

Thursday, 28 January 2021

Comment on the Draft Scottish Budget

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

“Colleges Scotland welcomes the Draft Budget, which recognises the need for investment in learners, staff and our colleges across the country: this is a good step towards addressing financial sustainability.

“In cash terms, today’s Budget gives the sector an additional £35.7million, an increase of 5.6% on last year’s revenue resource allocation. This is positive, not only because of the day-to-day work colleges deliver across the country but also because of the severe and ongoing impact of the pandemic.

“The Draft Budget sets out that an anticipated £500million of COVID-19 consequential funding is coming to Scotland, and we would fully expect that colleges would benefit further from this. There are financial challenges for the sector that we are dealing with now in terms of pandemic costs, which come on top of the existing investment needed in every college on an ongoing basis. Recovering from the pandemic will require substantial additional investment to help to continue to deliver high quality teaching and learning – this has never been more important as Scotland looks ahead to rebuilding the economy and increasing productivity outputs.

“Scottish Government clearly recognises the role colleges have in delivering qualifications, skills and support for 239,000 learners and the contribution colleges make now, to productivity, and in the future, for economic recovery. As always, we will work closely with Scottish Government and Scottish Funding Council on behalf of the college learners to source additional capital funding for the sector. Students moving into the workplace of the 21st century deserve high quality facilities, world-class teaching and cutting-edge skills training which we are well able to deliver with adequate investment.”

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