John Henderson, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland commented: “We support the general principles of the bill and we have suggested changes that would strengthen it and make it better able to achieve these principles.

“We would like the bill to have a better balance between central control and local autonomy. Like universities, we would like to remove the requirement for ministerial approval for some board appointments.

“Colleges work best when they can respond quickly to the needs of their local learners, employers and economies and their ability to do this must be protected by the bill at Stage 2.”

-ENDS-