

**Friday, 14 August 2020**

### **Comment on Additional Digital Funding**

Commenting on the additional £5 million capital funding announced by the Scottish Funding Council to support digital provision for learners in colleges and universities, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

“This additional funding is very welcome news. It is essential that no-one is left behind because of digital poverty and that all students have access to the necessary equipment and technology to be able to undertake coursework and complete their studies.

“We now live in a digitally oriented society where digital skills and technology are integral, and a key part of learning and training. The global pandemic has accelerated the use of online and digital learning across the sector and its more important now than ever that students are able to fully participate in that as colleges take forward a blended learning approach going forward into new academic year.

“Colleges have a long-established and very successful track record of social inclusion and widening access to education, and this additional funding will help to ensure that they continue to deliver. The college sector has an essential role to play in driving Scotland’s social and economic recovery post-COVID-19 by reskilling, retraining and providing people with invaluable employability skills, and additional financial investment – such as this digital capital – will help maximise colleges’ positive impact.”

**ENDS**

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### **Notes:**

Further details about the funding can be found in the SFC document at

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/announcements/2020/SFCAN122020.aspx>