SLC Digital Strategy 2025-30

Final v.6.0

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Version History

Version Number	Date	Author	Rationale
1.0	05/06/2022	Head of MIS	Creation of Document
2.0	10/10/2023	Head of MIS	Updated to include the JISC DET and Learner Journey
3.0	11/02/2024	Head of MIS	Wording changes following feedback
4.0	13/06/2024	Head of MIS	Aligned to College strategic aims and timeframes
5.0	10/09/2024	Head of MIS	Updated from feedback from BOM
6.0	02/12/2024	Head of MIS	Updated from SLT feedback

Quick Links

We are inclusive and diverse, and this is one of our values.

We are committed to the FREDIE principles of Fairness, Respect, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement.

To find out more about FREDIE click **HERE**
To find out more about our Vision, Mission and Values click **HERE**

Need help with accessibility? Click **HERE** to view our accessibility pages.

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Advancing SLC through Digital Innovation: A Digital Strategy for South Lanarkshire College

Introduction

South Lanarkshire College (SLC) has been at the forefront of many innovative and cutting-edge curriculum developments over the years. With the huge shift in digital technology, advancements in automation, the speed of artificial intelligence software to marketand availability for digital collaboration across the college sector, it's an opportunity for SLC to use these new advancements to achieve the strategic goals over the next 5-10 years. This digital strategy serves as a guide through the dynamic changes in digital technology and allows SLC to utilise the new digital innovations applicable to the Scottish education secto and improve operational efficiency within the college whilst maximising the value and impact of our work.

The current SLC Strategy framework 2020-2025 and how the digital strategy will support these goals are displayed below, essentially enabling the college to move far more quickly with the tasks required to achieve these aims.
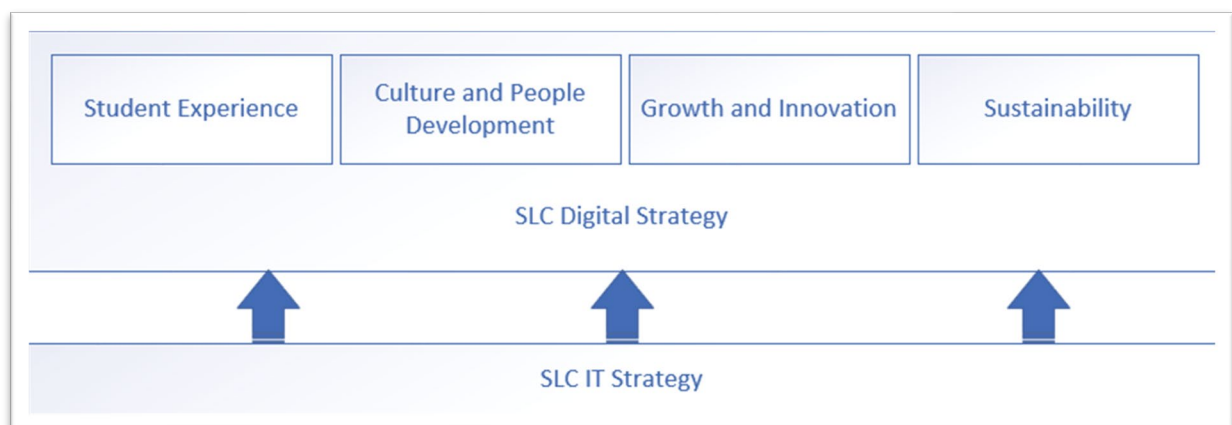
Vision and Mission

At SLC we envision a digitally empowered future where innovation in education knows no bounds. Through seamless integration of technology, we strive to create an inclusive, dynamic learning environment that prepares our community (staff, students and collaborating partners) to excel in the ever-evolving landscape of knowledge and discovery.

Strategic Goals

- *Enhance Learning and Teaching*
  - *Online Course Delivery: Develop a robust Learning Management System (LMS) for online courses, blended learning, and remote access to course materials.*
  - *Digital Learning Resources: Create and curate high-quality digital content, including video lectures, e-books, VR and Augmented reality, social media uses, micro-learning e.g. TikTok and Instagram and interactive tools to enrich the learning experience.*
  - *Faculty Training: Provide training and support for faculty to effectively use digital tools to enhance the learning experience through effective teaching and assessment.*
  - *Student Support: Implement online tutoring, discussion forums, and peer-to-peer learning platforms to enhance student support and engagement.*
  - *Commercial: More flexible engagement with Business employees – businesses?*
- *Learner Experience*
  - *Student Portal: Develop a user-friendly student portal for easy access to academic records, course schedules, support services (such as fee and bursary payments), chatbots for overall guidance and support on topics and communication with staff and peers.*
  - *Mobile Apps: Create a mobile app to facilitate communication, event notifications, and access to digital resources on the go.*
  - *Personalised Learning: Implement adaptive learning technologies and data analytics to personalize the learning experience for each student.*
- *Administrative Efficiency*
  - *Automation: Streamline administrative processes like admissions, registration, management tools and financial aid through automation and self-service options.*
  - *Data Analytics: Utilise data analytics to improve decision-making, resource allocation, and student retention efforts.*
  - *Cybersecurity: Establish strong cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive student and institutional data.*
- *Inclusivity and Accessibility*
  - *Accessibility Standards: Ensure all digital content and platforms meet accessibility standards, making education more inclusive for all students.*

- *Digital Literacy: Promote digital literacy among students, faculty, and staff to bridge the digital divide.*

- *Community Engagement*
  - *Online Events: Host webinars, virtual open houses, and online seminars to engage with the community, alumni, and prospective students.*
  - *Social Media: Maintain active social media channels and an engaging website to keep the college community informed and connected.*

- *Innovation and Research*
  - *Digital Research Centre - Establish a centre for digital research to explore emerging technologies and their applications in education.*
  - *Partnerships: Collaborate with tech companies, educational institutions, and local organisations to stay at the forefront of digital innovation.*

- *Sustainability*
  - *Green Technologies: Implement sustainable and energy-efficient technologies to reduce the college's carbon footprint.*
  - *Remote Work: Promote remote work options for staff to reduce commuting and minimise environmental impact.*

- *Infrastructure*
  - *Robust Network Infrastructure - Ensure high-speed, reliable internet connectivity across the entire campus. Regularly upgrade network hardware and software to keep up with technological advancements.*
  - *Hybrid Cloud Computing and Storage Solutions - Migrate some services to cloud-based services for data storage, management, and backup to enhance accessibility and security, reducing the need for physical servers.*
  - *Cybersecurity Measures - Invest in advanced security tools such as firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and encryption technologies. Continue to conduct regular security audits and training sessions for staff and students to promote cybersecurity awareness.*
  - *Smart Campus Technologies: Integrate IoT (Internet of Things) devices for efficient campus management, such as smart lighting, HVAC systems, and security cameras. Explore the use of AI and machine learning for predictive maintenance and resource optimization.*

Implementation and Monitoring

- *Establish a dedicated Digital Strategy Group responsible for overseeing strategy implementation. (DSG)*
- *Regularly monitor progress towards goals and adapt the strategy as needed. (JISC DET)*
- *Seek feedback from students, faculty, and staff for continuous improvement.*

Budgeting

Allocate resources for technology infrastructure, software licences, staff training, and innovation initiatives. Seek funding from grants, partnerships, and cost-saving measures in administrative processes.

Aligning to the National Digital Strategy

It is also important to recognise that this strategy is directly related to the National Digital Strategy. SLC define within this strategy our priorities at the local level which supports and delivers the national digital strategy vision and mission set out below.

National Digital Strategy Vision

Empowering our stakeholders to have access to innovative, engaging, and inspiring digital solutions that enhance the student experience, promoting personal growth, enable success, and improve attainment.

National Digital Strategy Mission

Deliver innovative, sustainable, relevant, accessible, and consistent learning experiences.
In a way that:

- Ensures that students' voice is paramount
- Maintains a compassionate and safe environment
- Empowers staff and builds their confidence
- Promotes a culture of continual improvement
- Upholds national and local values and standards

- Ensures continuity through an effective business model
- Provides cost effective and adaptive digital solutions and connectivity
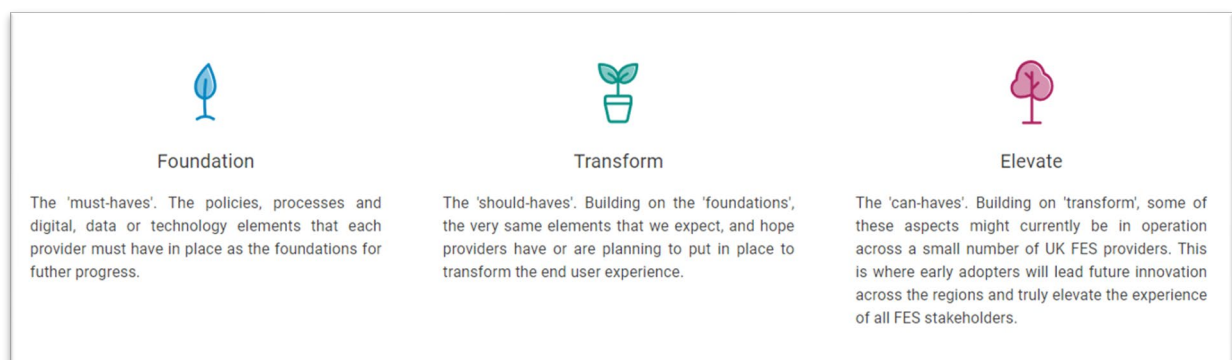
The Learner Journey

Learners are at the forefront of our business so it's important to recognise in this document the overall learner journey and all the aspects of digital technology that wrap around the processes in the college.
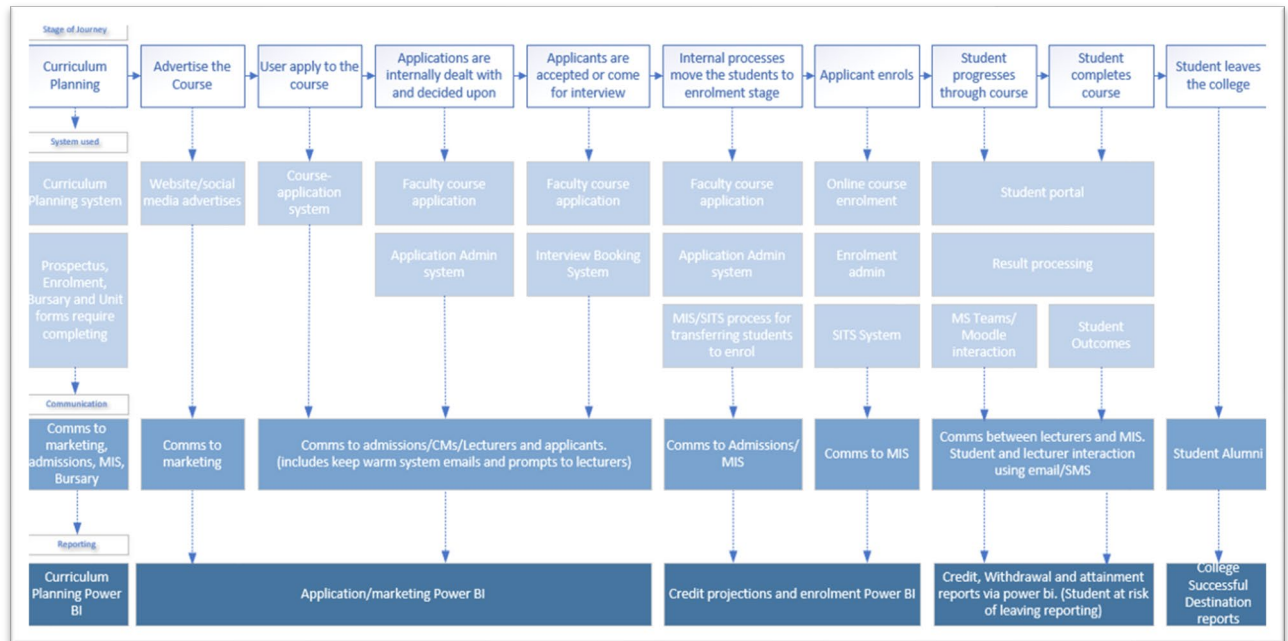
Digital Strategy Tools

To support the college, the education institution JISC produced a digital elevation tool (DET) that can be used within the SLC digital strategy focusing on key themes that enable the college to identify areas of good practice and areas to improve on, allowing a directional task list to be created.

Levels of achievement have been created by the JISC team as a marker for the progress made by the college. These levels are Foundation, Transform and Elevate.

Foundation

The 'must-haves'. The policies, processes and digital, data or technology elements that each provider must have in place as the foundations for futher progress.

Transform

The 'should-haves'. Building on the 'foundations', the very same elements that we expect, and hope providers have or are planning to put in place to transform the end user experience.

Elevate

The 'can-haves'. Building on 'transform', some of these aspects might currently be in operation across a small number of UK FES providers. This is where early adopters will lead future innovation across the regions and truly elevate the experience of all FES stakeholders.

The key themes used in the DET are as follows (to see more information on this please [click here](#) to visit JISC DET website, credentials are required to access):

- *Leadership governance & culture*
- *Learner experience*
- *Staff experience*
- *Curriculum development*
- *Underpinning technologies*

Conclusion

- *Reinforce the Commitment to Digital Transformation*
- *Acknowledge the Collective Efforts of the College Community*

By following a strategic approach outlined in this document, SLC aims to harness the power of digital innovation to provide an enriched educational experience for students and contribute to the advancement of knowledge and research in the 21st century.