Terms of Reference  
Sustainability in Surgery Group

**Description**
The Sustainability in Surgery Group was established to look at issues of sustainability in surgical practice, associated industries and within the College itself. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) defines sustainability in accordance with the triple bottom line framework, comprising economic, environmental and social domains, and this is the definition used for the purposes of this group. To improve sustainability, an organisation must ensure that their resource use does not exceed available supplies, and that their impacts do not negatively affect the wider community, the environment, or future generations.

**Core work**
- To guide and support Members and Fellows, Affiliates and Associates, to improve and lead sustainability in their own surgical practice and that of their organisation.
- To consider the impact of College working practices on sustainability, ensuring that the College acts as an advocate for sustainability.
- To be an influencing voice with other relevant agencies and bodies involved in the broad provision of surgical or health care.
- To advocate for research into sustainability in surgical practice to inform strategy.
- To ensure that working partners are evidencing a sustainability strategy.

**Functions/Responsibilities**
1. Develop the College’s role in and understanding of surgical sustainability.
2. Develop position statements, guidance and tools to support surgeons on sustainability in surgery.
3. Ensure that sustainability is embedded into the long-term strategy for the College and its estate.
4. Ensure that there is a focus and priority on sustainability issues within all College activities (including research, examination, committee meetings and events).
5. Work with surgical leads to ensure that sustainability is given priority within professional activities at the College, including learning, assessment, quality assurance and research.
6. Support research evaluating sustainability of surgery and identifying targets for change (e.g. via research fellowships and working with relevant research authorities)
7. Work with staff to oversee creation of a Sustainable Development Management Plan for internal College processes.
8. Gather examples of best practice and research; hold and promote resources via portals or fora as required.
9. Oversee College representatives on: UKHACC (UK Health Alliance on Climate Change), on AoMRC ‘Choosing Wisely Steering Group’ and other networks as appropriate.

10. Provide a representative to the College Global Committee or other committees.

11. Liaise with other governing and regulatory bodies, including holding relevant meetings to include MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulation Agency), SDU (Sustainable Development Unit), PHE (Public Health England), NHS England, NIHR (National Institute for Health Research), NHS Wales and other organisations in devolved nations.

12. Ensure patient and public engagement and education.

13. Demonstrate a reduction in carbon footprint for the activities of this Group.

Chairs – Miss Stella Vig and Miss Victoria Pegna
Staff Lead – Lucy Davies – Director of Engagement – ldavies@rcseng.ac.uk