



City of
Portsmouth
College

SKILLS PLAN & ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT 2024





VALUES

Be Collaborative

Be Aspirational

Be Respectful

Be Empowering

Be Supportive

VISION

The college of choice for the city of Portsmouth and our region

MISSION

Shaping our city's future by unlocking the potential of its learners

STRATEGIC GOALS

- 1. Inspirational, aspirational and inclusive place to work and learn**
- 2. Responsive and relevant curriculum offer**
- 3. High quality teaching, learning and assessment**
- 4. Trusted partner for the communities we serve**
- 5. Stabilised and sustainable finances**

Plus, three enabling themes:

- 1. Embrace digital technology in all we do**
- 2. Beacon of sustainability best practice**
- 3. Consolidation before expansion**

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College Accountability Statement

The College is required by the Department for Education (DfE) to produce an accountability statement to set out the focus of curriculum over a 2-year period, in line with the overall College Strategy. This should be written to support the annual accountability statement that outlines the funding the college will receive to provide training. This document incorporates this requirement.

1. Purpose

The plan outlines how the College will support local, regional and national priorities. It is developed in response to the Skills Act (2021), following the Skills for Jobs White Paper, increasing the accountability of colleges to contribute towards developing current and future skills demands. The plan is written to compliment the identified curriculum specialisms of the College Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026) and contributes towards several strategic priorities identified within the strategy.

2. Context and Place

In August 2021, Highbury College and Portsmouth College merged to form the City of Portsmouth College (COPC). The organisation is a general further education college in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. Total income in 2023-2024 was c£34m. Portsmouth is located within the Solent region. Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is the ERB leading on the development of the region's first LSIP, which the College has actively engaged with and supported. Portsmouth City Council is a unitary authority. The College also works closely with Hampshire County Council. Collaboration with local colleges is positive, strengthened further by successful collaborative bids and projects as part of the most recent SDF projects. The College also works very closely with the University of Portsmouth.

The City of Portsmouth College delivers one educational and training solution for the businesses and communities of the city and the local region. The College has more than 60 years of experience, during which time it has built a strong reputation for academic, technical and professional programmes. It also has close relationships with those working in various industries, which ensures the ever-changing needs of employers in the area are met.

COPC provides vocational and academic education and training, from first-step courses to university level foundation degrees, specialised services for business, and education in the community. Courses include A Levels, T Levels, vocational diplomas (BTECs), GCSEs, foundation degrees, apprenticeships and unaccredited leisure courses. The College actively promotes lifelong learning and delivers a wide range of adult courses at more than 70 community venues in and around Portsmouth, as well as at four College campuses. The College is also a provider of apprenticeship training in the South East and currently offers apprenticeships in more than 20 subject areas.

2.1 Location

COPC has four sites, delivering a range of education and training opportunities:

- Highbury Campus specialises in delivering vocational and technical education
- North Harbour Campus specialises in delivering construction courses, building services, and other trades. It is also the home of the Net Zero Training hub
- Sixth Form Campus specialises in delivering a range of academic programmes including the broadest range of A Levels in the city of Portsmouth
- Arundel Campus located in the city centre, specialises in delivering English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programmes and employability programmes for the local community.

2.2 Students and our communities

Students and apprentices have access to a broad range of resources across the College campuses, including world-class learning and sports facilities. The College offers a comprehensive curriculum, minimising the need to travel, and draws on expertise from each previous college. The newly merged College supports a broad course offering for students and apprentices of all ages, meeting local and national skills needs. It also provides a city-wide careers and course advice service, supporting every member of the community with their lifelong learning choices.

2.3 Demography

The population of Portsmouth is currently 212,700 and is forecast to increase by 5% to 222,300 by 2026. Although it is an ageing population and the proportion of young people will decrease slightly, the absolute numbers increase. The population of young people in year 11 in Portsmouth's schools is set to rise over the next 5 years.

The city has several areas of high deprivation, with Charles Dickens Ward in the centre of the island being the most deprived. In addition, there is considerable construction taking place within the City, projecting a further increase in the population of young people. There is forecast to be a 5.5% increase in dwellings (or 5,030 additional dwellings) by 2026, up from 91,460 dwellings in 2019.

2.4 Employers and businesses

The merged College has increased the capacity to respond to employers' training and apprenticeship needs across the South of England and further afield. Employers and businesses can influence the complete curriculum offer in the city, supporting the future workforce and economy. There are opportunities for employers to use the world-class College facilities for their own training needs and to access bespoke training for their staff, organised by the College. Employers and businesses can help shape the talent of the future by influencing a wide number of work experience and industry placement activities, which will strengthen the pool of potential employees in the future. The new College, as a larger organisation serving the city, is better placed to bid for skills programmes to support the development of South Hampshire.

The College is engaged with over 500 employers in Portsmouth and the wider Solent region, a significant majority of which being SMEs, to inform and support the intent and implementation of the curriculum to ensure the College delivers the desired impact for all students.

Key employer partners include:

- The Abri Group
- Compass
- Global Ceramics
- HBS Group
- H M S Collingwood
- Halfords
- Hampshire Plumbing and Heating
- Horizons Carpentry and Joinery
- KA Watts Electrical
- Mountjoy
- National Maritime Systems
- National Air Traffic Systems (NATS)
- Newsquest Media Group
- National Health Service (NHS)
- PMC Construction and Development
- Pompey in the Community
- Portsmouth City Council (PCC)
- Portsmouth Football Club
- Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (Queen Alexandra Hospital)
- RJC Mechanical
- South Coast Refrigeration Services
- Spinnaker Tower
- Taylor Wimpey
- VIVID Housing

2.5 Schools and parents

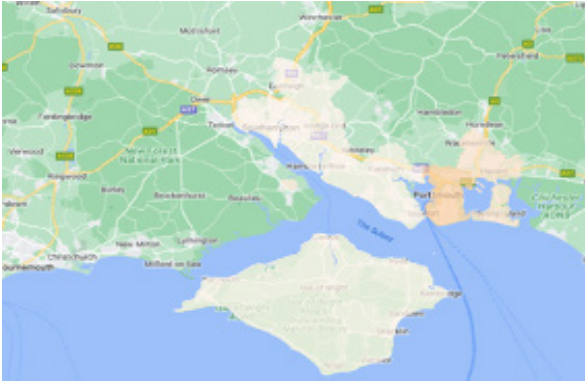
City of Portsmouth College provides a cohesive and broad curriculum offer, which has been carefully planned to ensure there are clear ladders of progression leading to positive outcomes and next steps for our students. Working in close partnership with schools and parents, we provide the right support and expert advice to ensure the right choices are made. The breadth and depth of our offer means we have the right programme of study for everyone.

City of Portsmouth College has a well-established relationship with a high number of secondary schools, over a wide geographical span. We are the first-choice destination for the significant majority of young people leaving school in Portsmouth.

2.6 Travel to learn

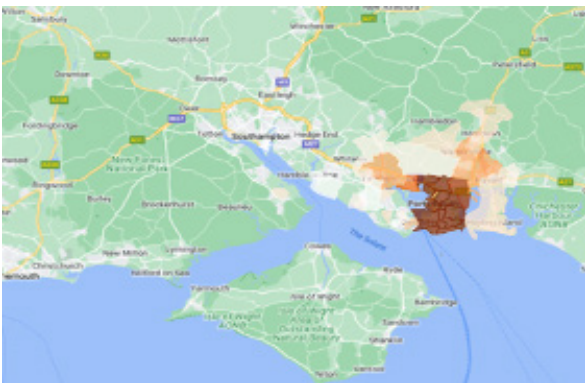
Apprenticeships

The majority of apprentices live and work in Portsmouth:



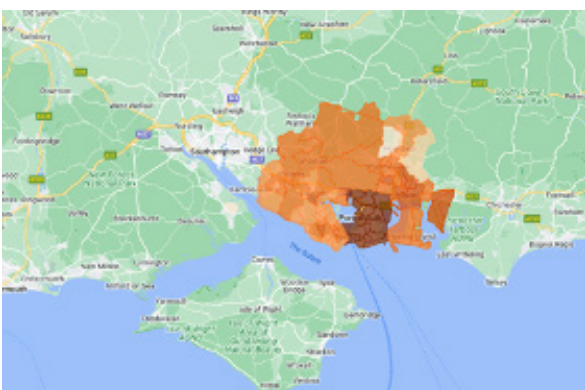
16-19 Study Programme

The significant majority of young people studying at the College live in Portsmouth, with a concentration in the Southern and Eastern parts of the City:



Adults

A significant proportion of adult students live in Portsmouth, but the College has a wider geographical reach given the nature of the provision, for example FE and HE online courses:



3. Approach to developing the Accountability Statement

In arriving at the objectives for the coming year, the College has considered a wide range of supporting information including:

- vector local market intelligence – used throughout the curriculum planning process
- Portsmouth City Council economic goals
- Solent Partners priorities
- Solent LSIP outcomes
- national priorities.

The various ways in which the College engages with stakeholders to plan, develop, and deliver education training and support are set out in the College's Curriculum Strategy and supporting sub strategies, relating to Employer Engagement, Schools Liaison and Apprenticeships. Key employer partners, who assist curriculum planning and sequencing of the curriculum for the College in a variety of ways, are reflected later in this statement, and more specifically through the separate employer engagement strategy.

The College works collaboratively with other local providers and partners in the city and wider county area, notably through formal and informal local networks. These include the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP), Portsmouth Schools Network, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Business South, Shaping Portsmouth, Solent Partners and local authority led projects. The College has close relationships with local universities,

in particular, the University of Portsmouth for which we work collaboratively to support student progression.

The schools in the Portsmouth area are predominantly 11-16. While there is a University Technical College offering post 16 provision, their offer is specialist. The College therefore has an important role in working with schools to ensure young people are well informed about the full range of post-16 options available, progression routes, and the employment and career opportunities that are open to them.

The College has worked in partnership with other local colleges in the Solent area to ensure the skills gap around NetZero is decreased. In conjunction with this, we have also worked with Shaping Portsmouth on the decarbonisation plans for Portsmouth and Unloc to support the youth of Portsmouth and surrounding area to understand the requirements of NetZero.

3.1 Portsmouth and its priorities

Portsmouth is one of the most densely populated cities in the country. It has the fourth largest economy in the South East, with a broad employment base and is the national home of the Royal Navy. The city has a number of key economic development priorities up to 2029:

Strengthen the Portsmouth brand

- build the brand: the great waterfront city

Become a destination city for ideas and innovation

- create a marine and maritime engineering and/or clean growth innovation quarter
- build on the strengths of the advanced manufacturing and engineering cluster
- boost innovation, research and creativity to attract entrepreneurs and support the economy.

Put people at the heart of regeneration

- prioritise a qualifications progression skills strategy for local talent
- address low educational and pupil attainment in Portsmouth
- empower residents in Portsmouth to raise the city's economic activity rate.

Infrastructure and place

- push for new and improved public transport links locally and regionally
- delivery of major transport infrastructure in Portsmouth
- improve the city's housing offer
- upgrade local place infrastructure and enhance the city's waterfront
- increase digital connectivity and utilities capacity
- embrace Portsmouth's environmental and wildlife assets and tackle climate change.

Create a thriving and competitive business environment

- invest in and strengthen the visitor and creative industries sector
- diversify the economy into more knowledge-based sectors
- revitalise the city centre and high streets across the city
- make Portsmouth the most business-friendly city with the best support for businesses.

3.2 Solent's key sector priority areas

Headline skills needs include:

- digital and knowledge skills to support across the economy and the specific digital and knowledge-based sectors
- advanced manufacturing and engineering in new industries, and to replace an aging profile in existing industries
- hospitality and tourism sector
- construction
- computing/IT
- qualified health professionals
- soft skills such as written communications, negotiation, customer service, team working, and emotional intelligence
- leadership and management.



3.3 Solent Partners

Solent Partners have a number of headline priorities for action:

To provide leadership for the Solent Marine and Maritime Forum, ensuring that the priorities for action and investment are delivered in partnership with the sector.

To support Visit Solent, the South Hampshire and Isle of Wight's marketing campaign. A bold and innovative campaign to boost the visitor and marine economy of these areas.

Provide support for tourism activities in rural areas – The Solent Partners will allocate EAFRD funding to support tourism, recreation and leisure activities, destination development and marketing activities.

To become the national leader and be internationally recognised for its low-carbon green economy, with specific support for:

- new low-carbon and green technology - capitalising on the world-class research in the sub-region into green technologies and turning these into business opportunities, growth, and jobs as well as supporting strong manufacturing
- resource efficiency in homes and businesses through supporting with ERDF, a low-carbon construction hub, to act as a centre of excellence for the development and adoption of low-carbon construction, waste energy reduction, and renewable energy production techniques across the Solent
- developing large-scale renewable energy such as tidal and offshore wind, together with small-scale on homes and businesses, and renewable and district energy schemes incorporated into new developments where practical.

Whilst the College's ongoing curriculum development and design is informed by the Solent Partners priorities, laid out in the LSIP, it is important to note that the education and training needs of residents and stakeholders in Portsmouth differ significantly to those in the broader Hampshire regional geography (the audience for the LSIP). It is therefore a strategic decision to align our curriculum only in part with the priorities outlined in the LSIP, and to continue to proactively work with Hampshire Chamber of Commerce to lead on shaping future iterations of the LSIP to better reflect the needs of Portsmouth. This is particularly relevant for the significant number of Portsmouth residents every year who need to undertake a course at Level 2 or below. They are often hard to reach young people and adults in the City, using the Level 2 or below course as a platform to progress onto Level 3 and above courses and/or employment.

Priority 1

Awareness and aspiration: Ensure the skills ecosystem can improve the life chances of all communities across the Solent.

Specific outcome for COPC: - Tackling deprivation and promoting diversity

Priority 2

Navigating the skills ecosystem : Reduce complexity and improve complementarity within the skills ecosystem in the Solent.

Specific outcome for COPC: - Improve complementarity and coordination

Priority 3

Proactive employer engagement: Encourage employers to play a greater role shaping local provision and promote the benefits of engagement.

Specific outcome for COPC: - Develop and nurture partnerships

Priority 4

A more agile skills ecosystem: Improve responsiveness by building on increased digitisation and the requirement for flexibility.

Specific outcome for COPC: - Focus on core competencies and building resilience

Priority 5

Pathways to skills: Acknowledge that career pathways are not linear and facilitate greater brokerage within the skills ecosystem.

Specific outcome for COPC: - Focus on progression, including across sectors. Delivery by sector specialists

Priority 6

Managing the skills transition: As technology advances towards Industry 4.0, future proofing the skills ecosystem is key to securing success.

Specific outcome for COPC: - NetZero is a fundamental priority

3.4 Solent Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) March 31 2023

The LSIP has been structured around the following six priorities:

- Priority 1: awareness and aspiration
- Priority 2: navigating the skills ecosystem
- Priority 3: proactive employer engagement
- Priority 4: a more agile skills ecosystem
- Priority 5: pathways to skills
- Priority 6: managing the skills transition.

The ERB has identified the following as priority sectors for employment and skills development:

- Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace
- Digital Technology and Computer Science
- Visitor, Creative and Cultural Industries
- Health and Social Care.

3.5 National priorities

National skills priorities have been agreed across Government and 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 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 College will prioritise curriculum development where practical, through a small number of high-quality programmes that have been co-designed with employers in the sectors listed above, and that have a strong track record of delivering good outcomes for learners. These programmes are:

- T Levels
- Apprenticeships
- Free Courses for Jobs
- Skills Bootcamps
- Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs).





4. Contribution to national, regional and local priorities

Strategic skills goals	Strategic plan link	Contribution to local, regional and national skills	24-25 actions	Impact	24/25 KPI	24/25 Dashboard Target
Further develop the COPC curriculum offer in Health and Social Care, Hospitality, Logistics and Construction (including Net Zero courses) in response to Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) sector deep dives.	Strategic goal 2: responsive and relevant curriculum.	Local Skills Improvement Plan Hampshire Future Skills (hampshirechamber.co.uk) Skills Action Plan and Local Skills Report for the Solent published - Solent LEP Portsmouth Local Plan - Portsmouth City Council	<p>Integrate and expand the courses on offer across the health and social care, hospitality, logistics and construction programmes.</p> <p>Actively engage and support the new Solent Cluster.</p> <p>Participation in the LSIF projects with local colleges and providers to deliver a coherent regional approach to the curriculum planning and delivery of NetZero training.</p>	<p>Increase in breadth of provision in health and social care, hospitality, logistics and construction curriculum areas.</p> <p>Relevant skills for NetZero are integrated within full-time study programmes, ensuring the future local workforce in all occupations possess skills relevant to an economy not dependent on fossil fuels.</p> <p>COPC representing the FE colleges and securing government funds to support R&D and skills training.</p>	<p>Four new courses developed and offered (one in each sector) equating to 60 enrolments.</p> <p>Environmental programme embedded into enrichment offer (E6 becomes E7).</p>	

Strategic skills goals	Strategic plan link	Contribution to local, regional and national skills	24-25 actions	Impact	24/25 KPI	24/25 Dashboard Target
<p>Develop clear ladders of internal and external progression within technical education, that meet T Level and HTQ priorities. Align curriculum development with local employer needs.</p>	<p>Strategic goal 2: responsive and relevant curriculum.</p>	<p>Skills Action Plan and Local Skills Report for the Solent published - Solent LEP</p>	<p>Update the Curriculum Development Roadmap to increase the specificity of stakeholder contributions to the curriculum design.</p> <p>Successfully launch and recruit to new T Levels in Digital, Engineering, and Construction.</p> <p>Successfully develop, launch and recruit to two new HTQs in Health and Construction.</p> <p>Successfully develop a programme in collaboration with Portsmouth City Council (PCC) that closely resembles the principles of a Skills Bootcamp for Air Source Heat Pumps, that provides students with foundation level knowledge, skills and behaviours that enables them to progress onto sector-based pathways.</p>	<p>Increase in external enrolments to occupationally specific T Levels and HTQ courses and internal College progressions to the same.</p> <p>Capital investment in the College is targeted to provide high specification learning environments in priority sectors, matching local skills needs and ensuing a productive workforce attuned to local needs of employers.</p> <p>Positive destinations for students studying on T Levels and HTQs and an increase in local employers offering high-quality employment roles.</p> <p>Meaningful and relevant industry placements associated to T Levels.</p>	<p>92 T Level enrolments in Health, Computing, Engineering, Construction and Childcare and Education*.</p> <p>16 HTQ / HE enrolments in Health or Construction*.</p> <p>3% of income as capital investment, used to develop learning environments in priority sectors.</p> <p>100% of T Level students successfully placed in meaningful and relevant industry placement*.</p> <p>*T Level and HTQ enrolment targets represent the College's ambition. National and local data indicates these targets may not be achievable.</p>	<p>HE student numbers 16</p> <p>Target 3% Income</p> <p>100%</p>

Strategic skills goals	Strategic plan link	Contribution to local, regional and national skills	24-25 actions	Impact	24/25 KPI	24/25 Dashboard Target
Continue to work closely with local schools to provide high-quality careers, advice, and taster sessions that raise awareness of local career opportunities.	Strategic goal 4: trusted partner for the communities we serve.	Skills Action Plan and Local Skills Report for the Solent published - Solent LEP	Further enhance and develop the range of school taster activities and events.	Increased awareness and enrolment of 16-year-olds to courses which meet occupational needs of employers in the Eastern Solent area.	3185 study programme enrolments (22/23 baseline curriculum plan target 2984).	3185
			Work closely with The South EBP to support work experience, placements, and IAG across the Portsmouth city region.	Impactful events held at feeder schools, which align to sector priority areas of the Eastern Solent.	125 planned school engagement events (22/23 baseline 50).	125
			Re-launch the College's Pre-16 (14-16) curriculum offer.	Improved positive destinations for Pre-16 students on courses which meet occupational needs of employers in the Eastern Solent area.	2350 year 11 applications (22/23 baseline 1900) 40% positive destination for full-time FE students - progression into Further Education (22/23 baseline 35%).	2350
			Continue to work closely with local stakeholders including Shaping Portsmouth and Portsmouth City Council.	High quality IAG and careers advice mapped to Gatsby benchmarks.	35% positive destinations for full-time FE students - progression into Higher Education (22/23 baseline 20%).	35% of level 3
				Increased enrolments from feeder schools within the main geographical area.	30% positive destinations for full-time FE students - Apprenticeship / Employment (22/23 baseline 15%).	30%

Strategic skills goals	Strategic plan link	Contribution to local, regional and national skills	24-25 actions	Impact	24/25 KPI	24/25 Dashboard Target
Continue to work closely with local schools to provide high quality careers, advice, and taster sessions that raise awareness of local career opportunities.					<p>62% apprenticeship progression – employment (22/23 baseline 20%).</p> <p>30% apprenticeship progression - next level apprenticeship/ further relevant training (22/23 baseline 20%).</p> <p>100% compliance with the 8 Gatsby benchmarks (22/23 baseline 100%).</p>	<p>62%</p> <p>30%</p>
Continue working closely with the City Council, in supporting the development of The First Digital City, reducing adult digital poverty, and promoting progression to employment.	Strategic goal 4: trusted partner for the communities we serve.	Portsmouth Local Plan - Portsmouth City Council	<p>Produce a joint branded Digital Skills Programme targeted at hard-to-reach adults, and adults with low levels of digital literacy.</p> <p>Produce a Progression Roadmap to enable adults to plan for, and engage with further training and access employment.</p>	<p>Increase in adults engaging in Digital Skills Programmes linked to occupational ambitions.</p> <p>Reducing the digital poverty and skills gaps within Portsmouth.</p> <p>Year-on-year improvement in progression to employment, higher paid employment or higher learning.</p>	328 IT/digital taster and advanced course enrolments for adults in the community (22/23 baseline 252 enrolments).	

Strategic skills goals	Strategic plan link	Contribution to local, regional and national skills	24-25 actions	Impact	24/25 KPI	24/25 Dashboard Target
<p>Transform the apprenticeship offer at the College, significantly improving the quality of the employer relationship and the quality of the apprentice experience in 2024/25, with a focus to then grow the provision in 2025/26.</p>	<p>Strategic goal 2: responsive and relevant curriculum</p>	<p>Skills Action Plan and Local Skills Report for the Solent published – Solent LEP</p>	<p>Embed apprenticeship delivery into the mainstream curriculum structure.</p> <p>Upskill current lecturers and trainers.</p> <p>Purchase a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) product and build a high-quality CRM data set.</p> <p>Improve the quality of employer and broader stakeholder engagement activities, and the levels of service provided.</p>	<p>Increases in apprenticeship numbers for standards which meet local priority needs.</p> <p>Improved feedback from employer and apprenticeship experience.</p> <p>Increases in positive destinations and career progression.</p> <p>Improved College self-assessment outcomes for apprentices (and gradings) across apprenticeship provision.</p>	<p>564 apprentices in learning (22/23 baseline 850 apprentices in learning).</p> <p>3-star rating 'Good' on Find an Apprenticeship site (22/23 baseline Good).</p> <p>62% apprenticeship progression – employment (22/23 baseline 20%).</p> <p>30% apprenticeship progression – next level apprenticeship/ further relevant training (22/23 baseline 20%).</p> <p>Overall achievement rate 60% (22/23 baseline 50%).</p> <p>Apprenticeships provision graded 'Good' through self-assessment process (22/23 baseline requires Improvement).</p>	<p>564 in learning.</p> <p>62%</p> <p>30%</p> <p>60%</p>

Strategic skills goals	Strategic plan link	Contribution to local, regional and national skills	24-25 actions	Impact	24/25 KPI	24/25 Dashboard Target
Mobilise the new Sustainability Strategy, further reducing the carbon footprint of the College in supporting local and national goals on NetZero and the environment.	Strategic goal 5: stabilised and sustainable finances.	The future of work: jobs and skills in 2030 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	<p>Reduce COPC's carbon footprint by 10% in 24/25.</p> <p>Reduce COPC's water consumption by 10% in 24/25.</p> <p>Reduce COPC's landfill waste by 5% in 24/25.</p>	<p>Current students/ future workforce understand and can articulate the importance of moving to low carbon/ sustainable working practices.</p> <p>Employer visibility of an effective Sustainability Strategy for the business of the College and how learners are involved and informed of this. Employers have the opportunity to challenge and feedback on this through Employer Advisory Boards (EABs).</p> <p>Reduction of the carbon footprint, water consumption, and landfill waste by COPC in line with the targets for 2035.</p>	<p>Environmental programme embedded into enrichment offer (E6 becomes E7).</p> <p>9 Employer Advisory Boards in priority sectors aligned to curriculum development (Construction and Building Services, Health, Net Zero, Engineering, Digital, Childcare and Education, Creative Industries, Business and Professional Studies, Hair and Beauty and Hospitality and Catering) – 22/23 baseline 6 Employer Advisory Boards.</p>	
Refine and relaunch the E6 Personal Development Programme (a six-strand initiative of courses, training and experiences focussed on soft skills in preparation for the world of work).	Strategic goal 2: responsive and relevant curriculum.	Skills Action Plan and Local Skills Report for the Solent published - Solent LEP	<p>Broaden the E6 offer to include digital skills and sustainability content.</p> <p>Targeted promotion of the E6 offer to Highbury and North Harbour Campuses to increase participation.</p>	<p>Positive destinations for students engaging on the E6 Programme.</p> <p>Increase in student partaking in courses providing E6 Programme.</p> <p>New programmes developed as part of the Colleges E6 offer.</p>	<p>30% (488) full-time FE students engaged in extra-curricular enrichment activities (E6) – 22/23 baseline 8%.</p> <p>Environmental programme embedded into enrichment offer (E6 becomes E7).</p>	30%

Strategic skills goals	Strategic plan link	Contribution to local, regional and national skills	24-25 actions	Impact	24/25 KPI	24/25 Dashboard Target
<p>Continue working collaboratively with the regional education providers to ensure a high-quality, responsive, and coordinated education and training offer for the Solent and wider region.</p>	<p>Strategic goal 4: trusted partner for the communities we serve.</p>	<p>Skills Action Plan and Local Skills Report for the Solent published - Solent LEP</p>	<p>Use the LSIF to further the occupationally focused projects from SDF round 1 and 2, in addition to broader projects designed to meet priorities identified in the LSIP.</p> <p>Continue engaging with local colleges to ensure a coordinated curriculum offer across the Solent.</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership with University of Portsmouth to deliver educational pathways into employment and onto higher learning.</p>	<p>Achievement of collaborative project goals that aim to deliver a more coordinated approach to the region's curriculum offer for young people and adults.</p>	<p>125 planned school engagement events (22/23 baseline 50) of which 5 to be undertaken as a collective group of Solent colleges.</p> <p>4 new Higher Education courses developed for a Sept 24 enrolment (22/23 baseline 2 new Higher Education courses).</p>	<p>125</p> <p>4</p>

5. Corporation Statement

Our first strategic plan as a newly-merged organisation, sets out a clear vision for the part we will play in helping to ensure a successful future for the city of Portsmouth – its businesses, its communities and its people. The coming together of our four campuses under a single College for all the people of Portsmouth, puts the provision of 16-18, apprenticeships, and adult education in a stronger position than ever before.

We can now play a central role alongside strategic partners who share our aspirations. One great College for one great city. The strategic plan sets out our commitment to the scale and quality of our provision as the leading provider of courses and apprenticeships. With a new identity, a new leadership team and the expertise of our talented staff, we are looking to the future with renewed optimism and confidence. <https://www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk/media/uzzclahr/copc-strategic-plan-2022-2026-screen.pdf>

The Corporation has been actively engaged with the development of the Accountability Statement. The Corporation has approved this final draft and will formally approve the final document at the Board meeting in June 2024.

6. Local Needs Duty

Chairs and CEO's / Principals from the Solent region's General Further Education Colleges, and most Sixth Forms / post-16 Multi Academy Trusts, met as a 'Local Needs Duty Forum' on 1st March 2024. Alongside the colleges, representatives from Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce came together to discuss the skills agenda and collaborative working. This collaborative event came at the end of the AoC Colleges' Week, which celebrates the contribution that colleges make to their communities. The day was facilitated by Amanda Melton CBE, ex-Principal of Nelson and Colne College and a previous expert panel member of The Independent Commission on the College of the Future.

The event offered a unique opportunity for key representatives from the county's public sector organisations to discuss their goals and objectives for skills growth in Hampshire, identifying areas in which greater collaboration would help.

The agenda included a review of the success of collaborative projects funded through the Strategic Development Funds and Local Skills Improvement Fund. Prior to the meeting, research was commissioned to review the colleges published accountability statements and draw conclusions on their collective response to the skills priorities identified in the Solent LSIP.

This review concluded that skills priorities are well met in Engineering, Health & Social Care, and Childcare although there is more work to do in measuring the impact on progression into employment. And there are gaps in the Digital sector beyond Esports, ICT and T Levels, and The Science and Maths offer for the region is generic, therefore requiring further development and engagement with employers to establish the wider need.

The meeting resulted in a proposed action plan for future collaboration. Initial actions to be carried out before the next annual meeting of governors include:

- agree a meeting structure and governance approach that facilitates ongoing collaboration and makes best use of the existing and proposed forums in place in the region
- develop the research to better map supply and demand
- focus our collaboration on high-impact regional skills challenges
- consider the benefit of continued wider collaboration for efficiency, improvement and value for public money
- enable governors to collaborate on specific roles, e.g. link governors' roles for skills or careers.

List of supporting documents (links)

1. Strategic plan: Who we are | City of Portsmouth College ([city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk](https://www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk))

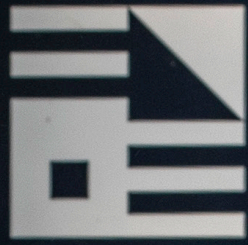
2. Financial Report 2021-22: Statutory Accounts | City of Portsmouth College ([city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk](https://www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk))

3. LSIP Report: Local Skills Improvement Plan | Hampshire Future Skills ([hampshirechamber.co.uk](https://www.hampshirechamber.co.uk))

4. Solent Partners Skills Plan
[Skills Action Plan and Local Skills Report for the Solent published - Solent LEP](#)

5. Portsmouth City Council -
[Portsmouth Local Plan - Portsmouth City Council](#)

6. National priorities - The future of work: jobs and skills in 2030 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



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