **Error! Reference source not found.**) and new actions raised at this AG meeting.

Action	Details	Timeline
1	SISC to scope and establish an online platform for the AG to informally share notes	End of 2026
2	Review and potentially update AG ToRs to reflect broader vision and scope of the Institute and any AG responsibilities that sit outside contributions to meetings.	October 2026 (aligned with membership update)
3	Rank strategic priorities in terms of urgency and schedule these accordingly over the coming 12-month period	Consolidated with Action 6
4	Review AG feedback on pathways to research impact and integrate into SISC's Research Impact Strategy. This should align with REF2029 guidance and include a system for collecting evidence of impact on a rolling-basis	August 2026
5	To identify which issues undermine SISC's momentum and what kind of solution might address these (e.g. resourcing, managerial change).	July 2026
6	To map out SISC's primary competencies and build these into promotional materials	End of the year
7	To map how SISC's research themes map onto live policy priorities. May require time and resource to map these, and present these for an external audience	End of the year
8	To consider if/how SISC may be able to offer 'added value' support to its PhD cohort that goes beyond what is already on offer at the department/faculty/university level.	October 2026
9	To outline SISC's internationalisation strategy, to expand its work and connections, whilst also being mindful of cost constraints and the need to operate efficiently/in a targeted manner.	End of 2026
10	To consider how the AG could promote SISC's work.	End of 2026
11	To connect with university media team to refresh media strategy and skills requirements.	End of 2026
12	To review AG meeting format and frequency.	October 2026
13	To review AG membership subsequent to the initial 2-year term.	October 2026
14	To assess cost-benefit trade-off of developing a new SISC CPD offering.	October 2026