

**Wednesday 5 July 2017**

**Comment on the Latest Scottish Economic Statistics**

Commenting on the Scottish GDP statistics published today, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

“It is very encouraging to see the Scottish economy return to positive growth on the back of very positive employment figures, particularly in the manufacturing sector where colleges play a central role in delivering a skilled workforce.

“Colleges are central to delivering the widening access agenda which is vital to ensure that people have pathways into work or retraining for new careers in order to meet the needs of employers. Colleges have consistently led the way in this area through being embedded within communities and working in partnership with schools, universities and employers across the country. Following the recommendations of the Enterprise and Skills Review we will be working closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that there is more flexibility to better support traditional, non-traditional and part-time journeys, to better meet the needs of learners, employers and the economy.

“Colleges are a linchpin in the Scottish economy. In order to continue driving productivity in Scotland it is crucial that we have a strong college sector to ensure that people have the right skills and training to succeed in the workplace. “

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact Joanne Buchan, Public Affairs and Communications Officer:**

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: [joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk)