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
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.

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:
- A Fairer More Equal Society
- Entrepreneurial People & Culture
- New Market Opportunities

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:
- A Culture of Delivery

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

NSET= National Strategy for Economic Transformation