

**Thursday 22 June 2017**

**Comment on the Report on Phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland said:

“Colleges Scotland is pleased to see the positive progress made during Phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review. The proposals will help to ensure that Scotland’s enterprise and skills landscape is more coherent and better able to react to the fast-changing needs of learners and employers.

“Colleges are now of a scale to act as regional skills hubs right across the length and breadth of Scotland, providing both the glue that can hold the ‘regional partnerships’ together, and the expertise and adaptability in teaching and learning that is required by businesses and the wider economy.

“The Scottish Government’s vision for a reformed learner journey, which puts the learner at the centre of the system, echoes the previous thinking by the college sector which was for a more co-ordinated approach across schools, colleges, universities and employers that puts learners at the heart of the process. Colleges Scotland looks forward to working closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that in future, the system allows for more flexibility to better support all learners including non-traditional and part-time journeys, and enables learners to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and cost.

“Innovation also has a key role to play across the enterprise and skills landscape. The Review has acknowledged that the college sector can play an important role in equipping Scotland’s people with the tools and skills needed to innovate. Ensuring that businesses can access the right range and mix of innovation advice and products is vital. It is good to see recognised the contribution the colleges can play in this area and the £500k set aside for a piloted College Innovation Fund will support this.

“Colleges Scotland looks forward to working closely with the new Strategic Board and the new analytical unit as they take forward the recommendations of the Review.”

**ENDS**

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**NOTES:**

Enterprise and Skills Review: Report on Phase 2

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/4042>

Enterprise and Skills Review: Scottish Government Response to Professor Crerar's Report

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/8375>