

Scottish Funding Council Strategic Plan 2015-18

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Purpose of document	Summarisation of documents of high importance for the Business Case
Project detail (delete row if appropriate)	(project name, project owner(s), dates, organisation(s) involved)
Other detail (delete row if appropriate)	

Related projects	Names and doc reference numbers
Keywords	Scotland; universities; colleges; further education; research; ambition; Leadership; innovation; competitiveness; investment;

Name of Strategy:	Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Strategic Plan 2015-18
Date:	6/11/15
URL:	http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Corporate_publications_SFCCP022015_ScottishFundingCouncilStrategicPlan2015/SFCCP022015_SFC_Strategic_Plan_2015-18.pdf
Key words:	Scotland, universities, colleges, further education, research, ambition, leadership, innovation, competitiveness, investment.
Why does this strategy exist? (what's the problem/opportunity this stems from)	<p>There are 3 main drivers of change within the higher education system in Scotland:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Persistent Inequality- inequality is an aspect which the SFC wish to eradicate within further education and make learning accessible to all. They quote "earners from the most deprived 20% of areas in Scotland still account for only 14% of undergraduate entrants to university." 2. The SFC recognises the need to maximise the investment into world-leading research in Scotland to remain competitive globally. They quote "In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework – which measures the quality of research in UK universities – 77% of university research in Scotland's universities was assessed as world-leading or internationally excellent." 3. The SFC identifies the weak levels of productivity despite economic growth in recent years. They quote "Following the deepest global recession in over 50 years, Scotland's economy in 2015 is now experiencing a period of sustained economic growth; however, it continues to suffer from some long-term, underlying structural problems, including relatively weak levels of productivity compared to many OECD comparator countries"
Summary:	The SFC want to ensure that the further education system in Scotland demonstrates the diversity and accessibility of learners from all backgrounds, its research competitiveness and its ability to create innovation and sustain economic growth. Collaboration between further education entities is vital as well as with business and venture capital with the commercialisation of research.

<p>Key goals and means to achieve them:</p>	<p>Key Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take a leadership role in creating a high-performing system of learning in Scotland, which is strongly connected and coherent for learners. 2. Invest in, and support, the development of high-performing colleges and universities with modern, transparent and accountable governance arrangements. 3. Demonstrate the leadership, innovation, and competence expected of modern public bodies, and develop our organisation to deliver ambitious change. <p>In order to do this the SFC will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest their resources strategically. 2. Work with other public bodies and align their investments to achieve the greatest impact. 3. Work with colleges and universities to make the best use of public resources. 4. Develop effective financial strategies and operations. 5. Be an authoritative source of high-quality, evidence-based advice on further and higher education. <p>The SFC plan to invest up to £4.8 billion in the sectors over the three-year period of this strategic plan to deliver the changes required.</p>
<p>Expected outcomes:</p>	<p>This strategic plan sets out three key outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High-quality learning and teaching 2. World-leading research 3. Greater innovation in the economy

	<p>If these three outcomes are met, the further education system in Scotland will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected and coherent: colleges and universities will form a wide range of partnerships and collaborations; students will move easily and successfully through their learning journey into employment or further study. • Accessible and diverse: It will attract students, staff, and leaders from across the world, and from all communities and backgrounds, reflecting the full diversity of Scotland. • Adaptive and responsive: colleges and universities will adapt and innovate successfully in a rapidly changing global economy and society to the needs of students, employers, their communities and regions, and Scotland as a whole. • Excellent: It will provide the highest quality teaching and learning for students that lead to a skilled workforce, successful lives and careers, training and skills in modern facilities, and research that is internationally competitive. • Successful: with diverse, high-performing colleges and universities, which are well-led and governed, it will successfully achieve their strategies and, collectively make a difference to Scotland’s educational, social, cultural and economic life. • Sustainable: The colleges and universities will be financially sustainable and make the best use of their resources.
Key quotes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ambition of the SFC is that “Scotland will be the best place in the world to learn, to educate, to research, and to innovate” ...” with colleges and universities making a major contribution to Scotland’s social, cultural and economic development”. 2. See ‘drivers’ section.
Parent/child document (of what)?	N/A