

REGIONAL BOARD REPORT

Subject: Future Skills Action Plan	Purpose: For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prepared by: Angela Cox	Date: 12/10/18
Purpose: To inform Board of a the recently produced Future Skills Action Plan and how this will influence our strategic direction	
Linked to Strategic Goal 5: Build Sustainability.	
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>The Future Skills Action Plan https://economicactionplan.mygov.scot/future-skills/ highlights what action the Scottish Government intends to take in order to increase upskilling and retraining opportunities, address skills gaps, implement the climate emergency skills action plan and develop skills investment plans in each region.</p> <p>Scotland's Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board set out four key future skills recommendations for Government in its 2018 Strategic Plan. That plan recognised the crucial role of the skills system in ensuring equality, wellbeing and sustainability.</p> <p>The publication of Scotland's Future Skills Action Plan (Phase 1) responds to those recommendations. It also reaffirms the importance of skills in helping people to reach their potential and achieving an inclusive, growing and more productive economy.</p> <p>The four themes in the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing system agility and employer responsiveness; • Enhancing access to upskilling and retraining opportunities; • Ensuring sustainability across the skill system; and • Accelerating the implementation of the learner journey review. <p>Key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing our investment in workforce development to £20m per annum from 20/21, building on the current £10m Flexible Workforce Development Fund. • Addressing skills gaps and shortages as a central part of the Scottish Government's response to the UK's departure from the European Union. • The National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS) Manufacturing Skills Academy's development of a catalogue of advanced manufacturing modules, which cater to and recognise a range of industry needs across the sector. • Skills Development Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority and the Scottish Funding Council will develop and promote a clear definition of meta-skills, the timeless, higher-order skills that create adaptive learners, and fully implement the joint 5 stage skills alignment planning model. • Skills Development Scotland, the Scottish Funding Council and industry partners will enhance the delivery of Graduate Apprenticeships available in critical subjects such as civil engineering, digital and cyber security and data science. 	

- Pathways will be enhanced from the College sector into Graduate Apprenticeships.
- A Careers Strategy will be published later in 2019 to support learners and workers in making more informed career choices through-out their lives.
- Through the [Skills Action Plan for Rural Scotland](#) there will be improving access to work-based learning, education and skills training across the rural economy.
- Continuing to support industry-led Developing the Young Workforce Employer Groups.
- Identifying opportunities to enhance access to upskilling and reskilling opportunities through the Scottish National Retraining Partnership in conjunction with the CBI and STUC.
- As part of the £1.3 billion funding made available to City and Growth Deals, building on work to develop and deliver skills investment plans in each region.

The paper also outlines proposals to take the Plan's second phase forward. In particular, establishing a thematic approach to working with stakeholders from across the skills system to identify and co-create the specific solutions required to deliver this plan in the medium to long terms.

Borders College is already responding to many of key actions highlighted in this report. Our skills alignment proposal alongside Dumfries & Galloway College will respond to ensuring we have a curriculum offer which is responsive to current and future skills needs for the South of Scotland and beyond.

Recommendation: Board are asked to note the paper.

Previous Committee Approvals: No

For publication ☒

For publication with redactions ☐

Not for publication ☐