

Borders College



Future Skills Strategy 2020-2025



Regionally Focused – Globally Engaged

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I. Introduction

Our Future Skills Strategy sets out how we will respond to our regional and national priorities as the leading provider for skills development in the Borders and beyond.

Borders College will continue to play a critical role in advancing an inclusive economy for Scotland. Building on our expertise and knowledge, we will work in partnership with others to draw on specific expertise in order to continue to provide excellence in a rapidly changing world.



The significant contribution our staff make to delivering outstanding and innovative learning approaches for our students and employers is valued. We will continue to recognise our staff as our biggest asset and will continue to listen, support and invest in their development and resources.

The rapidly changing career landscape is disrupting how and when people want to access learning with an expectation that lifelong learning will be a career essential.

We will respond to the feedback and needs of our students and employers, ensuring our learning opportunities reflect their needs and we will create high quality learning and training opportunities which are relevant, enabling and flexible.

The opportunities for the Borders are significant, with the establishment of a South of Scotland Enterprise Agency, being part of the Edinburgh and South East City Region Deal and Borderlands Deal.

Advances in technology mean that we will live and work within an interconnected global network. We will provide our alumni with the knowledge, skills and values they need to embrace the opportunities and challenges they will encounter as global citizens.

As a progressive organisation, we will continue to be regionally focused but globally engaged to ensure the successful delivery of our purpose-driven Future Skills Strategy.

II. Strategic Context

Borders College will be the learning and training provider of choice for employers, students and our staff.

We will provide innovative, life-changing learning opportunities that prepare our students for employment and as a contributor to global citizenship.

Borders College is well placed to address the future skills challenges of not only the Scottish Borders but also for Scotland. The College recognises that skills are a key enabler of economic growth and success for the region.



The recent **South of Scotland Regional Skills Investment Plan** and supporting Skills Alignment work identified the following priority areas for the South of Scotland:

Leadership, Enterprise, Digital, Land based, Health, Visitor Economy, Sustainable Construction and Engineering.

These are also applicable across Scotland and we will prioritise our activity to maximise the opportunities in those areas whilst maintaining our unique offer within niche markets.

As a key partner delivering on the **Skills Action Plan for Rural Scotland 2019-2021**, the College is continuing to develop and increase the skills base of rural Scotland. We will improve the pipeline within traditional sectors but also develop “Meta-skills”, digital skills and higher level leadership and management skills.



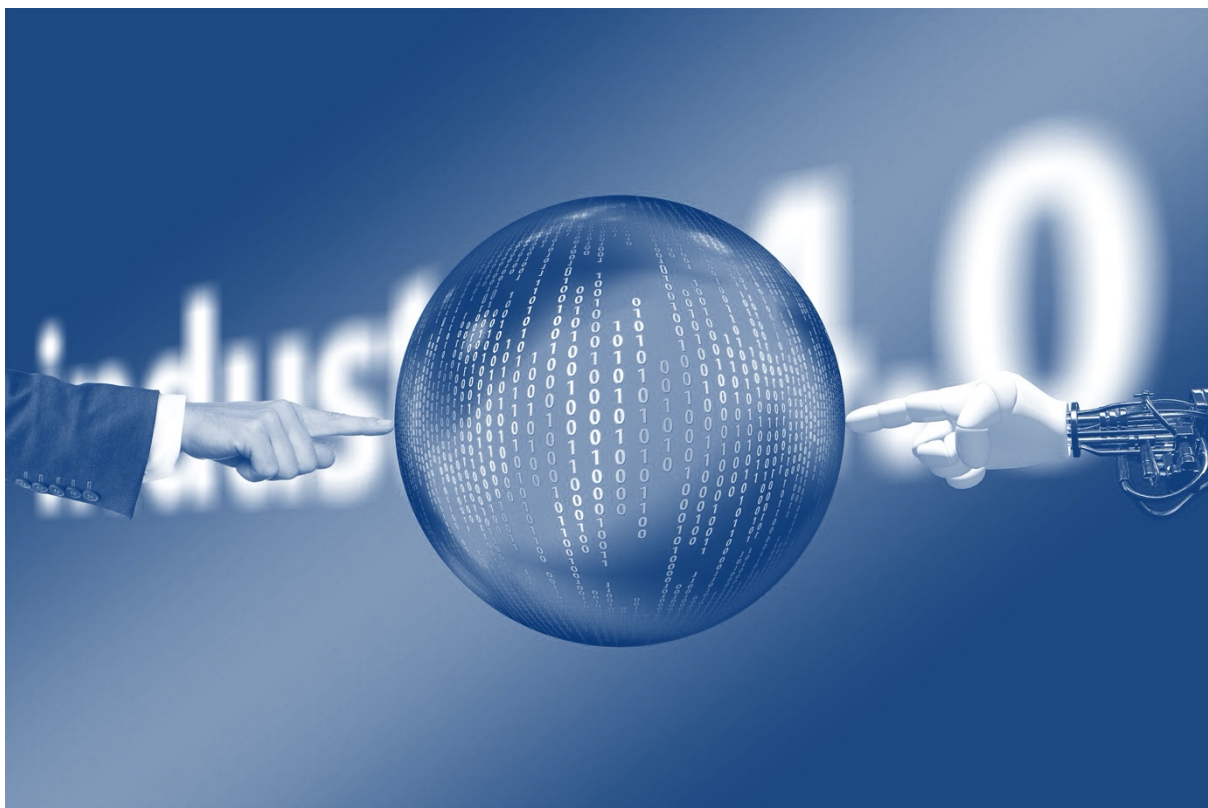
Scotland’s Climate Change Action Plan (2018-2032) sets out the ambition for Scotland to have net-zero emissions for all greenhouse gases by 2045. Our Sustainability Strategy details our commitment to working collaboratively to respond to this global challenge which includes developing a range of new programmes of study in response to the green economy.



Borders College is proud to support the **Digital Ambition for Scotland's Colleges** launched in September 2020, and we are utilising this whole system approach to ensure students have the opportunity to upskill digitally and reskill to prepare for new working practices emerging through this exciting digital era.

Industry 4.0, a term used to describe the advancement of automation including **smart technologies**, is directly influencing the skills agenda. The College is designing the curriculum to ensure the workforce has the skills, knowledge and capabilities to thrive in this complex, ever changing environment.

Our students will be developing their technical **digital skills** together with wider **metacognitive skills**. This will ensure our students develop the skills to enable them to excel and perform to their highest ability.



III. Strategic Ambition

This Future Skills Strategy has been developed to enable the college to meet its strategic ambition:

We will provide innovative, life-changing learning opportunities that prepare our students for global citizenship.

We will also continue to be the learning and training provider of choice for employers, students and our staff.

We will continually evolve our curriculum to ensure it is fit for purpose for students and employers.

INNOVATIVE

Borders College has been recognised nationally for being an innovative organisation, but we want to expand our innovation within learning and teaching and through working in partnership with others to enhance our knowledge and expertise through research and emerging practice.

LIFE CHANGING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Borders College is proud of the wide range of learner pathways it provides across a range of key sectors and different learning approaches. These are developed in partnership with employers and students. Increasingly the offer needs to be at higher and technical levels in response to the rapidly changing skills needs of industry. We will continually review our portfolio to ensure it reflects local and national priorities and demand.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Borders College recognises the need to develop our students as Global Citizens. We will support our alumni, through their knowledge and skills, to make a positive contribution as an individual and as part of a community to an inclusive and sustainable society.

LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES

This strategy will support the Strategic Ambition of the College and will contribute to the College's ability to respond to the global climate emergency detailed within the Sustainability Strategy. This strategy will also influence the Asset Management Strategy.



IV. Strategic Objectives

To ensure we provide innovative, life-changing learning opportunities that prepare our students for global citizenship:



V. Priority Actions



VI. Performance Measures

We will measure the success of our Future Skills Strategy by the following outcomes:

