

## SFC'S STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

### Our Ambition

To make Scotland an outstanding place to learn, educate, research and innovate - now and for the future

### Our Purpose

To create and sustain a world-leading system of tertiary education, research and innovation that enables students to flourish, changes lives for the better, and supports social, economic and environmental wellbeing

### Our guiding principles

- Championing diversity
- Working in partnership
- Supporting sustainability for future generations
- Enhancing evidence-based planning
- Respecting autonomy and subsidiarity

### Underpinning themes

- Responding to the climate emergency
- Protecting the interests of current and future students
- Responding to the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland
- Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion
- Continuing progress towards Fair Work
- Recognising the importance of place
- Understanding the wider UK and international context



Enabling people to learn and flourish

### Our Priorities

Promote fair access, clear pathways and transitions;  
Secure quality learning and teaching, protecting and enhancing the student learning experience;  
Ensure students are well prepared for the world of work and people have lifelong learning opportunities;  
Ensure students are supported to participate in tertiary education, and have their voices heard and valued;  
Promote equality and inclusion so that students are treated fairly and with respect.

### Our Outcomes

Education is accessible to all learners from all backgrounds, and they are supported through successful pathways;  
Quality assurance processes are robust and transparent and support confidence in standards;  
Students are equipped to take up employment and succeed through their whole working lives;  
Students are partners in institutional decision making and engagement is increased;  
Persistent inequalities are being addressed and fairer outcomes can be demonstrated.

**NSET themes:** A Fairer More Equal Society



Generating new ideas and diffusing knowledge

### Our Priorities

Sustain excellent discovery research and cross-disciplinary collaborations;  
Promote a supportive research culture for talented people and teams;  
Make knowledge useful through a connected, cutting-edge innovation eco-system;  
Develop entrepreneurial education and commercial opportunities;  
Deepen partnerships across the UK-wide dual funding system for research.

### Our Outcomes

Scotland's reputation for research excellence is maintained and enhanced;  
There is a clearer collective focus and recognition of the importance of research culture;  
Investment in knowledge exchange and innovation mobilises economic growth and generates solutions to global challenges;  
Talent and entrepreneurship are encouraged and nurtured;  
Scotland is recognised as a key partner in the delivery of UK research and innovation strategies.

**NSET themes:** Entrepreneurial People & Culture New Market Opportunities



Building a responsive, coherent, sustainable system

### Our Priorities

Ensure institutions respond effectively to the climate emergency;  
Support coherent provision, skills and qualification planning;  
Ensure institutions enhance their financial health and good governance;  
Incentivise collaboration between institutions and key partners;  
Adapt our investment priorities and distribution models to secure economic, social and environmental value.

### Our Outcomes

Institutions' expertise drives climate action and just transition to net zero;  
The system and institutions respond and adapt to a range of needs, including skills requirements, and shapes demand resulting in fewer skills gaps and shortages;  
Institutions are sustainable and well governed, in their own right and collectively;  
Best value of public investment is secured;  
Better demonstration of how colleges and universities contribute to economic, social and wellbeing objectives individually and through collaboration.

**NSET themes:** Productive Businesses & Regions Skilled Workforce



Making SFC an excellent organisation

### Our Priorities

Deliver our people and systems transformation programme;  
Act as a catalyst for positive change and impact through renewed partnership working and leadership;  
Develop evaluation and assurance processes;  
Improve the collection, management and use of data, and create insights;  
Enhance our reputation and attractiveness as a high performing organisation.

### Our Outcomes

SFC has diverse, talented and competent teams who are empowered and supported to deliver efficiently and with impact;  
Impactful and collaborative leadership;  
SFC has a clear and developed view of an institution, region and the sector in the delivery of outcomes;  
Improved use of data, analysis and evidence within SFC, the sector and government;  
SFC is recognised as a valued partner and thought leader.

**NSET themes:** A Culture of Delivery

National Performance Framework



UN Sustainable Development Goals:

