



ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT 2025/26 BURNLEY COLLEGE

[CLICK FOR
POLICIES &
PROCEDURES](#)



Sixth Form Centre



APPRENTICESHIPS



BURNLEY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY COURSES



ADULT LEARNING



FITNESS
EVOLUTION
elite | performance | leisure

Purpose

Mission and Purpose

Our mission at Burnley College is to 'Build Futures and Change Lives' through excellent education¹² that raises aspirations and motivates our communities into employment which benefits the economy. We achieve this through our Strategic Objectives, which are reviewed annually, and our goals which Governors hold the College accountable to.

Strategic Objectives



To develop mature and confident young people through excellent sixth form education with academic and vocational pathways



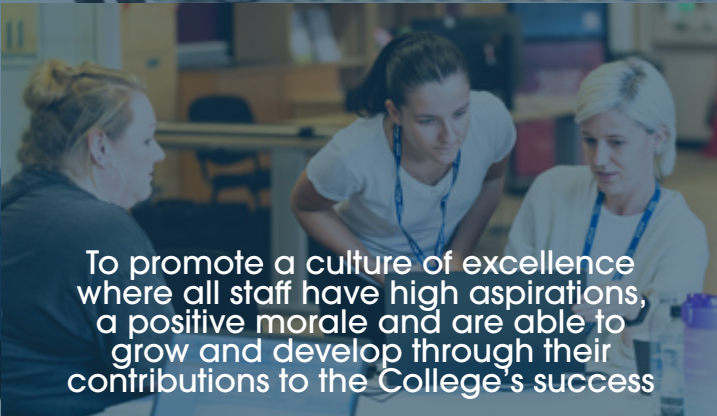
To significantly expand the local range of opportunities for university education while maintaining high standards



To make a significant contribution to the local and national economy through enhancing the personal growth, enterprise and employability of individuals



To maintain teaching and learning and all business support processes at an excellent standard



To promote a culture of excellence where all staff have high aspirations, a positive morale and are able to grow and develop through their contributions to the College's success



To assure stable financial health, value for money and environmental sustainability

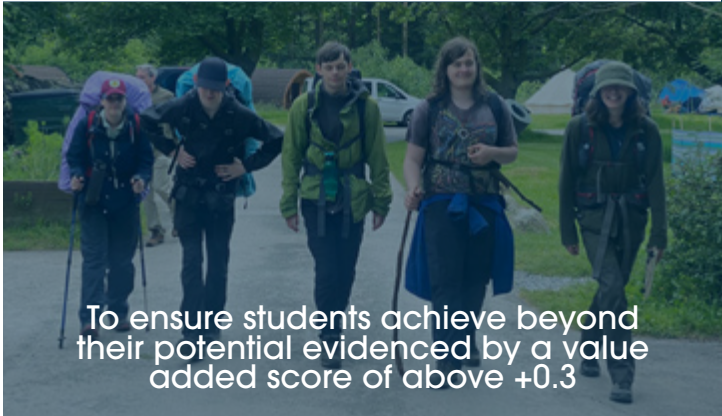


To maintain outstanding equality of opportunity

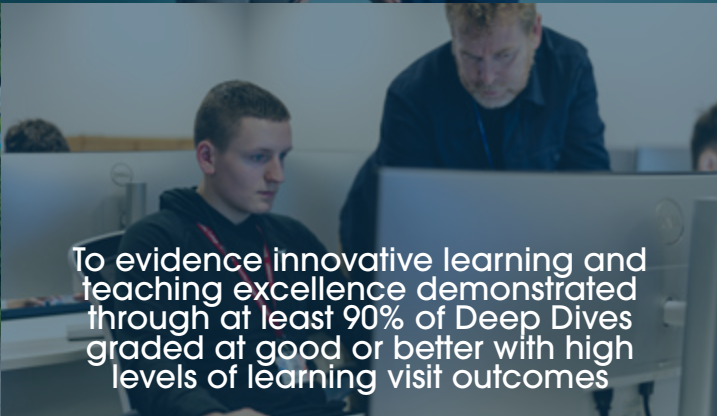
College Goals



To achieve an excellent achievement rate of 90% or above with high levels of both retention and pass.



To ensure students achieve beyond their potential evidenced by a value added score of above +0.3



To evidence innovative learning and teaching excellence demonstrated through at least 90% of Deep Dives graded at good or better with high levels of learning visit outcomes



To achieve planned targets in respect of the major funding streams for University Education, Further Education, Commercial activities and projects



To foster strong relationships with the business community by building trust and mutual respect through impactful collaborative partnerships



To demonstrate an innovative utilisation of College assets and practices in order to maximise opportunities for the organisation through our people



To demonstrate high levels of staff engagement, morale and support whilst maintaining a safe and secure environment as a basis for outstanding performance

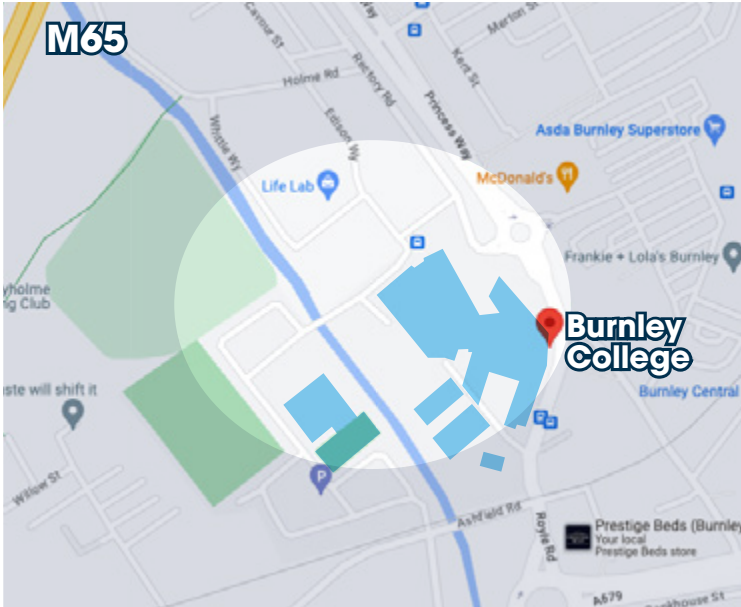


To achieve the College budget while demonstrating value for money and environmental sustainability



To demonstrate equality of opportunity in achieving the above goals

Context and Place



College Characteristics

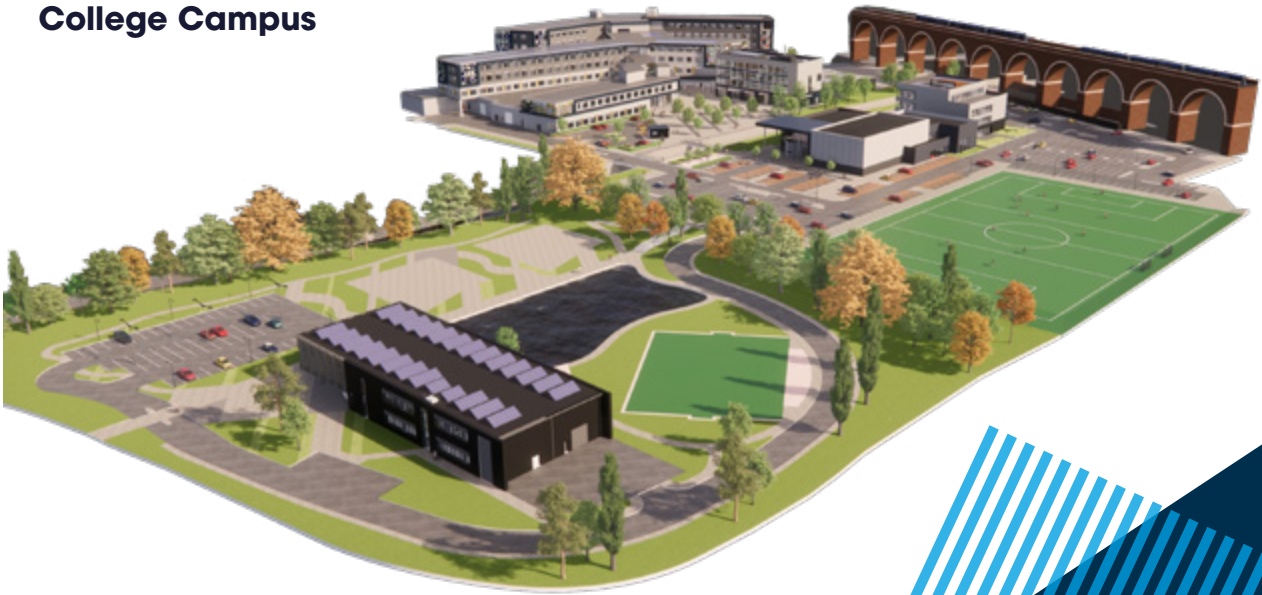
Burnley College is a single campus General Further Education (GFE) College located in Burnley and serving communities in Lancashire and its surrounding areas including Cumbria, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Merseyside.

The College recognises the significant role it plays in raising aspirations for, and ensuring success¹¹ in, education and skills for a community based in the eleventh most deprived¹⁵ area out of 317 local authorities in England and where secondary educational attainment has significant challenges¹⁶.



Student Heat Map

College Campus



Context and Place

Full Time Further Education

4,175

16-19 year old full time learners.
Net gain of 16-19 year olds in the area.



Sixth Form Centre

Adult and Bespoke Employer Courses

Over

3,500

programmes delivered to adult learners.



ADULT LEARNING

University Education

650

University learners
Over 65% mature students.



BURNLEY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY COURSES

Apprenticeships

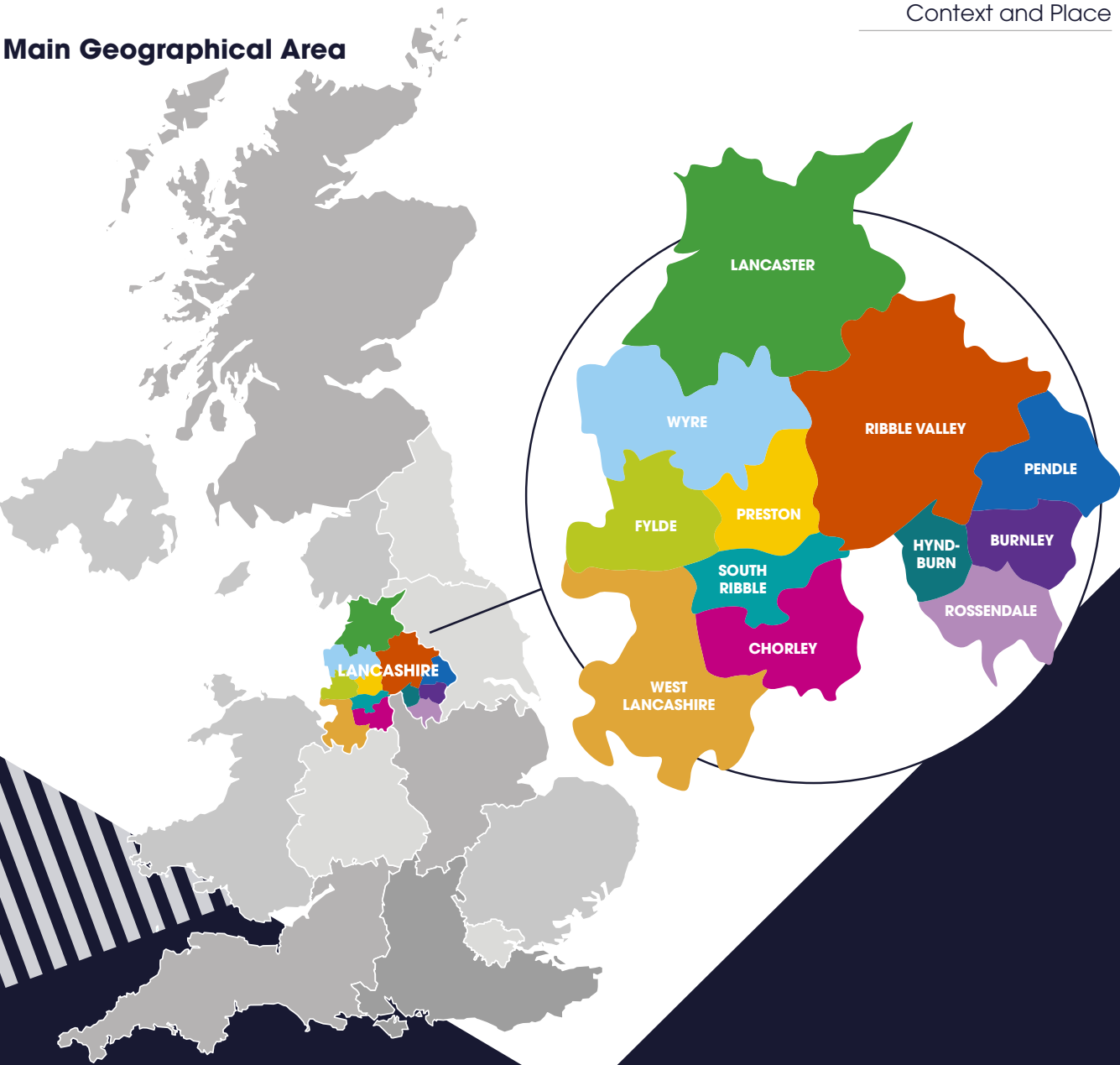
1,200

Apprentices at
over 550 employers.



APPRENTICESHIPS

Main Geographical Area

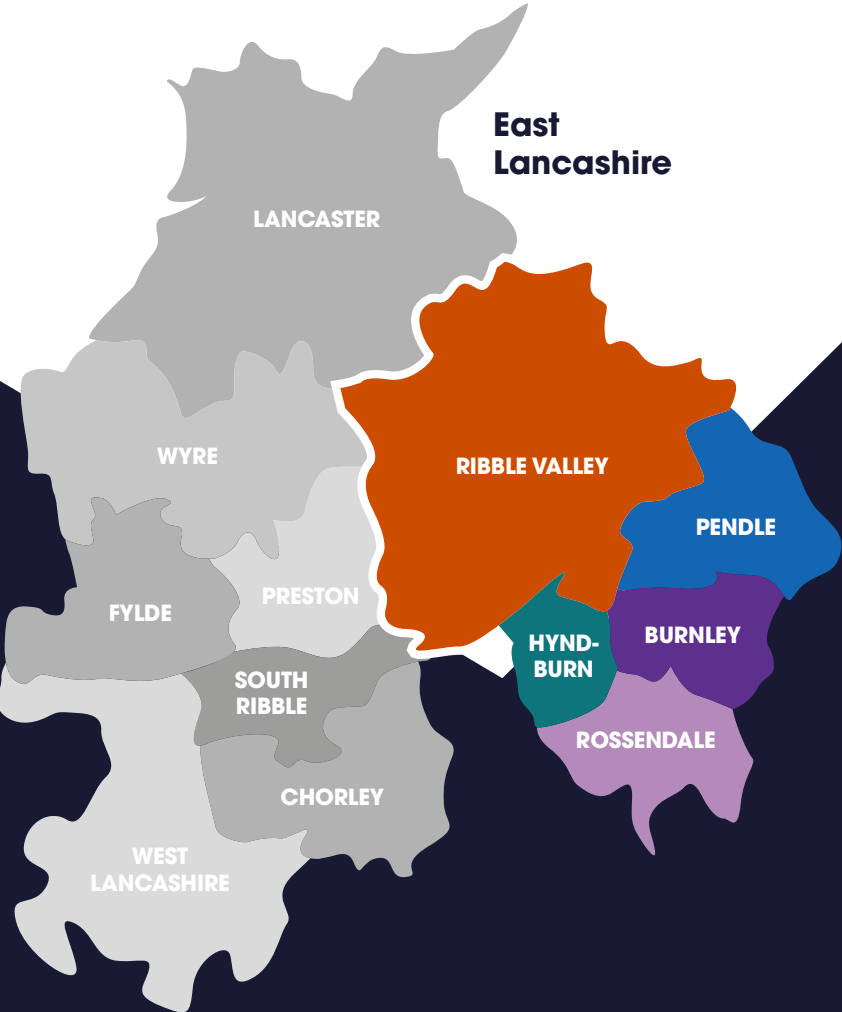


Lancashire's geography, covering urban centres, coastal areas and rural countryside means there is a range of diverse populations, communities and skills requirements whose emerging priorities have been identified in the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)².

In March 2025, the Lancashire Combined County Authority (CCA) was officially established following the passage of the enabling legislation through Parliament. This new body represents a collaboration between Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council, and Blackburn with Darwen Council, aiming to transfer certain powers from central government to local decision-makers. Discussions continue regarding the potential adoption of a mayoral model for the county. While the current Level 2 deal does not require an elected mayor, the government has encouraged local leaders to consider this option to potentially unlock further powers and funding. Overall, the establishment

of the Lancashire Combined County Authority represents a concerted effort to bring decision-making closer to local communities, with the aim of addressing regional priorities more effectively.

The county's colleges have an existing collaborative body, The Lancashire Colleges Group (TLC) through which there is a highly successful track-record of working collectively and collaboratively to improve quality, enhance the curriculum and deliver programmes that respond to business and community needs⁴. This collaboration covers the whole area including Lancashire County Council, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authorities. Additionally, the College has worked with colleges and universities in Lancashire and Cumbria to successfully develop the Lancashire and Cumbria Institute of Technology.



East Lancashire is at the heart of a UK aerospace industry which is the largest in Europe. The region itself is one of the world's top four centres of aerospace production. The considerable aerospace heritage means the county is well positioned to benefit from the continued rapid growth of both the civil and defence markets. With world leaders as well as a supply chain of over 400 Tier 1 to Tier 5 companies, Lancashire is the only UK location with the skills, resources and capacity for the end-to-end manufacturing and servicing of a complete aircraft for its entire life cycle.

A thriving hub of professional and business services, East Lancashire is home to employees operating in areas such as legal, accounting, back-office operations, financial services and insurance activities.

Burnley is recognised by Tech Nation as one of the fastest growing digital clusters in the UK and is home to digital leaders. There are almost 19,000 employees in the digital sector in Lancashire, with the highest proportion working in Burnley and Pendle. The future development of the National Cyber Force centre in Lancashire will see further growth and development in digital and cyber security industries.

The East Lancashire Hospitals Trust provides health care services to over 500,000 people from East Lancashire as well as Blackburn with Darwen. A major employer of 8,000 staff who predict a staff shortage of over 1,000 medical staff in the next 10 years.

Construction¹⁴ in Lancashire is the 7th biggest employment sector, with 39,000 people working in the sector, accounting for 5.8% of employment in Lancashire compared to 4.9% nationwide. The growth of the industry has resulted in some key developments in construction methods, technology and software innovations.

Innovations already making a difference include greater use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to improve workflows and productivity, 3D printing and greater use of architectural timber and prefabricated construction. Investments in the infrastructure, energy and utility sectors, will continue to be significant drivers of the increase in total construction production.

Housing investment and delivery is vital to the economic prosperity of Burnley and East Lancashire. Burnley Council's 'Local Plan'¹⁰ outlines the proposals for development of 2000 new homes. The growth in employment in the region, with more companies moving to the area has increased the need for new affordable housing which has had a positive impact on the construction industry.

Meeting National, Regional and Local Needs



College Curriculum

The College curriculum is carefully planned and reflective of the skills challenges and priorities nationally, regionally and locally.

Priorities

National Priorities

The national skills priorities, agreed across Government, are areas with high volumes of vacancies which are expected to increase; long term structural barriers to recruitment, retention, and progression issues; and are important in providing opportunities for employment in key growth areas such as green jobs, creative industries and science and technology (including AI and quantum computing).

These sectors are:

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Digital and Technology
- Health and Social Care
- Haulage and logistics
- Engineering
- Science and Mathematics

The Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 aims to improve post-16 education and training in England by aligning it more closely with employer needs and boosting local economies.

Key Points:

- Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs): Employer-led plans to shape local training to match job market needs.
- Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE): From 2025, adults can access loans for up to 4 years of education, including short and flexible courses.
- Better Oversight: More regulation of colleges and training providers to ensure high-quality, relevant courses.
- More Technical Training: Expanded access to technical qualifications like T Levels.
- Focus on Future Skills: Encourages training in green jobs, digital skills, and other key sectors.
- The Act is all about giving people the right skills for the right jobs, at any stage in life.

Regional Priorities

Lancashire 2050 Vision⁹

Lancashire 2050 vision sets out the shared vision for Lancashire bringing people together with shared goals, ambitions and priorities. The plan for achieving the 2050 vision is set around eight priority areas. The priorities include:

- Economic prosperity
- Transport and infrastructure
- Environment and Climate
- Housing
- Early Years and Education
- Employment and Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- Communities and place

Lancashire skills and employment strategic framework 2024-2029³

The Framework fosters collaboration amongst employers, providers, and stakeholders across Lancashire. This framework has a collective purpose, it establishes a dynamic vision designed to enhance the adaptability of the skills and employment ecosystem, aligning it more effectively with the ever-evolving demands of Lancashire's businesses and residents. The Framework is driven by the Lancashire Skills and Employment Board and Hub, which operate pan-Lancashire, and is underpinned by an extensive evidence base.

Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)²

The emerging priorities identified from the LSIP include:

- Manufacturing & Engineering
- Construction
- Health and Social Care
- Transport and Distribution
- Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism
- IT & Digital
- Farming & Agriculture
- And across cutting themes:
- Employability skills
- Green skills
- Awareness of courses on offer

Lancashire Internationalisation Strategy⁶

The Lancashire Internationalisation Strategy shows Lancashire with one of the largest economies in the Northwest and a clear strategic ambition to:

- Position Lancashire as being at the forefront of innovation
- Build a globally competitive county
- Promote the Lancashire brand more explicitly internationally
- Establish Lancashire as a place which attracts, retains and grows both talent and investment.

Local Priorities

Burnley Council⁸ has identified the sectors that are currently being invested in locally:

- Advanced Manufacturing and Advanced Engineering
- Digital and Creative
- Fashion and Textiles
- Leisure, Retail and Tourism
- Logistics
- Education and Training

Meeting National, Regional and Local Needs

Process

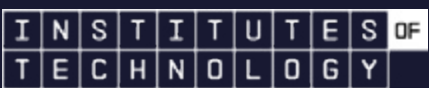
Burnley College has a strong commitment to positively build futures and change lives through excellence in education and employment. To fulfil this promise, our curriculum is constantly evolving and tailored to address the latest labour market trends¹, providing learners with viable pathways to sustainable and meaningful employment. Our approach is collaborative and continuously reviewed, working closely with employers, local representative groups, local providers and other stakeholders (see external stakeholder list/activities below) to ensure that our offering is always in tune with the needs of our community. Examples include the introduction of new pathways such as Beauty in 2024 to support the skills needs of local large employers and the development of knowledge and skills in coding, sustainability and cyber security within our programmes of study.

We are proud to offer clear pathways, ranging from entry-level to degree level, which are supported by our investment in individualised learner support, extra curricular and “work ready” skills and pastoral care. Our approach is founded on continued investment¹³ in our staff, facilities, and capabilities, allowing the College to continuously serve changing markets and evolving priorities.

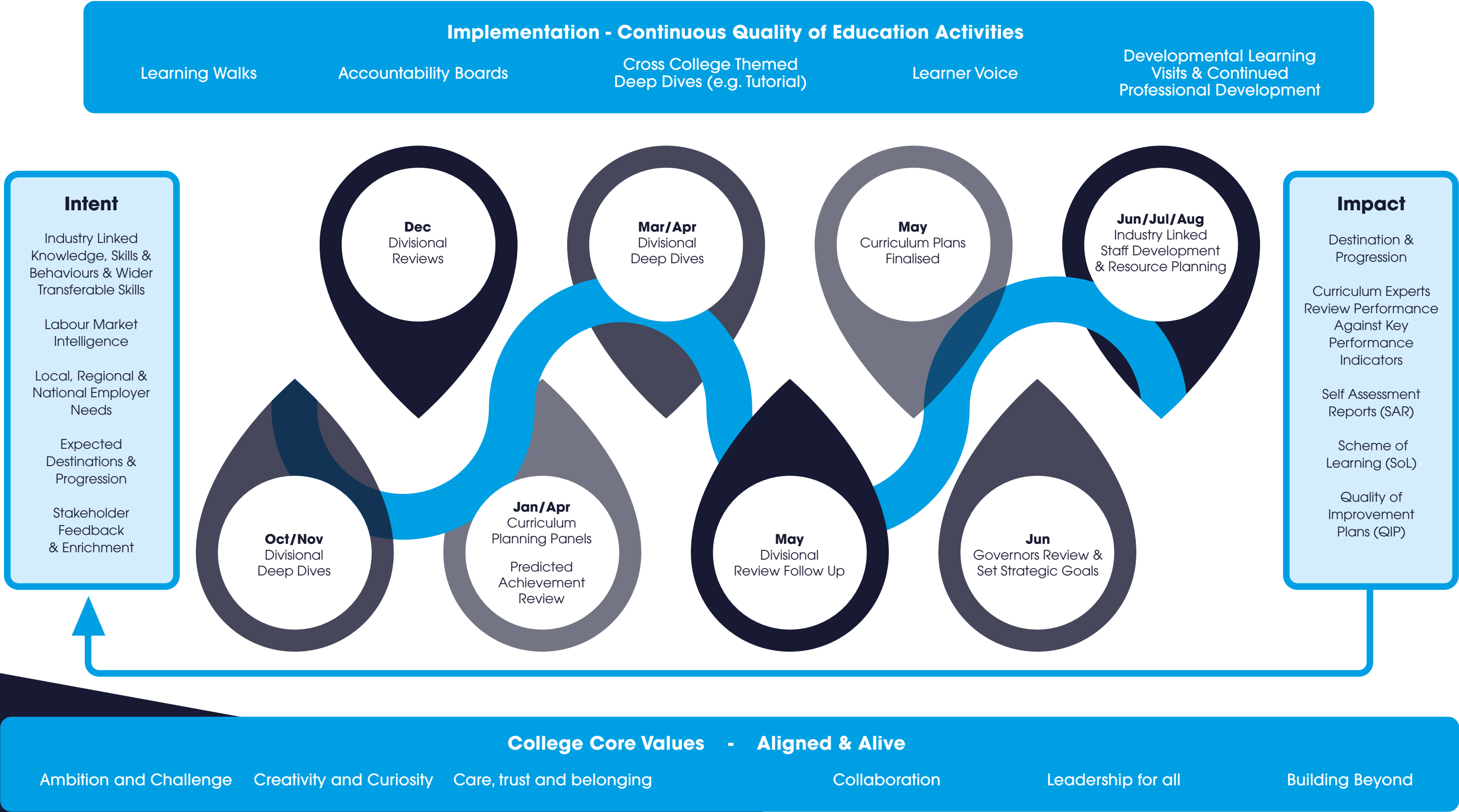


Central to our strategy is our commitment to align our curriculum with the reforms outlined in the Skills Act⁷, and to ensure that our provision aligns with local employment needs². To achieve this, our curriculum planning system provides a direct link between our chosen curricula and the local demand, while also incorporating labour market intelligence data and data on the progress and destinations of our learners. This data (including the Lancashire Skills data pack¹ and that accessed via the Burning Glass Institute and Vector market intelligence data) facilitates a productive dialogue with our stakeholders and allows us to continuously improve the alignment of our provision with the needs of our community. Our Accountability Agreement is also designed to reflect our focus on local, regional and national demand, allowing the College to remain responsive and aligned with the evolving needs of our community.

This process has also supported our decision to not offer some curriculum areas due to other local colleges serving the skills needed. This can be seen in areas such as hairdressing, motor vehicle, animal care, and agriculture.



Process



Key External Stakeholders

The wide range of stakeholders who support and work with Burnley College to ensure our Accountability Process and Agreement remains pertinent, valid, comprehensive and aligned to employer demand includes:

Employers

- The College works with over 1,250 employers across East Lancashire including small, medium and large employers.
- The College also works with bodies representing employers, such as East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of British Industry (the College is an elected member on the North West Regional Council); subject sector groups
- The College is a key strategic partner in the Burnley Bondholders Group (a group of over 200 Burnley Based employers who network monthly)
- The College hosts curriculum specific Advisory Boards that meet 3 times per year to specifically advise the College's curriculum areas on pertinent sector developments and requirements.

Civic

The College works in close partnership with many organisations including:

- Burnley Borough Council
- Lancashire County Council
- Burnley College Principal Chairs the Local Towns Planning Board responsible for £20 million over 10 years
- Lancashire Skill Improvement Plan (Burnley College sits on the Board representing East Lancashire)
- Job Centre Plus (Key partner in planning and delivering required skills)
- Burnley Strategic Growth Place, People and Business Groups.
- The College have representation on the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) where among the key priorities is to support businesses to overcome current challenges and build sustainable future growth
- Collaborating with the town's Member of Parliament.

Community

The College has a long-standing commitment to social responsibility and works with a wide range of community representative groups to ensure the College's collaborative offer and activity provides positive impact, opportunities and aspirations in the community. Burnley College achieved the 2024 Red Rose Business Award for collaboration across Lancashire. Partnerships with community representative groups include:

- Calico Enterprise
- Onward Homes
- Burnley Town Centre Trust (Member of High Street Task Force Group)
- Pendleside Hospice
- East Lancs Healthcare Trust (working in partnership with the HR Director)
- Burnley Football in the Community.

The College also works with the voluntary/third sector using industry specific skills on projects to support community developments.

Staff/Learners and Parents

- The College also gathers information from and continuously reviews and acts upon information from learners of all ages through our Learner Voice activities and schools liaison activities
- The College also regularly consults with staff, ensures staff renew their industry knowledge/ experience and gathers information through surveys and communication processes
- The College uses questionnaires, focus groups and informal methods to gather information from parents.

Engagement with Other Providers in the Area

Education Providers

Colleges

Burnley College has strong, collaborative relationships with the regional GFE and Sixth Form Colleges through The Lancashire Colleges Group (TLC). This includes a proven track record of delivering quality improvement projects for the direct benefit of learners across our region – see statement from TLC⁴.

One example is the 'Future U' project which is a collaboration bringing together universities, colleges, schools, and businesses from across Lancashire. The projects aim to empower learners with the knowledge and opportunities to succeed and helps learners overcome any barriers to their progression. Additionally, the College works in strategic educational partnerships such as the Princes' Trust. This work enhances life chances and facilitates the transition into education as the first steps towards enhanced social mobility for vulnerable residents.

The Skills Development Fund projects followed by the Local Skills Improvement Fund have seen the Lancashire colleges work together to collaborate on low carbon, sustainability, robotics, automation and digital projects⁵. Outcomes like Lancaster and Morecambe College focussing with their businesses on producing alternative energy and Burnley College focussing with their businesses on using alternative energy have resulted in shared resources, shared skilled teachers, better and integrated use of technology and more effective use of resources. This has led to the successful implementation of the Lancashire and Cumbria Institute of Technology of which Burnley College is a Director.

Universities

The College has strong, established partnerships with three university validating partners: University of Central Lancashire, University of Bolton, and Buckinghamshire New University. The College works with these providers to offer a suite of higher education provision which is ambitious, raising the aspirations and opportunities for university study in the local area, on courses that are employer informed and align with employer needs and demands at both a local and national level. The College also works with universities and higher education institutions nationally to ensure provision and skills improvement are kept dynamic and industry relevant, including Edge Hill University, Lancaster University and University Academy 92.

An example of the impact of this collaborative approach is our close work with UCLan on Cyber Security which has resulted in the development of a Security Operations Centre (SOC). This allows learners at all levels from foundation through to degree level to have relevant work experience and develop key, essential cyber skills, especially in preparation for the National Cyber Force locating in Lancashire.

Schools

The College sits on the Burnley Schools Partnership and works closely with local secondary schools to help raise achievement. Additionally, the College runs revision sessions, taster sessions, science festivals and a Winter Wonderland for primary and secondary school pupils to enjoy.



Contribution to National, Regional and Local Priorities

Outcome	Contribution to National, Regional and Local Priorities	Measure	Link to Strategic Plan	Deadline
One To develop a pool of 'work ready' employees especially in shortage/high growth priority occupational areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction and Digital & Technology national priorities Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework LSIP identified priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 learners to complete bootcamps 150 learners to re-skill by completing short courses in range of priority areas 100 apprentices to complete Green Skills project 20 employers to report learners are more 'work ready' 10% increase in T Level Learners 	Strategic Objective 1	July 2026
Two To improve local skills gaps and low qualification levels in shortage/high growth priority occupational areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Social Care, Digital & Technology and Engineering national priorities Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework LSIP priority in Health & Social Care, IT & Digital, Manufacturing & Engineering Local priority in Burnley town plan and identified by Bondholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 learners to progress on to further study or into ambitious employment opportunities in identified areas Completion of university campus developments and Institute of Technology 100 learners to enrol on range of new Level 4/Level 5 university programmes in Health & Social Care, Digital, Cyber Security & Advanced Manufacturing. 100 learners to complete 'ladder' qualifications for progression on to Level 4/Level 5 university programmes in a range of priority areas 	Strategic Objective 2	December 2026
Three To operate at both a strategic and operational level to deliver new and emerging skills required by the current and future economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Skills Act helping people get better and more skilled jobs Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework Lancashire International Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 employer forums to be held in range of new priority areas with active participation from all stakeholders Collaboration with 12 key industry leaders to further develop and enhance skills qualifications in the Institute of Technology (IoT) Develop and publicise the IoT 	Strategic Objective 3	November 2026
Four To actively seek, recruit and train staff who embody our commitment to excellence, driving academic and industry-leading skills within our organisation ensuring high standards are consistently achieved and surpassed.	Skills shortages in national, regional and local areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital & Technology Science & Mathematics Manufacturing & Engineering Energy & Low Carbon Education & Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teaching staff to go into industry at least 2 times a year At least 3 Taking Teaching Further staff each year 10% reduction in staff turnover 3% reduction in staff absences 	Strategic Objective 4 and Strategic Objective 5	September 2026
Five For the College to further act as an anchor institution in the local community, supporting economic growth and community improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Skills Act ensuring people get better and more skilled jobs Burnley Local Economic Skills Plan LSIP cross cutter themes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 new community groups and organisations network and link through College collaborations Investment and new projects/initiatives launched 1000 students and businesses access resources and industry leading equipment that helps foster research, development and innovation. Local and regional priorities shaped through senior involvement in forums, boards and development organisations 	Strategic Objective 3 and Strategic Objective 6	June 2026
Six To provide equal opportunities for all to meet the National, Regional and Local priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Skills Act ensuring people get better and more skilled jobs LSIP cross cutter themes Burnley Local Economic Skills Plan to boost skills of unemployed and inactive residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Adults enrolled onto online learning programmes 500 learners achieve ESOL provision 10 additional extra-curricular activities for all brands 	Strategic Objective 7	July 2026

Local Needs Duty

The College's Governing Body reviews how well the College's education and training offer meets local needs through the Curriculum and Standards Committee three times per year and this is reported back to the Full Board. A full review is also completed as part of the College's curriculum planning and development cycle, which is detailed in the Meeting National, Regional and Local Needs section above.

All qualification areas categorised under the 15 Ofqual Subject Sector Areas (SSAs) are offered by the East Lancashire Colleges with Burnley College providing a comprehensive offer in 13 of the 15 areas. A deliberate decision has been made and is regularly reviewed to not offer courses in certain areas such as hairdressing, motor vehicle and catering due to local demands, priority areas, and other providers' offers. In 2024 Burnley College expanded its curriculum offer into beauty qualifications due to emerging needs from the local, expanding, award winning spa next door to the College.

The College is also working closely with UCLan to align its university provision and ensure a cohesive offer for the Burnley areas. The aim is ultimately for Burnley College to primarily deliver Foundation Degrees in Burnley and those students to progress to the UCLan Burnley Campus to top up to degree level.

Corporation Statement

On behalf of the Burnley College Corporation, it is hereby confirmed that the College Plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the Corporation at their meeting on Wednesday 25 June 2025.

The Plan will be published on the College's website within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link:



Chair of Governors
Dated: 25 June 2025



Interim Principal/Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
Dated: 25 June 2025



Annex A.1

The Lancashire Colleges (TLC) Statement of Engagement

Burnley College is based in Lancashire in the North West of England. Lancashire is one of the most diverse economic areas in the country, with no urban core but a polycentric set of towns and cities, rural and coastal areas, agricultural and industrial zones. With a population of 1.5m people, Lancashire's 55,000 businesses generate 700,000 jobs across a range of important and future-facing sectors from manufacturing and tourism to cyber, digital and low carbon. The thriving £35bn economy is home to globally leading firms with sector/supply chain clusters including the fourth largest aerospace cluster in the world. There is a pan-Lancashire labour market, particularly for technical and professional roles while workforce is also imported from and exported to neighbouring areas including Greater Manchester, Cumbria and the Liverpool City Region.

The Lancashire 2050 Vision has Employment and Skills as one of eight strategic priorities with an ambition to 'support people to develop their skills throughout their lives and attract business to the county because of our highly skilled workforce' while the Local Skills Improvement Plan (2023) states that 'The local skills agenda has never been as important as we address the post-pandemic and post-Brexit world'.

The College recognises the value of working with other education and skills providers in East Lancashire and the wider area to review how well our provision is collectively meeting local needs. Our shared ambition is to ensure that together we deliver a curriculum and progression pathways that serve the local community while building on individual strengths and specialisms to maximise collective impact and meet business needs.

The College is part of The Lancashire Colleges group (TLC); a collaborative network that we have invested in for over 25 years. TLC includes all the Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges in the area and represents the diversity of the sector as a whole. As part of TLC we have a successful track-record of working collectively and collaboratively to improve quality, enhance the curriculum and deliver programmes that respond to business and community needs.

Through TLC we have invested in pan-Lancashire analysis that has helped our colleges to better understand the demographic make-up of our learners and what they are studying. Further, we have recently commissioned the production of a series of detailed sector pathway maps which will inform a collaborative review of the curriculum offer with the aim of ensuring that there is a clear line of sight for all learners to different occupations and sectors.

TLC acts as an advocate and voice for the sector locally and works closely with key stakeholders including the Chambers of Commerce, Local Authorities and the LEP to drive recognition of the collective offer of its members and gather intelligence about emerging skills needs.

The College is actively engaged in preparations for a Lancashire Combined County Authority (CCA) Devolution Deal which is expected to include the devolution of adult skills budgets. Under the banner of TLC we are working closely with the emerging CCA team to demonstrate the impact that adult education and skills provision has on the local economy, individuals and communities. We are supporting the CCA team to consider their skills strategy and to identify the opportunities and additional flexibilities that devolution can bring, allowing the sector to better support local priorities and respond to emerging needs.

TLC was influential, informing and shaping the Lancashire LSIP and the College continues to actively engage with our local Chamber helping them to engage local employers, capture intelligence and understand current and emerging skills needs. This has already acted as a catalyst for curriculum change and will continue to do so as we work with local employers and industry bodies to design local solutions to emerging skills needs for employers of all sizes.

We continue to work as a sector to respond to the needs of strategic employers such as the NHS and the National Cyber Force which is due to be sited in Lancashire in the near future. Through TLC we present a single voice for the college sector helping to drive conversations regarding workforce and skills planning, develop pathways and create opportunities for learners across Lancashire.

Through collaborative programmes funded via the Strategic Development Fund and the Local Skills Improvement Fund, Burnley College has proactively worked with its neighbours, investing in a network of industry-standard education and training spaces, building on our specialisms and collaborating to develop new courses and curriculum that align with business needs. Through communities of practice and investment in joint CPD we have been able to jointly meet challenges and build on best practice to ensure our teaching remains high quality and keeps apace with technological and other developments.

We will continue to work with our neighbours in Lancashire, supporting our Governing Body in effectively discharge its duty to review provision in the local area. We will, through TLC, enhance the collective understanding of how well college provision meets local needs and develop a shared evidence base to assist Governing Bodies in identifying strengths and specialisms within Lancashire. We will work towards the development of a shared action plan and consider what actions the colleges might take, individually or collectively, in order to better meet identified local needs.

Colleges may wish to quote one or more of the following as examples of collaborative work in response to local needs, depending on their involvement:

A £4.5m Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) Programme (2023-25) through which we are working in partnership with local colleges to respond to skills priorities highlighted in the Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) including (delete as appropriate) green construction skills, digital employability skills and pathways to employment in the food, hospitality and farming sectors.

A £9m Strategic Development Fund (SDF) Pilot Programme (2021-22) saw Lancashire's colleges collaborating with each other to help provide the skills businesses need as they respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by the shift towards net-zero carbon. This programme recognised the importance of Lancashire's Energy and Low Carbon sector as emphasised in the The Lancashire Independent Economic Review and supported and enabled businesses to respond to market and technological change, a priority highlighted in Lancashire's Technical Education Vision.

A £2.75m Phase 2 SDF project (2022-23) allowed the colleges to continue our joint work on net-zero carbon curriculum development and also allowed a focus on cyber-security. The latter was in direct response not only the announcement that the National Cyber Force will be located in Lancashire, recognising the impact this will have on clusters and supply chain development, but also on feedback from SMEs that cyber-security is a significant area of concern.

Through an ESF 'Moving On' project (2016-23) the colleges across Lancashire have collaborated with private and third sector providers to support over 5,500 young people who were NEET/at risk of becoming NEET, a priority group for the Local Authorities and LEP. Nearly 60% of young people progressed or were retained in education, skills or employment as a result of this support.

The ESF 'Supporting Technical Education in Lancashire' project (2021-22) supported over 330 Lancashire-based SMEs to engage in technical education and training. This project directly responded to feedback from local employers that they needed more support to understand how they could engage in technical education through offering work placements or apprenticeships, by getting involved in designing curriculum and offering masterclasses.

A small pilot project (2021-22) saw the establishment of four Professional Development Networks bringing together over 130 teaching staff from across the colleges to develop their Level 4/5 subject and pedagogic content knowledge and create teaching and other resources. This helped to improve the quality of technical and professional curriculum design, teaching, learning and assessment across four local priority sectors: construction, health, sustainable energy and ecology/land-based.

Annex A.2

Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan Statement of Engagement

The North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, as the lead employer representative body on the Lancashire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), has worked closely with employers and providers to help develop a greater understanding of what employers require from the skills system. This work resulted in the publication of the Plan in August 2023 which highlighted the key priorities of employers and laid out a roadmap to address these priorities.

Common across all sectors were concerns among employers about people leaving education being 'work ready' with the 'right attitude' to work and learning. Alongside specific shortage areas in each priority sector there were constant themes around the increasing importance of digital skills across different job roles across all sectors and a lack of understanding how the move net zero and improved sustainability will affect businesses, jobs and skills.

During the next phase of the LSIP, the Chamber has continued to work closely with providers focusing on the collaboration with employers and raising awareness of their skills offer.



Reference to Relevant Supporting Documentation

- ¹ Lancashire skills data pack
Lancashire-Local-Skills-Report-Annexe-A-2022-Final.pdf (lancashireskillshub.co.uk)
- ² Lancashire's Local Skills Improvement Plans
LSIP_Report_June 2024_Website_Publication.pdf (lancashiresip.co.uk)
- ³ Lancashire Skills and Employment Strategic Framework 2024 - 2029
8990 LancsSkills&EmploymentStratFramewk.pdf (lancashire.gov.uk)
- ⁴ The Lancashire Colleges' Statement of Engagement
See Annex A
- ⁵ Lancashire County Council Digital Strategy 2025-2029.pdf
- ⁶ Lancashire International Strategy 2022-International-Strategy-Summary_compressed-2%20.pdf
- ⁷ Skills and Post 16 Education Act
www.gov.uk
- ⁸ Burnley's new economy – a strategy for recovery and growth RPP_Burnleys-New-Economy-17094.pdf
- ⁹ I2050-web.pdf (lancashire2050.co.uk)
- ¹⁰ Burnley Council Local Plan
www.burnley.gov.uk
- ¹¹ National achievement Rate Tables
<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/further-education-and-skills>
- ¹² Ofsted Report
www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk
- ¹³ College's Annual Financial Report
Burnley-College-Report-and-Financial-satements-23-24.pdf
- ¹⁴ Office for National Statistics Data
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- ¹⁵ Deprivation Analysis
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- ¹⁶ Government's School Performance Tables
www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables



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