
Audit and Assurance Committee Meeting

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 15 March 2022
Paper Title	Audit Scotland Skills Report
Agenda Item	10
Paper Number	AAC3-E
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance and Resources Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the recent Audit Scotland report 'Planning for Skills'.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to:

- **note** the Audit Scotland report 'Planning for Skills', and
- **approve** that the recommendations contained therein are progressed by the GCRB Executive Director in conjunction with the Performance and Resources Committee.

3. Report

3.1 In January 2022, Audit Scotland published its report Planning for Skills. A link to the publication is provided below:

https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr_220120_planning_skills.pdf

3.2 The Key message within the report is:

“The Scottish Government recognises that workforce skills are central to the economy, but it has not provided the leadership needed to achieve the intended benefits from joint working in skills planning and provision. Many obstacles remain and present risks to progress. The Scottish Government now needs to take urgent action to realise its ambitions for skills alignment.”

3.3 The recommendations of the report are as follows:

The Scottish Government should:

- clearly set out its strategic intent for skills alignment, the outcomes it aims to achieve, and how it will measure progress – ensuring that this is consistent with relevant objectives and outcomes in its national strategies and plans
- clarify the governance and oversight arrangements for skills alignment activity
- through letters of guidance, clearly articulate to SDS and the SFC what it expects of them in working together to implement skills alignment, ensuring the letters to both agencies are consistent and complementary.

The Scottish Government, SDS and the SFC should:

- agree how they will work together to deliver shared outcomes for skills.

SDS and the SFC should:

- implement solutions to overcome obstacles to joint working, including collectively using data to inform skills planning
- provide timely, regular reports about their progress on skills alignment to the Scottish Government and others with governance and oversight responsibilities.

3.4 The report is an important development, and highly relevant in informing the Glasgow region’s strategy in relation to the provision of skills. It is also directly relevant to Glasgow Colleges’ Regional Board with regard to its responsibility for planning the regional curriculum skills needs of its stakeholders.

3.5 It is recommended that the Committee approves that the recommendations contained within this Audit Scotland report are progressed by the GCRB Executive Director in conjunction with the Performance and Resources Committee.

4. Risk and compliance implications

4.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight a key report published by Audit Scotland. The implementation of the issues raised in the report could mitigate the risks faced by GCRB and the Glasgow college region. For example,

- Risk 001 - GCRB is unable to respond proactively to internal and external change including regional and national reviews and systemic change.
- Risk 004 - Opportunities to deliver regional strategy are missed/not resourced appropriately.
- Risk 006 - Ineffective regional curriculum planning impacts regional, economic and social needs.
- Risk 010 - Ineffective collaboration between all partners in the Glasgow college region reduces our collective impact.

5. Financial and resources implications

5.1 There are no direct resource implications as a result of this report. There may be resource implications as a result of subsequent action and this will be identified within the appropriate future report.

6. Equalities implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications as a direct result of this report.

7. Learner implications

7.1 The response to the report has the potential to influence the regional strategic plan and the delivery of services to learners.