

The Trafford & Stockport College Group



TRAFFORD &
STOCKPORT
COLLEGE GROUP

Annual Accountability Statement and Local Needs Duty

2024/25





MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Unlocking Potential, Fostering Success.

We are proud to be a career focused, inclusive college guided by our values, vision and mission. This framework provides the direction for our strategic plan which sets out to achieve our purpose of unlocking the potential and fostering success of our learners, partners, stakeholders, and colleagues.

Our Mission

To provide the highest quality of education and training to all our students and employers through an inclusive and career focused curriculum.

Vision

To be a leading provider of education and skills that supports community cohesion and drives local and regional productivity.

Our Values

Ambitious

We set high expectations and standards for students, colleagues, and our communities, striving for excellence in all that we do.

Resilient

We believe that every challenge is an opportunity to learn, develop and become stronger.

Collaborative

We work together, support one another, share ideas, and encourage success.

Inclusive

We value individual difference and creating an environment where everyone has the same opportunities.

Respectful

We allow ourselves and others to grow by treating each other with thoughtfulness and an open mind.





TSCG PURPOSE

The Trafford and Stockport College Group (TSCG) Strategic Plan (2021-24) sets out our purpose, vision, mission, strategic priorities and strategic enablers. The current Strategic Plan, and the changes reflected since the previous plan, is set against the Group's context of "two mergers in three years and the impact of a global pandemic".

The Group ensures that a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum offer is in place providing students with clear progression opportunities into further study and / or employment and aligned to local, regional and national skills needs. This reflects our position in responding to the needs of the two local authority areas that we reside in, Stockport and Trafford, whilst also being part of the wider Greater Manchester city region.

Our offer is in line with our mission to provide the highest quality of education and training to all our students and employers through our "dual mandate" of an **inclusive** and **career focused** curriculum, contributing to our vision of supporting community cohesion and driving local and regional productivity; and ultimately, "unlocking the potential and fostering the success" of the students, employers and communities that we serve.

The Group's approach to providing an inclusive and career focused curriculum as part of our strategic intent means that a broad and balanced curriculum offer is provided across all levels (Entry Level – Level 6) and across academic, foundation, professional, technical and vocational learning. The Group works with young people, apprentices, learners with SEND, adults returning to learning and part-time learners in employment.

The Group's current Strategic Plan comes to an end in summer 2024. The Governing Body is in the process of developing a new TSCG Strategic Plan 2024-2030. Whilst the new plan will not be finalised before the June publication of this Accountability Statement, the focus on meeting local, regional and national skills needs will continue to be front and centre of our strategic direction.





CONTEXT AND PLACE

The Group as it stands today has been years in the making. In 2007, North Trafford and South Trafford College merged into one college for the borough, Trafford College, with a £29m turnover. In 2018, Stockport College merged with Trafford College to form the Trafford College Group. Then, in May 2021, Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College joined the Trafford College Group. The Group launched its new name – Trafford and Stockport College Group – in January 2024 to encompass a more inclusive identity for the communities we serve. TSCG operates across five main campus sites, with two satellite centres at Manchester Airport and the Trafford Centre.

The local authority areas of Stockport and Trafford are the most prosperous of the Greater Manchester city region yet contain some stark inequalities between different local wards. Areas such as Partington and Old Trafford in Trafford, and Brinnington and Edgeley in Stockport have stark challenges around economic wellbeing compared to the likes of Bowden and Bramhall. Given the nature of the selective education system that still operates in Trafford, and the highly competitive landscape in Stockport; many students who enrol with TSCG are from more disadvantaged backgrounds and have in some cases not benefited from their previous educational experiences as much as they should. Equally, many students who have achieved well at key stage 4 join TSCG as their first-choice provider, rather than electing to enrol at a local school sixth form or another provider.

The Group provides further education and skills training across Stockport and Trafford, as well as to many residents in the wider Greater Manchester city region and the Northwest of England. Education and training courses are offered in nearly all subject areas and planning is aligned to skills needs as identified in local and city region strategies. In addition, the Group's curriculum offer aligns to 'frontier' sectors outlined in the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy including advanced manufacturing, digital, green economy and health; as well as providing a range of provision linked to key local and regional employment sectors including construction, childcare & education, hospitality and professional services.





APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

Engagement with Local Authority Partners

The Group works collaboratively with the local authorities of Stockport and Trafford to ensure that the offer and curriculum plans are clearly aligned to the local area's skills needs and economic ambitions.

The Group is an integral part of the Stockport Economic Plan (linked to the One Stockport Borough Plan). Actions from our own Accountability Statement are incorporated into the plan and are monitored by the Stockport Economic Alliance – a group which includes employers, civic partners, and charities. In addition, the Group is working closely with the Local Authority on its new Post-16 Skills Plan, with a focus on ensuring all young people have high quality provision available to them across the full range of options including technical education and apprenticeships.



The Group continues to be a key partner for Trafford's economic development through our involvement within the Trafford Enterprise, Employment, and Skills (TEES) Group. The new TEES Action Plan also incorporates objectives from our own Accountability Statement, and this is monitored by a new TEES Board which includes employers and civic partners. In addition, the Group is supporting the re-launch of the Trafford Partnership through our involvement in the new "Sustainable Growth Pillar" which has a particular focus on "skills".

Our engagement in the Stockport Economic Alliance and new Post-16 Skills Plan, and engagement in the Trafford Partnership and TEES Group & Board, supports our Local Needs Duty and informs our approach to developing a new annual Accountability Statement and set of objectives. This includes an approach where our Local Authority partners review and comment upon our draft objectives before the finalisation and publication of our Accountability Statement.



Engagement with Employers and Employer Representative Bodies

The Group has developed an ambitious Employer Responsive Strategy to meet the local and regional skills for now and the future. The strategy is focused on being responsive to the needs of employers across the range of the Group's provision and based around driving "transformational" as opposed to just "transactional" relationships.

The Group works with a significant number of employers from a wide range of sectors. The Group has strong working relationships with key local and regional employer representative bodies including the GM Chamber of Commerce, Stockport Chamber of Commerce, Sale & Altrincham Chamber of Commerce, Stockport Economic Alliance and Marketing Stockport. These relationships have supported a better understanding of and responsiveness to local and regional skills priorities.



The Group has established "Employer Advisory Boards" (EABs) across a range of sectors to support our vision of an employer-informed curriculum and to enable more effective development, planning and delivery to meet organisational needs. This approach of working closely with employers across a sector specific model supports the Group to better understand the immediate (tactical) skills needs of employers, whilst also exploring the (strategic) future skills requirements that can inform curriculum planning and delivery.



Curriculum Planning and Engagement with the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)

The Group's business planning cycle strives to meet current and emerging employer demand and skills needs utilising Greater Manchester LEP priorities to determine curriculum development requirements. As part of an annual review and modification of the curriculum offer, the Group uses various LMI sources, including Vector, data analysis conducted by GMCA and local authorities and employers to identify growth sectors and skills gaps. Following the recent two mergers, this has involved a comprehensive curriculum mapping exercise to review the Group's offer, with a particular although not exclusive focus on Stockport, and to ensure coherence and alignment to local and regional skills needs – an activity that will continue in partnership with the local authority and other post 16 education providers within the borough.

The Group continues to work closely with the Employer Representative Body (ERB) for the Greater Manchester LSIP to understand local and regional skills needs. The ERB is the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce (GMCC). Throughout the development of the LSIP, the Chamber engaged continuously with Greater Manchester Colleges and our Governing Bodies. In addition, both Stockport and Trafford Councils have engaged with our Governing Body around the identification of local skills needs.





Local Authority sector priorities in **Trafford** consist of:

- Financial, Professional and Business Services
- Creative, Digital and Technology
- Life Sciences
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Logistics

The LSIP has identified future sector investment priorities for Trafford to also consist of:

- Construction
- Green Opportunities

Local Authority sector priorities in **Stockport** consist of:

- Construction
- Financial, Professional and Business Services
- Digital
- Human health and social work

The LSIP has identified future sector investment priorities for Stockport to also consist of:

- Logistics
- Education
- Green Opportunities
- Manufacturing

At a Greater Manchester level, as part of the latest devolution deal and approach to developing a “technical education city region”, the Mayoral Combined Authority has identified the following seven sector priority areas:

- Manufacturing and Engineering
- Financial and Professional
- Digital and Technology
- Creative, Culture and Sport
- Construction and Green Economy
- Education and Early Years
- Health and Social Care

In addition, the LSIP has identified the following strategic cross cutting skills priorities:

- Basic IT/Digital Skills
- Essential literacy, numeracy and digital skills
- Leadership and Management
- Net Zero/Sustainability
- Basic, soft skills specific to the workplace





Meeting the Needs of GM Growth Locations

The Group is already a key contributor to meeting skills needs and driving employment and productivity within two of the six Greater Manchester “Growth Locations” identified within the wider GM Strategy.

The first of these locations is the Airport and Southern Growth Corridor – with a focus on Manchester Airport and Stockport Town Centre. TSCG delivers the Airport Academy within Terminal 1 of Manchester Airport, providing pre-employment training for a range of roles including security functions, airside, retail and hospitality. The Group also provides an approach to the delivery of skills and training linked to warehousing and logistics in this area; as well as developing new Aviation Apprenticeships to support the current and future needs of Manchester Airport Group (MAG). The Group is now working with MAG and the GM Chamber of Commerce on a partnership to develop a “mini” LSIP to set out the current and future skills needs of the Airport City location.

In terms of the second growth location, Western Gateway, the Group provides the Skills Shop within the Trafford Centre, one of the main employers within the borough, delivering pre-employment training to meet retail and hospitality skills and employment needs. In addition, the Group’s Stretford Campus is developing capacity and capability to support the low carbon agenda, and particularly the development of a low carbon energy innovation park at Trafford Park.



Collaboration with Greater Manchester Colleges

The approach to developing our Accountability Statement and Local Needs Duty is also informed by our work with the Greater Manchester Colleges – a collaboration of the nine GFE Colleges in GM.

There are three areas of collaborative work that support our approach to meeting skills needs:

- Joint delivery of the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) investment, supporting development of facilities and staff skills around the four areas of advanced manufacturing, construction & green economy, digital and health innovation.
- Joint delivery of a new Further Education Innovation Fund (FEIF) project enabling us to develop and test out innovative place-based approaches to meeting the skills and productivity needs of employers.
- Joint strategic planning to support delivery of the devolution ambition to develop a Technical Education city region, as well as continued joint working on areas such as adult education and careers education, information, advice and guidance.



CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES

TSCG has developed a set of clear objectives to ensure continued and improved contribution to national, regional and local priorities. These objectives are aligned to our current Strategic Plan, national skills priorities, GMCA priorities and the outcomes of the LSIP for our local areas.

The objectives for 2024/25 are outlined below and fall within the following overarching themes:

- Continuing to respond effectively to the government reform agenda around technical education – not least the development of the new T level and Higher Technical qualifications.
- Continuing to develop our wider offer for young people to addresses the issues around “soft skills” raised by employers in the LSIP and ensure they are well prepared for the world of work.
- Further developing a more responsive offer to support adult entry into work / progression within work – including maximising GMCA AEB flexibilities and broadening the opportunities for adults to access training at Level 3.
- Improving the quality and offer of our Apprenticeship provision to better meet the needs of employers and our economy.
- Delivering our objectives within the Stockport Economic Plan and contributing to the development of a new Post 16 Skills Plan for the borough.
- Delivering our objectives within the Trafford Enterprise, Economy and Skills (TEES) Action Plan.

- Developing our offer to support “Green Skills for Green Jobs”.
- Supporting a strategic activity to identify the current and future skills needs for Airport City.
- Supporting employer innovation and access to skills advice and guidance through the FE Innovation Fund (FEIF).
- Upgrading our facilities to support education and training across the 4 GM “frontier sectors” through the Local Skills Improvement Fund (FEIF).

In addition, the Group has reflected National Skills Priorities within our curriculum planning process. The growth projections against these priorities from the 2022/23 baseline is included after the Accountability Statement Objectives 2023/24. The Group recognises that it is not appropriate for us to offer provision in all areas, but to ensure that we work as part of a wider local education and skills system that collectively meets skills needs.



ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT OBJECTIVES 2024/25

| TSCG Strategic Priority Objective | Action(s) 2024/25 | Target / Impact Measure 2024/25 |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Further develop our technical offer at levels 3 and above in line with government ambitions for T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) to ensure that students are well equipped to meet the requirements of the labour market.</p> | <p>Continue to expand the offer of T Levels and HTQs across the Group and ensure continued alignment to LSIP priority areas.</p> <p>Further develop the new “Technical Education Masterclass” programme to key stage 4 pupils in schools to support awareness and engagement with T Levels.</p> | <p>T Level and HTQ learner numbers in line with curriculum plan targets.</p> <p>T Level applications for the 2025/26 intake in line with, or exceed, targets.</p> |
| <p>Continue to develop our wider offer for young people to addresses the issues around “soft skills” raised by employers in the LSIP and ensure they are well prepared for the world of work.</p> | <p>Further develop our Careers Programme and “work readiness” offer to all young people across the Group to ensure awareness and development of the skills needed by employers.</p> <p>Further embed the “digital entitlement” for all young people to enable them to develop the basic digital skills required in the workplace, alongside specialist digital skills as required by their chosen sector.</p> | <p>The Group is fully compliant with the Gatsby Benchmarks.</p> <p>100% of young people undertake the mandatory requirements of work-related activity.</p> <p>Digital Entitlement fully established and delivered to at least 50% of young people across the Group.</p> |



| TSCG Strategic Priority Objective | Action(s) 2024/25 | Target / Impact Measure 2024/25 |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Continue to develop and grow our adult offer to support retraining and upskilling and contribute to a strong and resilient local and regional economy.</p> | <p>Continue to respond to local skills and employment needs through the development of new Sector Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs) as required.</p> <p>Review the possible development and implementation of Skills Boot Camps if identified as a need by local employers / local authority partners.</p> <p>Expand the Free Courses for Jobs L3 offer to increase skills of adults in areas such as Health, Construction and Leadership & Management.</p> | <p>SWAPs and / or Skills Boot Camps established according to local need and student numbers in line with target.</p> <p>Adult Level 3 learner numbers in line with curriculum plan targets.</p> |
| <p>Increase the recruitment of high-quality apprenticeships across the Group in sector priority areas as a key driver to supporting the skills needs of local and regional employers.</p> | <p>Undertake a full review of current Apprenticeship Standards offered and agree a more focused offer that responds to key priority areas identified within the LSIP, as appropriate to the Group's capacity and expertise.</p> | <p>Standards review completed.</p> <p>Apprenticeship learner numbers in line with curriculum plan targets.</p> |



| TSCG Strategic Priority Objective | Action(s) 2024/25 | Target / Impact Measure 2024/25 |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Continue to support the key deliverables within the Stockport Economic Plan and support the development of a new Stockport Post-16 Skills Plan.</p> | <p>Through the Further Education Innovation Fund (FEIF), embed the facility to provide employers with skills support, advice and guidance in the new Merseyway Innovation Centre.</p> <p>Continue to develop the Leadership and Management offer for Stockport employers through the new "Leading with Confidence" brand and offer.</p> <p>Contribute to the development of the new Stockport Post 16 Skills Plan ensuring all young people in Stockport have an appropriate place in education and training at key stage 5.</p> | <p>At least 20 Stockport based SMEs supported through the new Business Innovation Advisors.</p> <p>At least 100 Stockport based employees complete L&M training through "Leading with Confidence"</p> <p>Key deliverables as part of the new Post 16 Skills plan agreed between SMBC and TSCG</p> |
| <p>Continue to support the key deliverables within the Trafford Enterprise, Economy and Skills (TEES) Action Plan.</p> | <p>Through the Further Education Innovation Fund (FEIF), develop a facility in Trafford to provide employers with skills support, advice and guidance.</p> <p>Extend the "Leading with Confidence" brand and offer to Trafford based employees.</p> | <p>At least 20 Trafford based SMEs supported through the new Business Innovation Advisors.</p> <p>At least 20 Trafford based employees complete L&M training through "Leading with Confidence"</p> |



| TSCG Strategic Priority Objective | Action(s) 2024/25 | Target / Impact Measure 2024/25 |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Further develop our provision in response to Green Skills through our new centres at Stockport and Trafford</p> | <p>Launch new Apprenticeship Standards and enhance existing Standards to support skills requirements for the green economy.</p> <p>Provide a range of short courses to support the upskilling of the existing workforce through electric/hybrid vehicle technology, domestic retrofit, ground and air source heat pumps and solar thermal.</p> <p>Continue the roll out of the Carbon Literacy programme to staff and students.</p> | <p>At least 12 starts on the new Low Carbon Technician standard.</p> <p>All appropriate standards in Building Services contain Green Technology enhancements to complement official knowledge, skills and behaviours.</p> <p>Learner numbers in line with curriculum plan targets.</p> <p>At least 50 staff and 500 students complete the carbon literacy programme.</p> |
| <p>Support the development of a clear plan for addressing the current and future skills needs of Airport City in partnership with Manchester Airport Group (MAG) and the GM Chamber of Commerce.</p> | <p>Through the Further Education Innovation Fund (FEIF), develop a facility within the TSCG Airport Academy at MAG to provide employers with skills support, advice and guidance.</p> <p>Following completion of the "mini" LSIP for Airport City, agree a plan with MAG for supporting current and future skills needs.</p> | <p>At least 10 employers based within the footprint of Airport City supported through the new Business Innovation Advisors.</p> <p>Airport City LSIP actions agreed.</p> |



| TSCG Strategic Priority Objective | Action(s) 2024/25 | Target / Impact Measure 2024/25 |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Utilise the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) to invest in new and immersive technologies to support delivery of the GM "frontier sectors" of Construction, Digital, Health and Engineering.</p> | <p>Establish new Immersive Suites to support the delivery of skills across the 4 "frontier sectors" at Trafford College (Altrincham), Cheadle College and Stockport College.</p> <p>Introduce facilities at Trafford College (Stretford) to support education and training in domestic retrofit and electrical / hybrid vehicle technology.</p> | <p>Facilities established at each site.</p> <p>Facilities established.</p> |



GROWTH TARGETS AGAINST NATIONAL SKILLS PRIORITIES

(Student Numbers)

| Area | SSA | T Levels | | Apprenticeships | | Free Courses for Jobs | | Skills Bootcamps | | Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) | |
|------------------------|-----|----------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|------------------|-------|--|-------|
| | | 23/24 | 24/25 | 23/24 | 24/25 | 23/24 | 24/25 | 23/24 | 24/25 | 23/24 | 24/25 |
| Health and Social Care | 1.2 | 10 | 86 | - | - | - | 23 | - | - | - | - |
| Health and Social Care | 1.3 | - | - | 99 | 13 | 81 | 60 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Science & Mathematics | 2 | - | 10 | - | - | 8 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Engineering | 4.1 | 40 | 100 | 166 | 175 | - | - | - | - | - | 11 |
| Manufacturing | 4.2 | - | - | 15 | 25 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Construction | 5 | 28 | 73 | 292 | 336 | 4 | - | - | - | 23 | 11 |
| Digital and Technology | 6 | - | 12 | 9 | 10 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 8 |



LOCAL NEEDS DUTY

To meet the Local Needs Duty and establish our Accountability Statement, the Group has worked closely with both Local Authority areas to provide consultation on our plans and to incorporate our objectives within the respective LA strategies (the Stockport Economic Plan and the Trafford Enterprise, Employment and Skills Plan). The relevant objectives within our Accountability Statement are monitored by the respective Local Authority Boards, both of which include and are chaired by employers (and employer representative bodies).

The Group's Leaders and Chair work collaboratively with the other GFE Colleges of the region through the Greater Manchester Colleges. This includes collaboration and collective oversight on the LSIF, the new FEIF and skills devolution. The Group also works closely with local schools and other providers through the relevant Local Authority forums.

The Group undertakes an annual review of how well it meets local needs through the Self-Assessment process (validated by Governors and approved by the Board). This follows the clear criteria within the Education Inspection Framework (EIF). The outcomes of this exercise contribute to the objectives that are set in the annual Accountability Statement.

The Board also approves the overall annual Curriculum Plan, which includes oversight of any proposed changes in provision.

To provide monitoring and oversight of the Local Needs Duty and the Accountability Statement, the Group has established a Skills Accountability Committee. The Committee meets three times a year and includes three members of the Board, alongside Leaders and Managers.





GOVERNING BODY STATEMENT

At a quorate meeting of the Board of the Corporation held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 15th May 2024, it was unanimously resolved that the Group's Accountability Statement 2024/25, as presented by the Principal and Chief Executive Officer, be approved and submitted to the relevant authorities.

[Supporting Documentation](#)

