



Suffolk
New
College

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

2023 - 2024



CORPORATION MEMBERS



Stephen Pugh,
Chair



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Vice Chair

Helen Clements
Matthew Cole
Suzanne Davis
Robert England
Anne Gordon
Phil Harrison
Prof. Gurpreet Jagpal
Brendan Keaney
Jonathan Legh-Smith
Mark Lyne
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Stevie Sheppard
Andy Stevenson
Simon Wingrove

Justin Coe, Staff Governor
Sian Dent, Student Governor 22 - 23

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Alan Pease,
Principal and Chief
Executive Officer



Mary Gleave,
Deputy Chief
Executive Officer



Marianne Flack,
Interim Assistant
Principal
(Quality)



Abi Thompson,
Interim Assistant
Principal
(Curriculum)

INTRODUCTION BY CHAIR

I am pleased to introduce the Suffolk New College Accountability Agreement for 2023 - 24 which sets out in summary form the next year's key priorities and commitments to Government and to the communities, employers and learners we serve.

Meeting the local skills need is at the heart of our strategic planning, and one key role of this Agreement is to show how the College is aligning its strategic priorities with the emerging priorities of the regional Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). Suffolk New College has played an active role in the development of this Plan, which is providing a welcome focus for regional skills collaboration.

I hope you find this report helpful and are inspired, as we are, by the opportunities and projects ahead.

Stephen Pugh, Chair of Corporation
Suffolk New College

www.suffolk.ac.uk/about

www.suffolk.ac.uk/green-skills



LOCATION

Suffolk New College is based in Ipswich, the county town of Suffolk, near the thriving waterfront and town centre.

The College also has campuses at Otley (Suffolk Rural), in Leiston and Halesworth (Suffolk New College On the Coast).



PURPOSE

Suffolk New College is the main provider of Further Education for Ipswich and the surrounding area of south and south east Suffolk, with learners also from north Essex, and farther afield in Suffolk and Norfolk. The College provides a wide-ranging and inclusive curriculum, which is reviewed and adapted at least annually in collaboration with our Industry Partners and other local employers. Our offer is also focused on 'work ready' skills, supported by our regionally recognised ePass programme.

In January 2023 Suffolk New College received an overall 'Good' judgment from Ofsted, rated 'Good' in

seven areas and 'Outstanding' in personal development. Ofsted noted the considerable commitment at the College to meeting local skills needs - "Leaders work closely with stakeholders to identify industry developments so that they are well prepared to meet future skills needs."

The College aims to deliver an Exceptional Learner Experience. Enabling us to deliver this, we have a number of strategic and planning tools and processes, set out here in a high level summary .

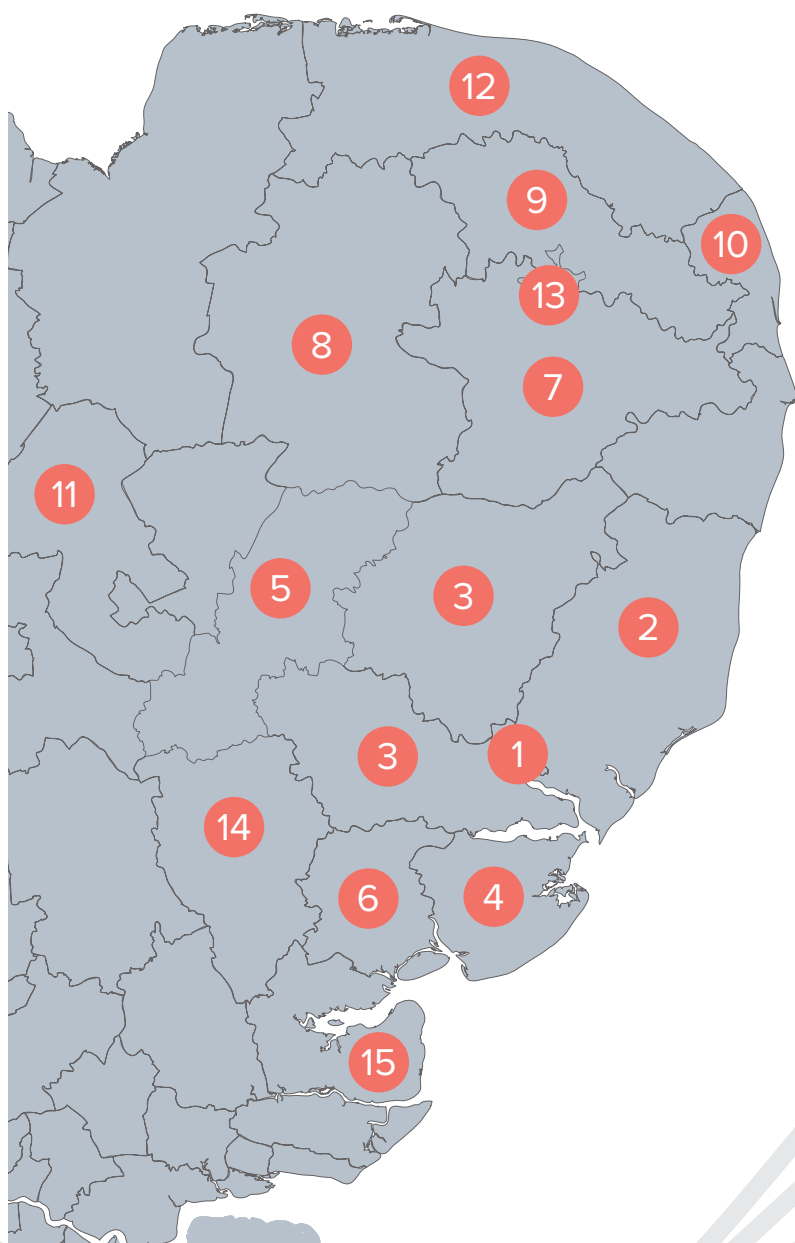


CONTEXT AND PLACE

THE COLLEGE AND ITS GEOGRAPHIC REACH

Our Campuses are all situated in the Ipswich Borough Council and East Suffolk Council areas, and the majority of our learners live within Suffolk (Suffolk County Council), with significant numbers also from south Norfolk and north Essex. We also collaborate with Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Councils to the west of Ipswich, for whose districts we are the main provider of FE education.

The following map shows where the majority of our learners travel from. The College actively works with transport providers to make our provision accessible for learners from rural areas in particular.



1	Ipswich	2177
2	East Suffolk	1294
3	Babergh & Mid Suffolk	811
4	Tendring	114
5	West Suffolk	100
6	Colchester	89
7	South Norfolk	45
8	Breckland	19
9	Broadland	19
10	Great Yarmouth	17
11	East Cambridgeshire	11
12	North Norfolk	10
13	Norwich	9
14	Braintree	8
15	Maldon	6
	Other districts *	95

* all districts with under 5 learners enrolled with Suffolk New College

REGIONAL PRIORITY SECTORS

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy (2022) identifies three key sectors for regional economic growth. These are also explored in further detail in the LEP Skills Advisory Panel Local Skills Report 2022. They are -

CLEAN ENERGY

With existing strengths in construction, engineering and HGV driver training, and provision 'On the Coast' at Halesworth and Leiston, Suffolk New College is well placed to capitalise on the Sizewell C opportunity. Our Net Zero Skills Centre will also provide training in solar installation and maintenance from 2023.

AGRI-FOOD

We offer courses which build skills across the agri-food supply chain, from agriculture and horticulture through the engineering and technical skills needed in food processing to hospitality and customer care skills.

ICT/ DIGITAL

The recently opened Tech Campus at our Ipswich site is the focus for a regionally leading ICT/digital training offer, with extensive employer links at its heart.

NET ZERO

Clean Growth is the over-arching regional economic priority across all sectors. In 2023, the College launches a Net Zero Skills Centre in Ipswich and has led on aspects of the New Anglia Green Skills project, funded by the SDF across all five FE Colleges in the Norfolk and Suffolk LSIP geography.

LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (LSIP)

The emerging priorities in the LSIP align closely with Suffolk New College provision and priorities as follows;

DIGITAL SKILLS

The Tech Campus is acknowledged as a leading regional facility and a focus for extensive employer engagement with learners in all programmes.

SOFT SKILLS

The College's ePASS programme is a regional leader and the College Personal Development provision was judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in November 2022.

NET ZERO SKILLS

The Net Zero Skills Centre offer and our sustainability focus at Suffolk Rural are among the assets the College brings to delivery in this key growth area.

AGRI-FOOD

The College operates the only landbased College in Suffolk, Suffolk Rural, where provision is growing and full T-Level adoption is planned for 2023-24.



NATIONAL SKILLS PRIORITIES

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES

Suffolk New College was an early adopter of T-Levels and in 2023-24 will be offering the following T-Level provision.

SUBJECTS	CURRENT NUMBERS			23/24 PREDICTION		
	Y01	Y02	Total	Y01	Y02	Total
Design, Surveying and Planning	15	14	29	-	14	14
Digital Production, Design and Development	6	-	6	18	6	24
Accounting	-	-	-	12	-	12
Management and Administration	-	-	-	12	-	12
Engineering Manufacturing and Process Control	-	-	-	10	-	10
Education and Childcare	13	12	25	40	13	53
Health	3	-	3	20	2	22
Science (Laboratory Sciences)	6	-	6	12	6	18
Agriculture	-	-	-	46	-	46
TOTAL	43	26	69	170	41	211

We have successfully delivered Skills Bootcamps in Arboriculture, Farming and Horticulture in 2022-23 and in 2023-24 will be continuing the Bootcamps in Horticulture and Arboriculture and adding a new Bootcamp in Healthcare.

NATIONAL PRIORITY SUBJECTS

Suffolk New College offers provision in all the national priority subject areas as follows -

SUBJECTS	CURRENT NUMBERS	23/24 PREDICTION
Construction	487	570
Manufacturing	-	10
Digital and Technology	259	279
Health and Social Care	168	184
Haulage and Logistics	8	15
Engineering	252	302
Science and Mathematics	627	669
TOTAL	1801	2029

*Includes T level numbers and apprenticeship stats

OUR LEARNERS

In the last academic year (2021-22), there were 2862 16 - 18 year-old students, 1564 19+ students, 765 apprenticeships and 125 Higher Education students. Most students aged 16 to 18 are from the local and surrounding rural areas, with approximately 50% of students from the Ipswich area.

THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

An analysis of learner postcodes in Ipswich against a heat map of deprivation in the town shows that most of the College's learners come from more deprived communities. Our On the Coast provision at Halesworth and Leiston provides vital services to rurally deprived families and young people at risk of becoming NEET .

The College's focus on high quality FE provision, complemented by locally based HE and employment pathways, is designed to ensure that all learners, including academic low achievers and those facing barriers to learning, are offered appropriate 16-18 stepping stones to higher attainment or work.

OUR CURRICULUM

Suffolk New College focuses upon providing a curriculum that meets the needs of learners, employers and the wider community. We have a broad curriculum, covering all vocational and technical subject areas from Level 1 to Level 3 and providing course options for learners of all ages.

In addition to our subject-based curriculum, the College also embeds employer engagement, quality, teacher development, transition, foundation and inclusive learning and English, maths and ESOL in our provision.

INCLUSION

Giving all our learners the support they need to thrive and develop their talents is at the heart of the College's approach. In 2022-23 we created a new Directorate for Transition, Foundation and Inclusive Learning, with an ethos of embedding inclusive practice across College whilst also offering specialist provision. Over 7% of Suffolk New College students are vulnerable or have an EHCP with many more needing extra support to thrive.



HEALTHSCIENCE
campus



Perspective View 1



CAREERS STRATEGY AND ePASS

The delivery of our Careers Strategy and the support to students also described within the College's Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Statement of Service support the delivery of our Strategic Plan through a learner-centred, flexible service which is embedded in curriculum. Our ePASS and Steps to Success programmes ensure a consistent level of employer engagement and employability skills work are rolled out across all curriculum areas.



Your route to employability skills at Suffolk New College



EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

The 2022 Employer Engagement Strategy shares our vision for working with employers to ensure our curriculum meets their needs and to teach work-ready learners. College-wide programmes such as ePASS and Steps to Success are key to delivering these goals, as well as a wide range of specific employer engagement projects, such as the regional Visitor Economy Network Initiative (VENI) and New Anglia Technical Curriculum projects for which we provide the Hospitality and Digital/ICT lead roles respectively. Industry Partners are also generous with their time and expertise to develop collaborative projects, such as the media and construction projects developed recently with Jimmy's Farm and Wildlife Park.

The Health Science Campus building which will be launched at our Ipswich location in 2023 will provide state-of-the-art facilities for Health & Social Care, Childcare and Science, and will in particular, support our ever closer working with health and social care employers, including the delivery of our MoU for extensive collaboration with the East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation NHS Trust (ESNEFT).

FUTURE SKILLS AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Employer Engagement Strategy has a section on future skills, which are also a strategic focus for our growth plans and reflecting the College's commitment to sustainability. A MoU with Sizewell C was signed in 2021 and the college is currently exploring the potential for capital and curriculum developments linked to Sizewell C across all campuses.

The Net Zero Skills Centre provides modern facilities and equipment for a business-focused curriculum offer in the new and future net zero skills needed in the construction and engineering sectors. An emerging partnership with the University of Suffolk, Suffolk Sustainability Institute exploring the collaborative opportunities linked to their Smart House at Adastral Park is an exciting development in 2022-23 and features in the College's Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.

The College led on the delivery of a Green Skills Conference in 2023, as part of the £2.7m Strategic Development Fund New Anglia Green Skills project across all five Norfolk and Suffolk FE colleges. All five colleges are committed to continuing this collaborative work.

The College continues to develop our Agri-food curriculum, with a current focus on sustainable land management and an emerging interest in the skills needed by the food processing industry, which we are exploring as a partner of the regional Broadland Food Innovation Centre project.



APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This Accountability Statement covers the key SMART objectives for 2023-24 which arise from our strategic planning and quality improvement work. This is not a separate Strategy but a synthesis of high level annual objectives taken from our existing rigorous annual cycle of strategic planning and quality improvement.

Key documents

- Strategic Plan
- Strategic Plan Annex
- Self-Assessment Report
- Annual curriculum plans
- Employer Engagement, Careers and Inclusion Strategies
- Business Plan

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR THE ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This Statement has been developed in conjunction with and informed by -

- National Skills Priorities
- Emerging priorities from the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), coordinated by Suffolk and Norfolk Chambers of Commerce and informed by employer views across the region. The LEP Skills Report 2022 which in turn was developed with industry representatives from all sectors
- Our Corporation, with significant industry representation
- Our Industry Partners, whose regular input into curriculum development is integral to delivery.
- The Ipswich Social Mobility Alliance

The document also reflects the collaborative ethos of the New Anglia Colleges Group, as evidenced by the work done at the 16 March 2023 Green Skills Conference in Ipswich which brought all five Colleges together to explore collaborative approaches to embedding green skills in curriculum.



ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT OBJECTIVES 2023-24

OBJECTIVE	SMART OUTCOME/ MEASURE OF SUCCESS	STRATEGIC PLAN LINK	NATIONAL/LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES
Build a pipeline of suitably qualified staff to enable the region to maximise the opportunity from major infrastructure projects such as Sizewell C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the SZC HR team with enhanced programme delivery for apprentices Work collaboratively with EDF to support community inclusion and diversity with opportunities through Supported Internships and progression for ESOL learners. 	Support for national infrastructure projects is a key priority under Strategic Focus Area 3, Responding to Local and National Priorities. These objectives also link closely to the College's Inclusive Learning Strategy, ensuring opportunity for all.	<p>Clean Energy is one of three priority sectors in the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy, with the development of Sizewell C seen as a huge area of economic and skills potential growth for the region.</p> <p>Net Zero is an LSIP priority, and national skills priorities in construction and engineering are aligned.</p>
Develop our ePass programme further as part of the LSIP response to soft skills demands from employers and develop ePass+, an externally offered package of training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement an annual review of the ePass scheme in response to employer feedback, through the Careers Strategy Group. Deliver an ePass Conference to all students in the autumn term 2023. Launch and successfully implement a business facing ePass+ offer with take up from a minimum of two employers in 2023-24. 	A central goal in Linking with Employers and Promoting Employability (Strategic Focus Area 2 in the Strategic Plan) and also supports the College in Raising Standards and Aspirations (Strategic Focus Area 1).	<p>Employability and work readiness are specifically cited in the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy as a key element in 'driving the supply of the future workforce and key to social mobility'.</p> <p>Soft skills are emerging as a key priority in the LSIP.</p>
Embed careers provision further and successfully implement our new Industry Partner Programme with in-depth engagement across all areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Partner Programme established with a minimum three engagements a year from each Partner by June 24. Every course area has at least one Industry Partner by June 24 Every learner has an engagement with an employer at least four times a year and all learners take part in the Careers Festival in January 2024. The College meets its Capacity Delivery Fund (CDF) Industry Work Placement target. 	A central goal in Linking with Employers and Promoting Employability (Strategic Focus Area 2 in the Strategic Plan) and also supports the College in Raising Standards and Aspirations (Strategic Focus Area 1).	The Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy identifies good careers advice and employer encounters as integral to career success for young people. It highlights the following statistic – 'A young person is 86% less likely to be unemployed or not in education or training if they have had four or more encounters with an employer and can earn up to 22% more during their career'.
Develop Suffolk Rural as an exemplar Land-based College with sustainable food production at the heart of provision across all courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop programmes for all Land-based T-Levels and successfully recruit a first cohort of 46 learners for learning from September 2023. Continue and grow the success of our Skills Bootcamp programme, which is used as a national good practice case study. Embed sustainable farming best practice following our recent Red Tractor and LEAF accreditation, including the College's 'Field to Fork' strategy in partnership with our catering courses. 	Contributes to Strategic Focus Area 1 (Raising Standards and Aspirations) which cites the successful introduction of T-Levels as a focus point. Also links to Strategic Focus Area 3, Responding to Local and Regional Priorities, which requires close alignment between Suffolk Rural delivery and regional agri-food priorities.	Agri-food is one of the region's three priority sectors in the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy. Sustainable farming, agri-tech and controlled environment farming, including vertical farming, are all areas of focus, and all feature in current and future plans at Suffolk Rural. Net Zero and Agri-food are LSIP emerging priority focus areas.

OBJECTIVE	SMART OUTCOME/ MEASURE OF SUCCESS	STRATEGIC PLAN LINK	NATIONAL/LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES
Launch a green skills short course offer in the Net Zero Skills Centre and embed sustainability across College curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 16-18 students in the Engineering, Construction and Building Technology Directorate in 2023-24 to undertake green skills learning in the Net Zero Skills Centre • At least five established short courses in place by June 2024 • ESFA Energy efficiency funding spent appropriately and energy benefits evidenced • New Sustainability PD Unit and June 23 CPD day established successfully. 	Growth and Sustainability is one of the five Strategic Focus Areas of the Strategic Plan 2022-27 and explored in more detail in the Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.	Clean Growth and sustainability are the overarching main priorities of the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy Net Zero is an emerging LSIP priority area.
Launch the Health Science Campus and successfully deliver a first year of courses there.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Science Campus launched September 2023 • All relevant courses successfully delivered in the new building 2023-24 with positive feedback from employers and learners • Skills Bootcamp in Healthcare delivered in the new premises. 	A specified goal under Strategic Focus Area 5: Growth and Sustainability, the Health Science Campus also provides the aspirational, modern facilities employers are looking for to help us develop the right workforce in partnership.	Health and Social Care is a named priority area in the New Anglia Local Skills report 2022, and a key underpinning sector in the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy, with staff shortages given particular attention. STEM education an Economic Strategy Skills priority A national skills priority subject area.
Improve attendance and attainment in GCSE English and maths to support our learners to achieve their wider career goals and improve skills in the workplace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve attendance in English and maths to over 80%. • Engage employers to support the College to show learners the benefit of English and maths skills in the world of work with up to 10 engagement case studies in 2023-24. • Review curriculum and timetable to maximise learner opportunities to attend and engage with English and maths. 	A priority under Strategic Focus Area 1 (Raising Standards and Aspirations) and SAR priority 1.	Supports improvements in take-up and attainment at Levels 4-6, which is a priority of the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy, and unlocks access to a wider range of careers when pass rates increase, another Economic Strategy area of focus. Level 2 English and maths provision are an ongoing national skills priority area.
Building on the College's digital lead role in the regional Co-Designed Technical Curriculum project (ESF), seek and deliver opportunities to work regionally to embed high level digital skills in all curriculum areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver at least 20 excellent digital employer engagement activities in 2023-24, including in Tech Campus • Work regionally with partners to develop and deliver an ambitious digital partnership to embed high level digital skills across all curriculum areas • Seek opportunities to adopt and evaluate new digital approaches to teaching including VR. 	Contributes to Strategic Focus Area 1 (Raising Standards and Aspirations) Also links to Strategic Focus Area 3, Responding to Local and Regional Priorities, as ICT/Digital is a key area of regional focus and priority.	ICT/Digital is one of the region's three priorities sectors in the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy. An emerging LSIP priority area, and a national skills priority area.

