



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

ACC/19/29  
Agenda item 19  
13 June 2019

## **Audit Scotland National Report: Scotland's Colleges 2019**

- This paper informs the Committee about Audit Scotland's recent report on the college sector.

### **Recommendations**

- Note the contents of the report.

### **Financial implications**

- There are no programme fund or running cost implications arising from this paper that are not already allowed for within the Council's programme funds or running cost budgets.



## **Audit Scotland National Report: Scotland's Colleges 2019**

### **Purpose**

1. To inform the Committee about Audit Scotland's recent report on the college sector.

### **Background**

2. Audit Scotland carries out annual reviews of the performance of the college sector.

### **Overview report**

3. The report, which was published on 4 June 2019, has three main sections, covering:
  - Key messages, including recommendations for: Colleges; College boards and regional bodies; Scottish Funding Council (SFC); and the SFC and Scottish Government
  - Part 1: Financial health
  - Part 2: Performance
4. A copy of the full report is attached at **Annex A**.

### **Next steps**

5. The Scottish Parliament's Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee will consider the report and take evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland on 13 June. It is possible that the Committee may wish to take evidence from SFC and/or Scottish Government later in June or following the summer recess. SFC will respond to the relevant recommendations in due course.

### **Risk assessment**

6. There is a risk of reputational damage to the Council from failures in college governance, leadership and management, including financial failure.
7. This risk is mitigated by regular monitoring of colleges and any colleges facing heightened challenges to their sustainability are subject to more intensive monitoring and focused reporting to the Council's Finance Committee.

### **Equality and diversity assessment**

8. There are no equality and diversity issues associated with this paper.

### **Publication**

9. This paper will be published on the Council's website following the Committee's meeting.

### **Recommendation**

10. The Committee is invited to note the contents of the report.

### **Financial implications**

11. There are no programme fund or running cost implications arising from this paper that are not already allowed for within the Council's programme funds or running cost budgets.

### **Further information**

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