



## Development of new Strategic Board

### Purpose

- 1 This paper provides an update to board members on development of the Scottish Government's new Strategic Board for enterprise and skills.

### Background

- 2 Members were advised on 22 June of the publication of the Enterprise & Skills Review Phase 2 reports<sup>1</sup>, the key points of which were:
  - Publication of an overview report and individual workstream reports covering: Data, Performance and Evaluation; Regional Partnerships; South of Scotland Enterprise Agency; Enterprise and Business Support; Innovation; International; Skills Alignment; and Learner Journey.
  - A new Strategic Board will be created. However, it will not be a formal body and therefore there will be no change to SFC's legal status, functions, and responsibilities or role as an employer.
  - Prior to the Strategic Board's establishment, the Scottish Government has convened an Implementation Board, in which SFC are full participants through the membership of our Chair and attendance by the Interim Chief Executive. The Implementation Board is chaired by Lorne Crerar, who also chairs Highlands & Islands Enterprise.
  - The Scottish Government decided that the new South of Scotland 'vehicle' will be a new public body. It is expected to have similarities with Highlands & Islands Enterprise.
  - The Scottish Government announced a £500,000 pilot of a College Innovation Fund to support Scotland's colleges to work with businesses on innovation activity, to be managed by SFC.
  - The Skills Alignment report referred to the establishment of a small joint virtual team between SFC and Skills Development Scotland to support shared skills planning, led by a single 'director'.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/economic-growth/enterprise-and-skills-review/>

## Implementation Board

- 3 The Implementation Board's remit and objectives can be summarised as follows:
  - Lay the foundations for the Strategic Board, so that it can commence with an agreed approach and a clarity of purpose. The Implementation Board will establish the functions of the Strategic Board, develop the work streams it will drive, and agree the manner in which it will operate.
  - Develop an outline for the Strategic Plan and performance framework to be considered once the Strategic Board is established.
  - Establish the cross-cutting priorities that will need to be an early focus for the Strategic Board and, where helpful, design and establish the Strategic Committees to rapidly deliver these priorities.
  - Oversee progress on the delivery of the wider E&S Review workstream actions and recommendations that will fall within the scope of the Strategic Board.
  - Set out the structure, accountability and reporting arrangements for the governance supporting the Strategic Board, including guidance on how the agencies will work together, and on their roles and responsibilities.
- 4 The Implementation Board has now met twice, and plans to meet twice more before the end of September. The main issues under development are:
  - The positioning of the Strategic Board's strategic plan. This is likely to be at relatively high level, with a focus on areas of collaborative working.
  - The structure of the Strategic Board's committees. At the time of writing, it has not yet been determined whether they will follow the themes-based approach set out in the Phase 2 reports, or if they will reflect the Strategic Board's functions.
  - Definition of the joint SFC/SDS post to oversee skills alignment. SFC has drafted a job profile, which has been shared with SDS and the Scottish Government. At the time of writing, we have not yet finalised the job description.
- 5 Further information about the Implementation Board is available on the Scottish Government's website:
  - <https://beta.gov.scot/groups/enterprise-and-skills-review-implementation-board/>

## **Strategic Board membership**

- 6 Based on what we know at the moment we think it is likely that:
- Since the Strategic Board will not be a public body, Ministers will directly appoint the members.
  - So that the Strategic Board can be established by October, its Chair and members will be announced in September.
  - As previously stated, the members will include the chairs of the enterprise and skills agencies.

## **Recommendation**

- 7 The Council is invited to note this update on development of the new Strategic Board.

## **Financial implications**

- 8 There are no direct financial implications associated with this paper.

## **Publication**

- 9 This paper will be published on the Council website following the Council meeting.

## **Further information**

- 10 Contact: Martin Fairbairn, Chief Operating Officer (direct line: 0131 313 6524, email: [mfairbairn@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:mfairbairn@sfc.ac.uk)).