
Board Meeting

Date of Meeting	Monday 28 October 2024
Paper Title	Future of College Sector
Agenda Item	7
Paper Number	BM1-C
Responsible Officer	Jim Godfrey, Finance and Resources Director
Status	Disclosable
Action	For discussion

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.** This agenda item provides an opportunity for board members to discuss two important documents that impact the Glasgow college region.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** The Board is invited to discuss the content of the following documents:
- OECD Report on Future-Proofing the Skills System in the Glasgow City Region, and
 - Audit Scotland Report on Scotland's Colleges.

3. Background

- 3.1.** The OECD report was published on 16 September 2024 and sets out an agenda for future-proofing the employment and skills system for the Glasgow City Region.
- 3.2.** The Audit Scotland report was published on 19 September 2024. It describes the impact that reducing finances, and staff reductions, meaning that colleges may not be able to offer the same learning experience to students as in the past. The report also highlights the lack of reform of the post-school sector and continuing uncertainty this has caused. The Audit Scotland report was discussed at the meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Public Audit Committee on 3 October 2024. A recording of the meeting, together with the minutes of the meeting, are available via the following link:

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-public-audit-committee/meetings/2024/public-audit-committee-03-october-2024>

4. Risk and Compliance Analysis

- 4.1.** There are no direct risks because of the recommendations in this report.
- 4.2.** The reports contain details of many issues facing the college sector and Glasgow region. The Board may wish to reflect on these risks and consider how they might be reflected in the board's deliberations at this meeting and its risk workshop in January 2025.

5. Financial and Resource Analysis

- 5.1** There are no direct financial implications because of the recommendations in this report. The wider financial implications are set out in the two external reports.

6. Equalities Implications

- 6.1** There are no equalities implications because of the recommendations in this report.

7. Learner Implications

- 7.1** There are no learner implications because of this report.