Annual Accountability Statement 2026-27

Our Mission

Our mission: 'Working Together to Transform Lives' sits at the heart of this Accountability Statement. The College works across the city of Bradford to deliver high-quality, relevant and employer-informed curricula to ensure all of its students gain the skills and qualifications needed to pursue highly-skilled careers. The college cannot do this without its civic, employer and community partners. This plan outlines its approach to meeting the local skills need and its development plans for the 2026/27 academic year.

Our Curriculum

Bradford College offers a broad range of vocational and academic qualifications to young people and adults. The College is the largest institution providing 16-19 education and training within the Bradford local authority area. The College operates the majority of its provision from a city centre campus, with Construction, Electrical Installation and Sport provided at alternative venues across the city. The College meets the needs of its wider community with Adult Learning located in the heart of the city alongside a range of community venues.

Strong progression routes exist from Entry Level to Level 7 provision across a broad and responsive curriculum. Designed in partnership with employers, the curriculum is agile to the needs of the public and private sectors of the region. The College has successfully introduced T Levels and Foundation T Levels in response to the *Skills for Jobs* white paper and our Ambition Hub programme at Level 3 supports the development of non-perishable skills. Higher Level Apprenticeships have been implemented at Level 4 and Level 5 as part of the College's wider curriculum strategy to have a technical qualification offer in line with the *Skills for Jobs* white paper.

We deliver a range of higher technical and professional qualifications, degrees and postgraduate study as part of our higher education offer in partnership with the University of Greater Manchester and Leeds Trinity University. The college is accredited by the General Optical Council for Ophthalmic Dispensing programmes and Social Work England for Social Work degree provision.

Our Apprenticeship provision serves a broad base of organisations in Bradford and the Yorkshire region and nationally. We have a focus on STEM Apprenticeships.

Our Purpose

The College implemented a 4-year strategic plan in 2022 with a vision to 'Create a Better Future for all through Education and Training'. To support this vision the College's missions is 'Working Together to Transform Lives'.

To achieve this vision the college has set 7 strategic objectives:

- SO1 To be a truly inclusive College
- SO2 To deliver a curriculum that meets the needs of students, employers and our community
- SO3 To deliver an outstanding student experience
- SO4 To be an employer of choice
- SO5 To maintain a sustainable college
- SO6 To grow the college's income through student recruitment
- SO7 Empowering education through digital transformation

Key Stakeholders
Bradford College has a commitment to establish relationships and partnerships that support the College in achieving our strategic objectives. In developing our strategic plan and creating our annual accountability statement we have engaged: • West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce in the production on the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) • West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) • Bradford Employment & Skills Board (BESB) • Bradford Skills House Advisory Board (SHAB)

- Bradford Metropolitan District Council (BMDC)
- Bradford Chamber of Commerce
- Local MPs

In addition to these stakeholders, Bradford College works with a number of other partners to deliver our mission:

- **Schools** – The College is actively engaged with all 36 schools in the Bradford City region, providing opportunities for progression at 16 as well as alternative vocational provision to 150 young people aged between 14-16. The College is working with schools to increase the number of collaborative projects, with inter-school competitions taking place in Catering and Sport and annual School open days, which provide young people with the opportunity to understand the range of courses and facilities available to them.
- **Sixth Forms** – The College works with two large sixth forms: New College Bradford & Dixons Sixth Form, to share information on attendance and punctuality strategies and support progression between institutions to meet the specific needs of learners.
- **University of Greater Manchester** – The College delivers HE curriculum in partnership with the University of Greater Manchester as a validating partner. The College delivers an applied curriculum offer, with programmes developed in partnership with employers and clearly linked to regional skills opportunities.
- **Bradford University** - The College works with Bradford University as part of the College's Access to HE offer to ensure there is appropriate progression to Bradford University.
- **Leeds Trinity University (LTU)** –College's Teacher Education provision is currently delivered as a franchise model with LTU, ensuring that the College can continue to work with local schools to develop the future teaching workforce of Bradford.

Bradford College

Contribution to National, Regional & Local Priorities

Through a rigorous curriculum development and quality assurance process, the College has built an agile, responsive and engaging curriculum that is meeting the following key targets:

- Putting employers at the heart of the system so that education and training leads to jobs that can improve productivity and fill skills gaps.
- Making sure people can access training and learning flexibly throughout their lives and are well-informed about what is on offer through excellent careers support.

LSIP (May 2024)

Through this accountability statement, the college responds to the West Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan publishedannually. The following 3 key objectives have supported the development of the plan:

- Engagement of employers to ensure that people have the skills they need to thrive in their jobs over a lifetime
- Focused on skills needed for long term business success and growth, that builds on the existing work by the region's training providers
- Alignment of the plan to existing national programmes and initiatives

To support its curriculum strategy, the college delivers against the following cross-cutting themes:

- Net zero transition and sustainability
- Transferable skills
- Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)
- Leadership and management
- Digitisation and automation.

Bradford Employment & Skills Board Annual statement of need

Bradford's economy is worth approximately £13bn, the third largest in the Yorkshire region after Leeds and Sheffield,and the tenth largest nationally with over 17,000 businesses and more than 230,000 jobs. It is also an entrepreneurial district and has consistently ranks amongst the best cities in the country to start a business. The District retains a strong manufacturing base, employing a considerably higher proportion of people than is the case nationally. This is part of a diverse sectoral base with other strengths including Health and Social Care, Digital, Financial and Professional, and Cultural and Creative Industries. In terms of employee size, the three

largest sectors are Wholesale and Retail, Health and Social Work, and Education. This reflects priority sectors identified in the LSIP, with Health and Social Care and Wholesale and Retail also being the two largest sectors for employment in West Yorkshire (Education is also high, but across the sub-region Manufacturing and Administration are both slightly larger).

Strategic Objectives

Bradford College has a curriculum vision to ensure it is meeting local, regional and national priorities:

Aims & Objectives	Contribution towards National, Regional & Local priorities
Collaboration with employers to design a curriculua that develops technical and non-perishable skills and provides learners with access to high quality work experience and curriculum enhancement.	Increased exposure to local and regional opportunities alongside both technical and non-perishable skills development will provide young people with an understanding and increased knowledge of the careers available to them.
Growth of L3 curriculum offer to include T Levels in Construction, Engineering, Digital, Health, & Business	Development of curriculum specialisms to meet local, regional and national need. Enhanced work experience alongside an employer endorsement model will promote the careers available on completion of these T Levels.
Ambition Hub that utilises employer masterclasses, developing a range of employer skills, including teamwork, customer service, communications, sales & management, alongside a vocational offer.	To address continued challenges amongst employers around the development of non-perishable, transferable skills to meet current and future job shortages.
Achieve a positive destination for the Level 3 cohort completing in 26/27 with positive destinations being identified as progression to HE (Bradford College or alternative providers), Apprenticeships or Employment.	Ensuring that job and skill shortages are being met by the young people studying at Bradford College upon completion.
100% of all 16-19 Study Programmes to be endorsed by employers, identifying the skills and opportunities linked to the completion of the qualification.	Clear demonstration by the College to engage employers in the design and delivery of all Study Programmes, Including Work Experience, experience opf work and positive promotion of opportunities available locally.
Develop the Future Technology Centre for Motor Vehicle in 2026-27 to support skills development associated with decarbonisation and increased use of	Contribution to meeting the needs of a significant sector within the region.

Green Technologies in the Motor Vehicle Industry.	
That the College offers a responsive curriculum for adults, identified by WYCA, employers and JCP	Having a responsive curriculum that engages employers to support people into sustained employment to meet current skill shortages.
Introduce Adult reskilling and upskilling short- courses that meet priority sectors identified in conjunction with WYCA	Addressing skills and unemployment issues identified within Bradford, increasing the prosperity and wellbeing of Bradford residents.
To develop a range of community programmes, including Maths & English to provide first steps into vocational education, supporting progression to employment.	To support those furthest from the labour market to gain the essential skills to progress to vocational skills development and secure employment (challenge specifically in Bradford with unemployment higher than regional and national averages).

Statutory Duty

We are committed to complying with our duty under section 52B of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 to review provision in relation to local needs, as proposed in the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill 2022. We will review our Accountability Agreement at least every three years to ensure our Curriculum is meeting the needs of learners, employers and the communities we serve. We will publish a report on our main website following this review. We will factor in any actions from this report into our Accountability Agreement plan and this will also influence our Strategic Plan.

Corporation Statement & Sign-Off

On behalf of the Corporation, we can confirm that we have reviewed the statement and that this meets the purpose and objectives approved by the Corporation at the annual review. This statement was presented on the 20th March 2024.

Role	Name	Signature
Chair of Governors	John Williams	

Principal & Chief Executive Officer	Chris Webb		

This plan will be published on the College website for the start of the 26/27 academic year

Hyperlink
Policies and Statements (bradfordcollege.ac.uk)
Supporting documentation
• Bradford College Master Targets • Annual Financial Statement • Latest Ofsted Report • LSIP • Bradford Employment & Skills Strategic Targets

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: Bradfordcollege.ac.uk