
Skills Position Statement 2022/23

Transforming Lives & Developing the Workforce of the Future

Introduction

We have a proud history of delivering education and training in Bristol and can trace our roots back to the 1500s – we are truly part of the fabric of the City - one of the key anchor institutions working in partnership with a wide range of civic and community partners, employers and other providers.

Following significant internal and external consultation, in December 2021, the College Corporation approved the new 'Transforming Lives' Strategic Plan and accompanying Mission, Vision and Values¹. The Plan was drafted in response to changing educational policy and to respond to a country and a sector emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, facing economic challenges and adapting to the climate emergency.

Our Strategic Aims:

Meeting local and regional skills needs is at the heart of the College's Strategic Plan, Mission and Vision including:

- Aim 1. Enable all students to achieve their potential by delivering high-quality education, training and support to meet wider needs
- Aim 3. Work collaboratively to meet the needs of the City, and the wider region, responsive to current and future demands.

Highlighted activity to achieve our aims²:

- The College is well represented by leaders and managers on local boards including, but not limited to, Bristol One City Children & Young People, Bristol One City Economy & Skills, the Educational Recovery Taskforce and CBI Regional Council. Corporation members are well connected across civic, community, education, and employer bodies.³
- Curriculum Planning makes effective use of Labour Market Intelligence data (LMI). Leaders and managers have developed sophisticated horizon scanning to support a curriculum offer that is well aligned to local and regional needs and which recognises which markets are already well served by other providers.
- The region benefited from a Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) trailblazer pilot and from wave one & two Skills Development Funding (SDF) linked to the Institute of Technology (IoT). Whilst the current Ofsted grade limits the College's full participation in the IoT the use of the IoT+ group has enabled active participation with LSIP and SDF with a positive impact around Construction Green Skills, Health & Social Care and Digital, through capital investment, staff CPD, and collaborative activity with other providers.
- CoBC has been well positioned for the new LSIP which focuses on: Creative Industries; Health, Social Care & Life Sciences; Construction; Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering; Digitalisation; Net Zero & Climate Change and Business Support Services for Core Skills. CoBC is attending, and hosting, relevant meetings and is very publicly connected to the LSIP as part of collaborative working. The deadline for LSIP approval is summer 23 with activity running to March 25. The current SDF work includes collaborative opportunities tied to the current LSIP.¹

¹ [Strategic-Plan-2122-to-2526.pdf \(cityofbristol.ac.uk\)](https://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk/strategic-plan-2122-to-2526.pdf)

² Detailed activity is recorded in departmental SARs.

³ The Register of Interests records the full list of Board memberships

- We work closely with Bristol City Council and WECA across a range of areas to effectively gather and share intelligence including around the offer for the unemployed (including those furthest from the work place), work in the Care sector, ESOL and provision for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Links with three local Higher Education Institutions, the University of the West of England (UWE), the University of Bristol (UoB) and Bath Spa University remain strong. Joint activities continue to be developed through partnership agreements. CoBC is a core partner in the local Civic University⁴ Agreement (CUA) group alongside UWE, UoB and BCC/ One City. The ambition is to create a joint collaborative CUA for the city with an initial focus around Education & Skills including improving employability, widening participation in HE, increasing access to Apprenticeships and access to lifelong learning.
- The College remains the largest provider of SEND provision in the local area and enjoys a close ongoing relationship with Bristol City Council. Our Brislington Centre is a residential facility for students with additional needs who stay overnight from Sunday to Friday in term time. Work has started on another facility at our Ashley Down Centre due for completion in September 2023.
- As the city's largest provider of ESOL qualifications all ESOL students undertake a Substantial Programme of Learning and Support above 150 hours with access to CEIAG and focussed employability support linked to progression. The College has been responsive to the changing learners arriving from overseas including learners from Afghanistan, Hong Kong, and, most recently, Ukraine.
- The Care sector remains the largest employer in the City. We have carefully considered our Health & Social Care offer, in line with other providers, and have made excellent use of SDF funding and partner links to continue to focus our offer where there is most need. The curriculum is planned and taught effectively so that our learners gain the skills they will need in the workplace.
- The College works with a number of key employers in the City, a large number of SMEs, and is the national Apprenticeship provider for DAF trucks through a Skillnet contract.
- The College's wholly owned subsidiary company, Partners in Bristol (PiB), respond to the needs of employers at pace. PiB have close partnerships with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Job Centre Plus alongside other employers on activities including Sector Based Work Academies (SWAPs) which help meet the needs of those furthest from the workplace.
- PiB work closely with Unite the Union to respond to redundancies - supporting individuals to retrain and re-enter the workforce. PiB deliver Functional Skills Qualifications in the workplace for University Hospital Bristol & Weston (UHBW) and the University of the West of England (UWE) on a bespoke basis; with a focus on individuals looking to progress to higher level jobs and where barriers in English and maths are identified. PiB also work closely with SEETEC as part of the RESTART Scheme and with JETS delivering English and maths to support engagement with employment.
- The College is currently a partner of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Work Force for the Future programme, funded through the European Social Fund (ESF). City of Bristol College specialise in offering Construction Training and Support for qualifying businesses through the project. Employers have a dedicated Workforce Advisor to inform them of upcoming events and introduce them to CoBC students for Work Experience, Apprenticeships and short training opportunities. CoBC works in collaboration with Weston College who offer support in Digital Skills and Engineering and Bath College who support those in Hospitality and Catering and Health & Social Care.

⁴ [Civic University Network – Maximising the civic impact of universities in their place](#)

- We have a dedicated and active team embedded in the communities we serve working alongside 16-25 independent people, SEETEC, the Salvation Army and other key community stakeholders offering outreach services and referrals to AEB or ACL programmes to support progression.
- Student numbers in Creative & Digital are high and we continue to focus on market demand. A Web Development Applications course was introduced last year in partnership with Code Institute. This unique programme was adopted to address significant gaps in developer tech roles within the region and UK-wide and has been developed with industry experts and employers such as Google, Microsoft and Capgemini.
- The College's wholly owned Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA), the South West Apprenticeship Company (SWAC) has eleven years' experience of recruiting, placing, employing and mentoring apprentices placed within SMEs and larger levy paying hosts continuing to offer a service to those companies that would not otherwise engage with apprenticeships. Over the last eight years 98% of completed apprentices have been employed or progressed on to higher studies.

Please note that this statement is reviewed on an annual basis.