

Enterprise and Skills Review

Background

In May 2016, the First Minister announced an end-to-end review to ensure that all public agencies are delivering the joined-up support that our young people, universities, colleges, training providers, businesses and the workforce need.

The Review has been led by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, and was supported by a Ministerial Review Group, including members of the Council of Economic Advisers. The Review's aims as stated in its original remit are:

- To make a step-change in enterprise and skills support to help progress towards our ambition of Scotland ranking among the top quartile of OECD countries in terms of productivity, equality, wellbeing and sustainability.
- To be driven by evidence, to listen to the views of users, and put forward proposals that respond to their needs.
- To ensure a simpler and more coherent enterprise and skills support system.

In June 2017 the [overall Phase 2 Report](#), plus associated feeder reports for each of the projects (with the exception of Governance) outlining progress was published.

Strategic Board

One of the key actions emerging from Phase 2 is the creation of a new Strategic Board to align and co-ordinate the activities of the enterprise and skills agencies

On 31 August, the First Minister announced that Nora Senior has been appointed Chair of the Strategic Board.

Ms Senior is Chair, UK Regions & Ireland of global PR firm Weber Shandwick and has more than 25 years' experience working with clients across a wide range of sectors, including infrastructure, transport, energy, property, finance, healthcare, technology and FMCG.

In May 2017 she stepped down as Chair of Scottish Chambers of Commerce after serving a four-year term, and is a former President of the British Chambers of Commerce.

Other members of the Strategic Board will be announced ahead of the Board meeting for the first time in November.

Implementation Board

Ahead of the Strategic Board being formed, the [Implementation Board](#) has been meeting monthly since June 2017. Chaired by Professor Crerar, it has established three short-life project groups to take forward key priorities.

Key actions emerging from Phase 2

- The creation of new enterprise agency for the South of Scotland.
- A more coherent, collaborative and streamlined system of business support, including development of a single digital access point

- Piloting a £500k College Innovation Fund to support Scotland's colleges to work with businesses on innovation activity
- A new, five-stage skills planning model developed jointly by the skills agencies
- Strengthened engagement with regional partnerships, including closer work with the private sector
- A review of the learner journey for 15-24 year olds to ensure it provides the best path to success
- Boosting trade and investment in Scotland by better co-ordinating international activity
- A cross-agency analytical unit set up to drive performance and ensure business support decisions are based on the best data available

<https://beta.gov.scot/policies/economic-growth/enterprise-and-skills-review/>