



ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT 2026/27 BURNLEY COLLEGE



FITNESS
EVOLUTION
elite | performance | leisure

Purpose

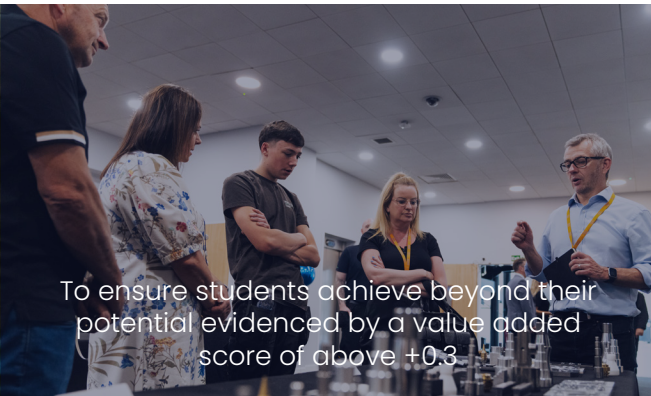
Mission and Purpose

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



College Goals



Context and Place

College Characteristics

Burnley College is a single campus GFE College in Burnley, serving communities across Lancashire and surrounding areas including Cumbria, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Merseyside.

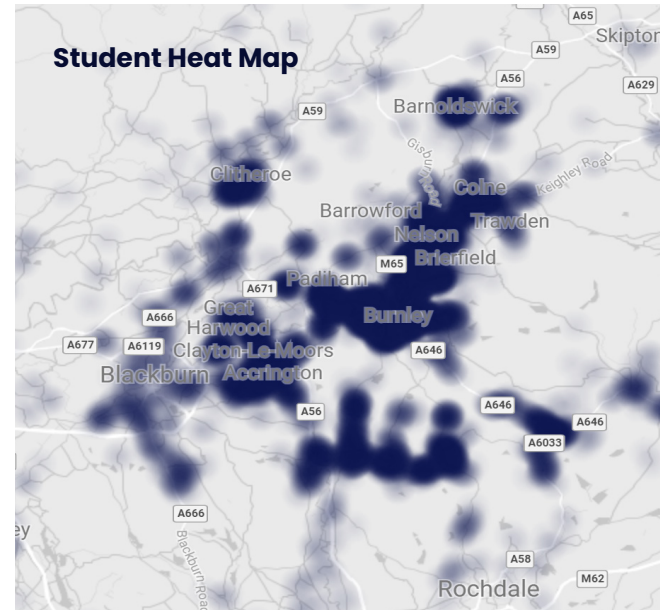
Burnley is the 4th most deprived¹⁵ local authority in England (2025), ranking in the top 10% nationally and among the 20% most deprived on income, employment, and education, skills and training, with 52.9% of children living in income-deprived households.

Secondary attainment averages a Progress 8 score of 40.3% (Lancashire: 44.9%; England: 45–46%), and IMD data shows 47% of young people in the most deprived quintile and 69% in the two lowest.

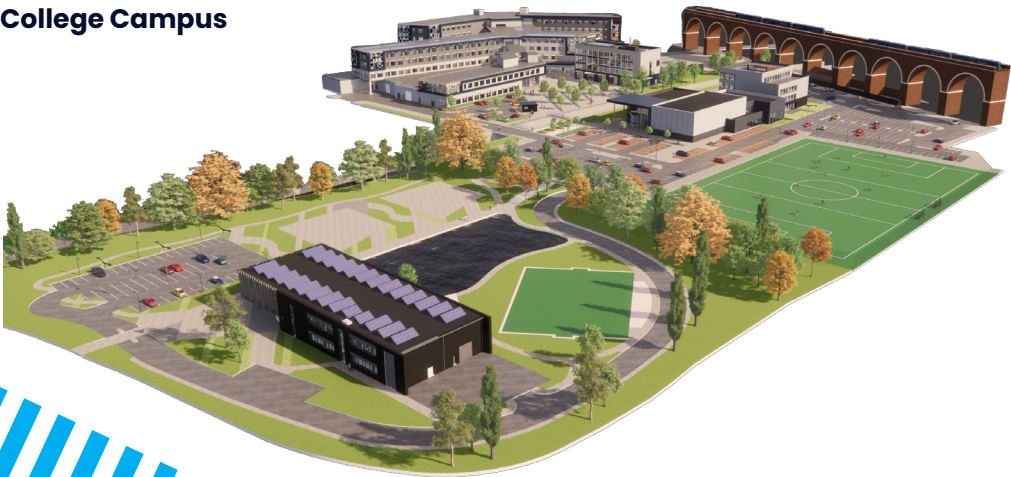
The 2021 Census recorded 24.4% of the population with no formal qualifications (England: 18.1%), and Burnley schools have the highest persistent non-attendance in Lancashire at 27% (LCC, Feb 2026).

Within the College's learner profile, 56% of 16–19 year olds and 20% of apprentices are disadvantaged in at least one way, 19.2% receive Free School Meals, and 18.44% do not hold qualifications in both English and Maths.

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.



College Campus



Full Time Further Education

4,859

16-19 year old full time learners.

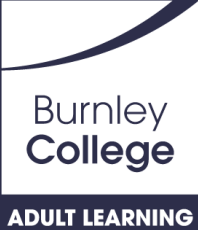
Net gain of 16-19 year olds in the area.



Adult and Bespoke Employer Courses including Bootcamps and Free Courses for Jobs Over

2,800

programmes delivered to adult learners.



University Education

650

University learners, over 65% mature students.



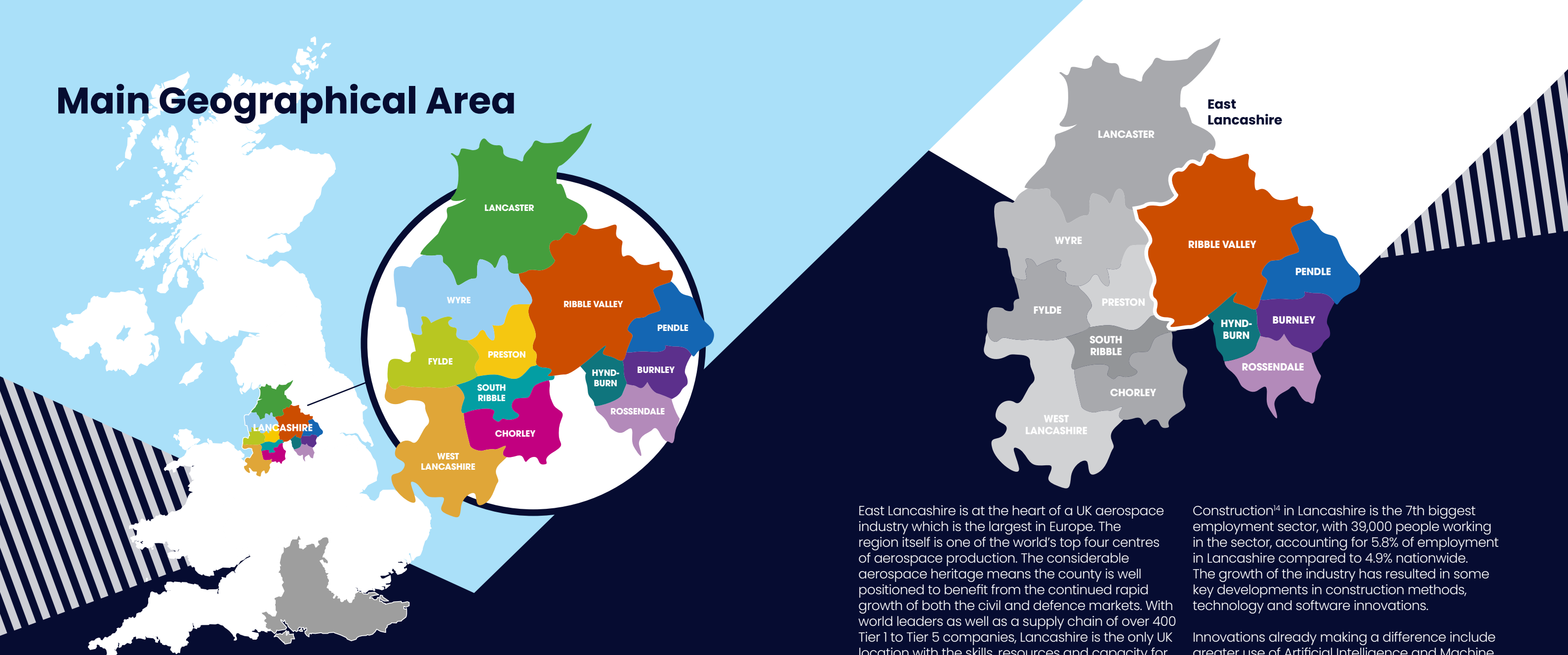
Apprenticeships

1,200

Apprentices at over 550 employers.



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 Plan¹⁰’ outlines the proposals for development of 2,000 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 Government’s Get Britain Working white paper (2024) set an ambition of an 80% employment rate, while the Modern Industrial Strategy (June 2025) established a 10-year plan to drive growth across eight high-priority sectors. Together, these frameworks shape the national skills agenda and inform Burnley College’s curriculum and recruitment planning.

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:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Clean Energy Industries
- Creative Industries
- Defence
- Digital and Technologies (including AI)
- Financial Services
- Life Sciences
- Professional & Business Services

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 Vision¹

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 2024-2025

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 Strategy⁴

The Lancashire Internationalisation Strategy shows Lancashire with one of the largest economies in the North West 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.

Note: The 2026 LSIP has not been shared in advance of the writing of the 2026/27 accountability statement.

The 2023 LSIP evidence base indicates that 84% of Lancashire employers rank employability above qualifications, and between 70% and 90% of firms reported recruitment difficulty in 2022-23 – figures that directly inform the College’s curriculum and employability focus across all provision.

The Lancashire Growth Plan 2025 - 2035

Get Lancashire Working — targeting an 80% employment rate across Lancashire by 2035, against a current Burnley rate of approximately 77.7%. The Plan includes Connect to Work (£38m supporting 11,000 residents over 4.5 years) and WorkWell referral pipelines, both of which create direct routes into the College’s adult provision. The Adult Skills Fund devolves to the Lancashire Combined County Authority from August 2026, opening new flexibilities for locally responsive provision.

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
- Construction
- Health
- Leisure, Retail and Tourism
- Logistics
- Education and Training

The Lancashire Growth Plan also identifies the Future Skills Academy as a Major Project, with a pipeline value of £18m, positioning Burnley College as a flagship regional asset for skills development. The 16-year-old population cohort is growing through 2027–28 before tapering, representing a time-limited opportunity to strengthen recruitment across all 16–19 provision.



Curriculum Alignment

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 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 motor vehicle, animal care and agriculture.



Our Quality Cycle

2. IMPLEMENTATION

Continuous Quality of Education Activities

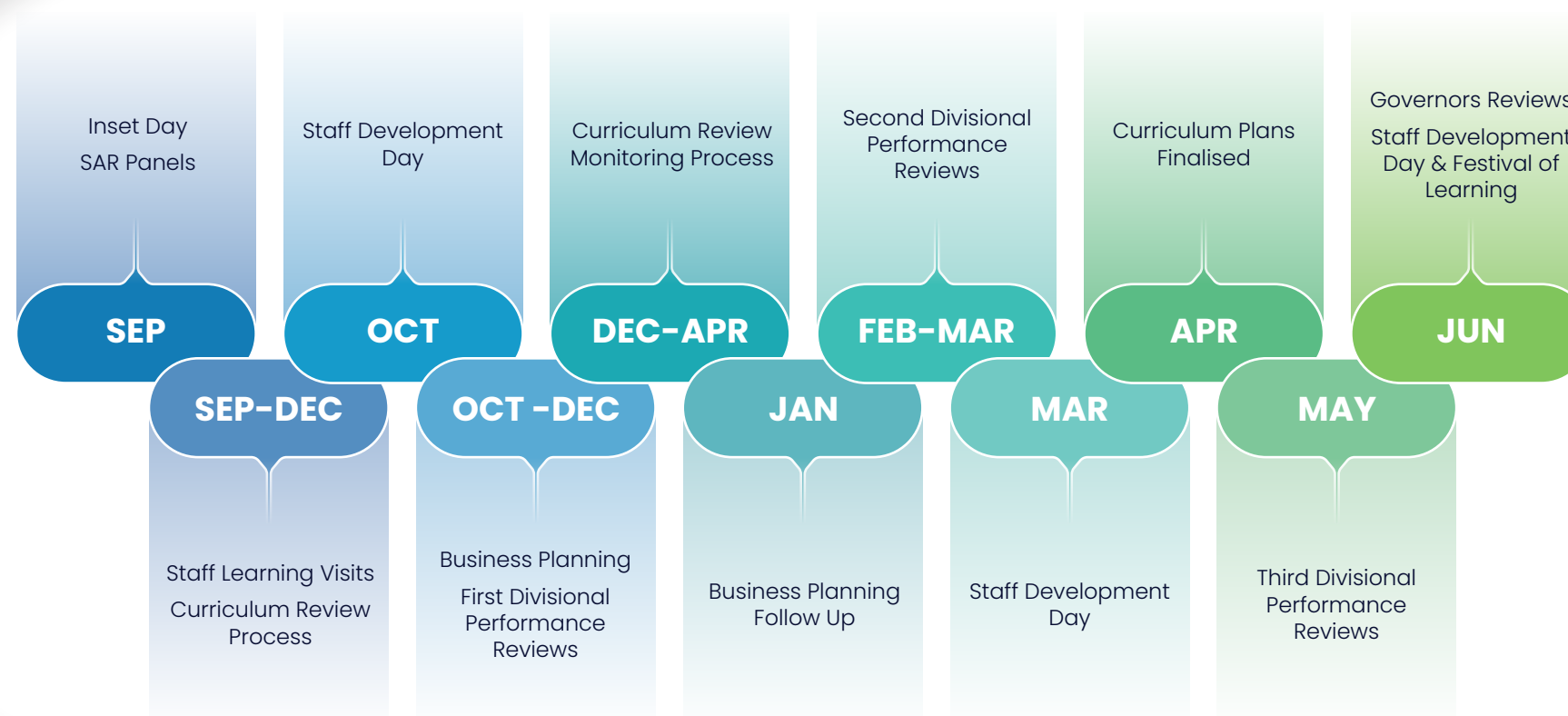
Learning Walks
Cross College Themes Curriculum Review (e.g. Tutorial)
Learner Voice
Developmental Learning Visits & Continued

1. INTENT

Industry linked Knowledge Skills & Behaviours & Wider Transferable Skills
Labour Market Intelligence
Local Regional & National Employer Needs
Expected Destinations & Progression
Stakeholder Feedback & Enrichment
Scheme of Learning (SoL)

3. IMPACT

Destination & Progression
Curriculum Experts Review Performance Against Key Performance Indicators
Self Assessment Reports (SAR)
Quality Improvement Plans (QIP)
Learning Walks



COLLEGE CORE VALUES



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:

Public Sector & Strategic Authorities

- **Lancashire County Combined Authority** – Supports strategic skills planning, investment and alignment with regional economic priorities.
- **Burnley Council** – Works closely with the College on regeneration, skills demand and local economic growth.
- **East Lancashire Hospital Trust** – Partners with the College to support workforce development and future NHS skills pipelines.

Education, Skills & System Partnerships

- **The Lancashire Colleges** – Enables collaboration across FE to strengthen provision, avoid duplication and respond collectively to regional need.
- **Lancashire and Cumbria Institute of Technology** – Supports delivery of higher level technical skills aligned to priority growth sectors.
- **Construction Technical Excellence College (with Wigan & Leigh College)** – Strengthens high quality construction training aligned to industry standards.
- **Defence Technical Excellence College (with Blackpool & Fylde College)** – Supports specialist skills provision linked to defence and advanced engineering.
- **Digital Technical Excellence College (with LTE Group)** – Drives employer informed digital and technical skills development.
- **EAL Advisory Board** – Influences curriculum relevance based on national employer and industry insight.



Employers

- The College works with over 1,250 employers across 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) and 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.

Employer, Business & Chamber Structures

- **CBI (Confederation of British Industry)** – Provides national employer insight to shape workforce and skills priorities.
- **East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce** – Acts as a key conduit between the College and local employers.
- **Employer Response Board (ERB)** – Ensures employer voice directly informs skills planning and College responsiveness.
- **North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce** – Leads employer engagement across the wider Lancashire economy.
- **Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)** – Aligns College provision with current and future employer skills demand.

Sector, Cluster & Industry Networks

- **North West Aerospace Alliance** – Supports links with aerospace employers and high value engineering skills demand.
- **Northern Automotive Alliance** – Connects the College to regional automotive innovation and supply chain employers.
- **North West Regional Defence & Security Cluster** – Strengthens engagement with defence and security employers.
- **ADS (Aerospace, Defence, Security & Space)** – Provides national sector intelligence and employer connectivity.
- **Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Cluster** – Supports curriculum alignment to advanced manufacturing skills needs.
- **Security & Defence Cluster** – Enhances employer links in specialist security and defence disciplines.
- **Composites UK** – Supports curriculum relevance and employer engagement in advanced materials and composites.
- **Construction Alliance** – Brings employers together to shape construction skills and workforce pipelines.
- **BACH – British Association of Construction Heads** – Provides national leadership and best practice in construction education (Head of Construction is Chair).

Skills Excellence & National Recognition

- **WorldSkills UK** – Recognises the College's excellence through competitive success, including 10 medals at the 2025 National Finals and 2nd in the national league table for number of medals.

Civic 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 Outstanding Collaboration across Lancashire.

Partnerships with community representative groups include:

- **Calico Enterprise** – supporting employability, progression routes and targeted interventions for vulnerable learners and residents.
- **Onward Homes** – delivering community-based skills programmes, including potential foundation and pre-apprenticeship pathways for tenants.
- **Burnley Town Pride in Place** (Towns Board) – contributing to regeneration, local workforce development and employer engagement.
- **Pendleside Hospice** – providing volunteering, skills development and pathways into health and care careers.
- **East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust** – working in partnership with the HR Director to develop workforce pipelines, apprenticeships and upskilling programmes.

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



Education Stakeholders

Colleges

Burnley College has strong, collaborative relationships with the regional GFE (General Further Education) 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.

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 forges strategic educational partnerships such as with The Kings 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 and Universities.

Technical Excellence Colleges

The College is working in partnership with Wigan and Leigh who have been appointed as the Construction Technical Excellence College for the North West and are named partners in the North West Defence Technical Excellence College that is to be led by Blackpool and Fylde and the Digital Technical Excellence College that is to be led by LTE Group.

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 and taster sessions through its Burnley College Programmes, engaging over 600 year 10 and 11 Students in programmes usually lasting six weeks.

The College also organises an annual Science Festival and Winter Wonderland for primary and secondary school pupils to enjoy.

Universities

The College has strong, established partnerships with three university awarding partners: The University of Lancashire, The University of Greater Manchester and Pearson. 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 The University of Lancashire 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.

Staff/Learners and Parents

- The College 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.

The College focusses on supporting their businesses to produce alternative energy. This has resulted in effective use of and shared resources, shared skilled teachers and better and integrated use of technology. This has led to the successful implementation of the Lancashire and Cumbria Institute of Technology of which Burnley College is a member.



Contribution to National, Regional and Local Priorities

Provision Type	Priority	Action	Target	National, Regional, LSIP	Strategic Aim	Deadline
16-18	Reduction of withdrawal of learners with an EHCP	Develop 3 foundation programmes to support the growing demand of students not ready for mainstream post 16 education with an EHCP.	40 learners with an EHCP accessing bespoke foundation programmes leading to improved retention of EHCP learners with a target retention of 91% up from 87% in 2025/26	N, R	1, 3 & 7	June 2027
16-18	Future workforce needs	Develop an engineering scholarship programme that supports a talent pipeline for young people accessing the world of engineering	Engineering scholarship programme agreed by businesses to recruit during 2026/27	N, R, LSIP	1, 3 & 7	March 2027
Inclusion/ SEND	Reduction of NEET learners in Burnley	Design and deliver 2 bespoke NEET programmes to support the reduction of NEET in Burnley	20 learners engage in NEET reduction programmes	N, R, LSIP	1, 3 & 7	March 2027
Inclusive Mainstream Fund	Implementation of the IMF	To consider the resource requirements and deployment of resources to best support inclusion for those most in need	Close the attendance gap for learners who require English and maths to within 5% of the main programme of study.	N, R LSIP	1, 3 & 6	June 2027
Adults	Unemployed into work	Develop a range of Bespoke Employer-led programmes in construction to support unemployed into work	50 adults accessing bespoke programmes with guaranteed interviews and 20 into employment opportunities	N, R, LSIP	3 & 7	June 2027
Apprenticeships	New apprenticeships in Roofing, Hair & Beauty and Modular Apprenticeship Units to support upskilling	Create a structured new offer for Roofing through apprenticeships	A cohort of 12 Roofing apprentices and 20 modular apprenticeships	R, N and LSIP	3 & 7	June 2027
Higher Education	Modular Study	Introduction of modular learning through the Lifelong Learning Entitlement	10 learners to enrol in Engineering modular study	N, R, LSIP	2, 3 & 7	June 2027

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 motor vehicle and catering due to local demands, priority areas, and other providers’ offers. The College continues to expand its curriculum offer into supporting the rise in NEETs and the need to create bespoke programmes for those furthest away from the labour market.



The Milburn Review (May 2026) reported 1,012,000 young people NEET nationally in the first quarter of 2026, with that figure potentially rising to 1.25 million – 1 in 6 – within five years. Burnley recorded the largest NEET rate increase in Lancashire in 2024/25 at +1.3%, and 84% of NEET young people nationally report wanting work or training. The Review specifically names FE colleges as key place-based delivery partners in tackling this challenge.

The College is also working closely with the University of Lancashire to align its university provision and ensure a cohesive offer for the Burnley areas.

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 24 June 2026.

The Plan will be published on the College’s website within three months of the start of the new academic year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Brown', written over a horizontal line.

Chair of Governors
Dated: 24 June 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hall', written over a horizontal line.

Principal and CEO, Burnley College
Dated: 24 June 2026



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.

Examples of collaborative work in response to local needs:

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 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 to 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.

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 to 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 (lancashirelsip.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 l2050-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
www.ons.gov.uk
- ¹⁵ Deprivation Analysis
www.lancashire.gov.uk
- ¹⁶ Government's School Performance Tables
www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables



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