

<b>Committee</b>	Board of Management		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	6.2.4		
<b>Date paper prepared</b>	31/08/2022	<b>Date of committee meeting</b>	05/10/2022
<b>Subject</b>	Scotland's Colleges 2022		
<b>Author</b>	Audit Scotland		
<b>Action requested</b>	To Note		
<b>Purpose of the paper</b>	<p>Audit Committee reviewed this document from Audit Scotland, but felt its relevance applied to all board members, as its contents, in the opinion of Audit Committee, was relevant to a number of other committees, and arguably, all Board Members.</p> <p>Audit Committee wished this paper to come to Board to note, and for members to review, engage with if they so wished, and to be aware of its contents.</p> <p>Members will find this paper here:  <a href="https://app.admincontrol.net/PDF/Editor/?dt=34925872964005555">https://app.admincontrol.net/PDF/Editor/?dt=34925872964005555</a> in this folder: <a href="https://app.admincontrol.net/Bp?info=1#/Documents/6106983">https://app.admincontrol.net/Bp?info=1#/Documents/6106983</a></p>		
<b>Brief summary of the paper</b>	<p>Key Messages</p> <p>1 Covid-19 funding contributed to the college sector reporting a healthier than expected financial position in 2020-21. This is forecast to change for the current and next academic years. It will be difficult for Scotland's colleges to balance the delivery of high-quality learning at the volume currently expected and to contribute to other Scottish Government priorities while remaining financially sustainable.</p> <p>2 Colleges have continued to deliver learning in unprecedented circumstances and responded well to the shift to online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the proportion of students successfully completing their course and achieving their intended qualification has fallen. And on average, socially disadvantaged and vulnerable students were less likely to successfully complete their course than their peers. High rates of student withdrawals may affect the life chances of individual students, impact on wider society, and risk not maximising public investment in the college sector.</p> <p>3 Change is needed to ensure more students are successful and that the college sector is financially sustainable in the long term. Wide-ranging recommendations for change made by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in 2021 need to be implemented at the earliest opportunity. The Scottish Government is due to set out the future role of the college and university sectors in 2023, but it is important that the Scottish Government and the</p>		

	<p>SFC support colleges to plan for change now to make best use of available funding.</p> <p>Interactive data for members to peruse is available on the learner journey from school to work: <a href="https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/e-hubs/the-learner-journey-from-school-to-work">https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/e-hubs/the-learner-journey-from-school-to-work</a></p>
<b>Consultation</b>	Audit Committee
<b>Resource implications</b>	None
<b>Risk implications</b>	As detailed in the paper
<b>Link with strategy</b>	Sustainability
<b><a href="#">Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</a></b>	n/a
<b>Island Community Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Paper status</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Open</b> – The paper may be circulated to non-members of the committee and published online without restriction.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Restricted</b> – The paper must not be circulated to non-members or published online until after the committee meeting.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Confidential</b> - The paper must not be circulated beyond the committee members and should not be published online. [Please note papers may still be subject to Freedom of Information requests – see below].</p>
<b><a href="#">Freedom of information</a></b>	<p>Open</p> <p>If closed/ withheld, select date this will become 'open': Enter a date.</p>