

Wednesday, 12 December 2018: For Immediate Release

Comment on the Draft Scottish Budget 2019-20

Commenting on the Draft Scottish Budget announced today (Wednesday), Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

“There are elements of the Scottish Government’s Draft Budget that the college sector can welcome given that the revenue resource budget for colleges has increased by £18.3 million to £606.5 million – a real terms increase of 1.3%. It is good news, for example, that the financing of National Bargaining is continuing as this significant investment in lecturing and support staff is essential for colleges and there is also the continuation of the £10 million investment for the Flexible Workforce Development Fund.

“We recognise that the Scottish Parliament continues to operate within a challenging financial environment, however, the 1.3% real terms revenue increase is to cover the costs of National Bargaining and means finances shall remain tight for colleges. Colleges will have to prioritise and efficiently manage resources to continue delivering high-quality learning and teaching as well as providing people with the necessary professional, technical, and vocational skills not only for today but also for tomorrow’s workforce.

“The Scottish Government’s Draft Budget also allocates £47.6 million in capital funding for the college estate, however £22 million of this is earmarked for Forth Valley College’s Falkirk campus rebuild, leaving £25.6 million for the college estate’s essential backlog and ongoing maintenance. The college sector’s requirement for capital is well in excess of the amount allocated, so there are challenges ahead for the college estate.

“Our colleges – located across every region of Scotland – are intrinsic to the success of our country and are embedded in all our communities, which is why Colleges Scotland will continue to make the case for greater investment in the sector.”

ENDS

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