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Public Audit Committee
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Dear Convener

Shared Outcomes Framework Executive Summary

Further to your letter of 24 March 2022 regarding the Shared Outcomes Framework and your suggestion that an Executive Summary of that document would prove useful, and to my response of 22 April 2022, please find attached the Executive Summary of the Shared Outcomes Framework which we propose to publish shortly (Annex 1).

The Framework remains a living document; further work on implementation continues and we will keep you apprised of progress.

I trust that you will find this helpful.

Jamie Hepburn

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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Annex 1 Shared Outcomes Framework

Executive Summary

1. The Scottish Government published the Shared Outcomes Framework (SOF/ “the Framework”) in March 2022.
2. The Framework was developed by the Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). It sets out, in one shared document, how SDS and SFC, are working together on skills planning.
3. The term “skills planning” is used to describe the work that SFC and SDS undertake with other sectoral or regional partners to ensure that post-16 learning and training opportunities align more directly with economic need. These opportunities comprise those available from colleges, universities, independent training providers and other workplace learning including apprenticeships, upskilling and reskilling.
4. Skills planning is the method by which we seek to address the issue of “skills alignment”; this is the term used for the ambition to match the skills available in the workforce with the anticipated current and future needs of employers and the economy.
5. The Framework draws upon learning from earlier work and structures and intensive collaboration amongst the named partners. The finalised Framework is informed also by the recommendations of Audit Scotland “Planning for Skills” report, published in January 2022.
6. The Framework will be used by those managing and overseeing the component projects and programmes to drive and monitor progress towards the defined outcomes. The Framework sets out what each project or programme should achieve (strategic objectives and outcomes) and key milestones that must be met. This will enable effective monitoring and reporting of joint working.
7. At time of publication the Framework comprises 8 projects and programmes. Projects can be removed from the Framework as they are completed. Similarly, new projects may be added to the Framework as SG, SDS, and SFC identify further opportunities to deepen collaboration. Further detail of the individual projects, their intended visions, outcomes and specific milestones is set out on page [10](#) of the Framework. Measures and reporting tools are being developed and will be shared as part of our regular commitment to publish papers from the Shared Outcomes Assurance Group.
8. The [Shared Outcomes Assurance Group](#) (SOAG) is the governance group responsible for ensuring the delivery of the projects and programmes on the Shared Outcomes Framework. SOAG will meet regularly, two weeks in advance of the six-weekly meetings between the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education, Youth Employment and Training and the Chief Executives of SDS and the SFC.
9. Members of the SOAG will also report on the progress of implementing the Shared Outcomes Framework via the governance structures for the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET). This will ensure that the implementation of the Shared Outcomes Framework contributes directly to the **NSET commitment to developing a Skilled Workforce** as well as to the National Performance Framework ambition: “**We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society**”. Further detail on the SOAG is set out in the [Terms of Reference](#) at Annex C of the Framework.
10. The Scottish Government, SFC and SDS will continue to be accountable to Scottish Ministers and to the Scottish Parliament for the delivery of the Shared Outcomes Framework.

Summary of Figures used in the Shared Outcomes Framework

11. [Figure 1](#) sets out the National Performance Framework outcomes and measures, and the skills actions from the National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET) to which all skills, labour market and education policies and programmes are expected to contribute.

12. For Skills Development Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council the projects that are part of the Shared Outcomes Framework and the work that they do as part of their wider span of responsibility will contribute to these system level outcomes.

13. Tables [1 – 4](#) set out the outcomes and indicative measures that the Scottish Government, SDS and SFC expect to deliver for individuals, employers, government and agencies, and for Scotland's wider economy and society, as a result of the cumulative impact of the projects being taken forward through the Shared Outcomes Framework.

14. All collaborative projects outlined in the Shared Outcomes Framework are expected to contribute to these outcomes. In doing so, they will also contribute to delivery of the national outcomes set out in [Figure 1](#).