
COLLEGE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY: THE APPROACH TO DELIVERING SCOTLAND'S COLLEGE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN

PURPOSE

To consider and comment on the content and actions of the draft College Infrastructure Strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To recommend:

- The strategy is adopted as SFC's approach to delivering a ten-year Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland's colleges; and
- the strategy is published in a coordinated way with Colleges Scotland and the Scottish Government.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the publication of this strategy that need to be considered by the Board.

RISK ASSESSMENT

2. No direct risks have been identified in work proposed to deliver the strategy, as it involves primarily desk research, meetings, and preparation of reports.
3. Failure to deliver against this strategy, specifically failure to deliver an Infrastructure Investment Plan for colleges will carry risks for the quality, sustainability and availability of college estates and other infrastructure. A risk assessment for the Infrastructure Investment Plan and other deliverables will be prepared as part of the strategy delivery plan.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

4. An assessment of the equal opportunity and diversity implications has not been carried out for this strategy document. However, equality and accessibility of provision

throughout Scotland is one of the strategy's guiding principles for all future college infrastructure investments.

5. The strategy sets out actions needed for colleges to assess their future priority investment needs. Any investments proposed by colleges will have had to ensure equal opportunity and diversity issues are fully considered, prioritised, and highlighted when presented to SFC.
6. During the delivery of the strategy, we will consider SFC Equality and Human Rights Equality Impact Assessment Form and Guidance.

ISLAND COMMUNITIES

7. This strategy will impact on all colleges in Scotland, including island communities. It will ensure fair and equitable treatment of colleges throughout Scotland and UHI institutions are active participants in its development and action planning. An impact assessment will be completed as part of the delivery planning process.

CARBON REDUCTION

8. A key strategic objective is to enable colleges to achieve net zero emissions across their estates. The strategy will:
 - deliver against Sector's net zero, sustainability and equity ambitions, and
 - demonstrate social / economic / environmental opportunities and impacts arising from college estates.
9. Specific actions will be developed as part of the delivery planning process.

PUBLICATION

10. This paper will be published on the SFC website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

11. Contact: R Logan Assistant Director Capital and Climate Change, tel: 0131 313 6672, email: rlogan@sfc.ac.uk.

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PURPOSE

12. To ask the Board to consider and comment on the content and actions of the proposed approach to delivering Scotland's College Infrastructure Investment Plan. This strategy will be adopted as the approach to bringing forward a ten-year Infrastructure Investment Plan for colleges (period 2023 – 33) and shared with the Scottish Government in line with the Programme for Government 2021-22.

BACKGROUND

13. This draft infrastructure strategy was approved by the Capital Decision Point Committee on 6 July with a view to be tabled at this Board meeting. We have since consulted with the Scottish Government and Colleges Scotland including their Infrastructure Investment Group. This version of the strategy reflects their comments.
14. The strategy will result in the development of a ten-year Infrastructure Investment Plan for the college sector. The Investment Plan will identify investment need for future college infrastructure across Scotland. This will include investment in net zero and digital needed for a sustainable college estate to deliver the desired outcomes for students, staff and the communities.
15. The strategy is a response to the Programme for Government 2021-22 commitments that the Scottish Government “*will work with the SFC to develop an estates strategy for Scotland’s colleges, establishing priorities for investment*”. The SFC Review of Coherent Provision and Sustainability recommended developing a national vision and strategy for college estates and provides the framework and ambition for this strategy. The strategy will therefore implement the Review’s recommendation.

NEXT STEPS

16. The Strategy sets out the approach to delivering the Infrastructure Investment Plan in terms of working to a set of agreed strategic principles that respond to regulations, policies and best practices. It does not detail the actions, milestones or timescales for delivering the Infrastructure Investment Plan. SFC, the Scottish Government and Colleges Scotland Infrastructure Investment Group will hold a workshop in September 2022 to agree a joint action plan for delivering the Infrastructure Investment Plan.

17. SFC Communications will work with Colleges Scotland and the Scottish Government on a communications plan for the sector prior to publication of this strategy. This will include SFC circulating the Strategy document to all College Principals prior to publishing.
18. Agreeing a detailed strategy delivery plan will be the first step in delivering this strategy. We will establish a Strategy Delivery Group which will include representatives of the SFC, the colleges sector, the Scottish Government and the SFT.
19. This will be a short life working group until the development of the Infrastructure Investment Plan is completed and published in autumn 2023. The purpose of the group will be to agree a joint action plan, with deliverables, milestones and timescales, for delivering the Infrastructure Investment Plan.
20. We aim to publish the Infrastructure Investment Plan in Autumn 2023.
21. Delivering the strategy will form a major part of the SFC Capital and Climate Change Team's future work programme. This will include developing methodology for monitoring progress with delivering this strategy and publishing a progress report every three years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

22. The Board is invited to consider and comment on the content and actions of the draft College Infrastructure Strategy, and recommend that:
 - the College Infrastructure Strategy is adopted as the SFC approach to developing a ten-year Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland's colleges for the period from 2023 to 2033, and
 - the strategy is published in a coordinated way with Colleges Scotland and the Scottish Government.