

## Briefing scope

# National Strategy for Economic Transformation

## Delivery arrangements and update on progress

AUDITOR GENERAL 

Prepared by Audit Scotland

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### Background

In March 2022, the Scottish Government published its National Strategy for Economic Transformation (NSET). This 10-year strategy outlines the government's vision to create a wellbeing economy: a society that is thriving across economic, social, and environmental dimensions, and that delivers prosperity for all Scotland's people and places.

In April 2023, the Scottish Government renewed its commitment to the NSET, with an increased focus on the actions which would have greatest impact on growing and changing the Scottish economy.

### Why is this briefing important?

The context for economic development in Scotland has changed in recent years. The UK has left the European Union, the global economy is still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine has increased macroeconomic instability and risks, and the UK faces fiscal challenges.

Successfully growing and transforming Scotland's economy in line with the vision in the NSET has potential to impact positively on public finances and demand for public services.

The ambitions of the NSET are wide-reaching and cross many policy areas. It contains over 70 actions across five programmes: Entrepreneurial People & Culture, New Market Opportunities, Productive Business & Regions, Skilled Workforce and A Fairer & More Equal Society. These are all underpinned by a cross-cutting theme, Culture of Delivery.

While it is too early to assess the success or impact of these programmes, it is timely to look at the framework established by the Scottish Government for delivering its vision to transform Scotland's economy.

### What will the briefing look at?

The briefing will highlight the Auditor General's interest in this area by examining governance, delivery and financing arrangements the Scottish Government has put in place to achieve the long-term vision and goals of the NSET.

It will:

- provide an overview of Scotland's economic performance and highlight the importance of sustainable economic growth for public finances in Scotland

- consider the governance and delivery arrangements that have been established to support successful delivery of the NSET, and how these are operating
- consider the Scottish Government's plans for measuring overall success and how it is monitoring progress and managing performance across the NSET actions
- outline how much public and private investment is targeted to delivering the vision set out in the strategy
- outline areas of progress to date and emerging challenges.

## How will we carry out this briefing?

The briefing will draw on published documents including NSET plans, board papers, Scottish budget and economic data. We will interview Scottish Government officials and other key stakeholders involved in the delivery and oversight of the NSET.

## What do we want to happen as a result?

The briefing will contribute to the scrutiny of Scottish Government's progress with arrangements and plans to deliver this strategy. It aims to support improvement by highlighting issues for the Scottish Government to consider.

The briefing will provide a foundation for Audit Scotland's future work in this area.

## Timetable

We plan to publish the briefing on behalf of the Auditor General for Scotland in early 2024.

## Contact

If you have any questions about this briefing, please get in touch with Catherine Young, Senior Manager, at [cyoung@audit-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:cyoung@audit-scotland.gov.uk).

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Audit Scotland, 4th Floor,  
102 West Port, Edinburgh EH3 9DN  
T: 0131 625 1500  
E: [info@audit-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@audit-scotland.gov.uk)  
[www.audit-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk)