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

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.

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

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:
• Productive Businesses & Regions
• Skilled Workforce

Our Priorities
• Enabling people to learn and flourish;
• 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;
• 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

Our Priorities
• Generating new ideas and diffusing knowledge;
• 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
• NSET themes: Entrepreneurial People & Culture
• NSET themes: New Market Opportunities

NSET= National Strategy for Economic Transformation