



Middlesbrough College



Middlesbrough College Annual Accountability Statement 2023–2024

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MIDDLESBROUGH COLLEGE ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

PURPOSE

Middlesbrough College has a rich history dating back to the early 1900's when local industrialists first established a training centre to ensure employers had access to the skills they needed for industrial growth at that time. Fast forward to our more recent past and the College today is made up of six previously independent organisations, each with their own proud legacy. Those organisations are Longlands College, Kirby College, Marton Sixth Form, Acklam Sixth Form, NECC training company and TTE engineering training company.

The college group now includes:

- Middlesbrough College
- Northern Skills (the apprenticeships and training arm of Middlesbrough College)
- TTE

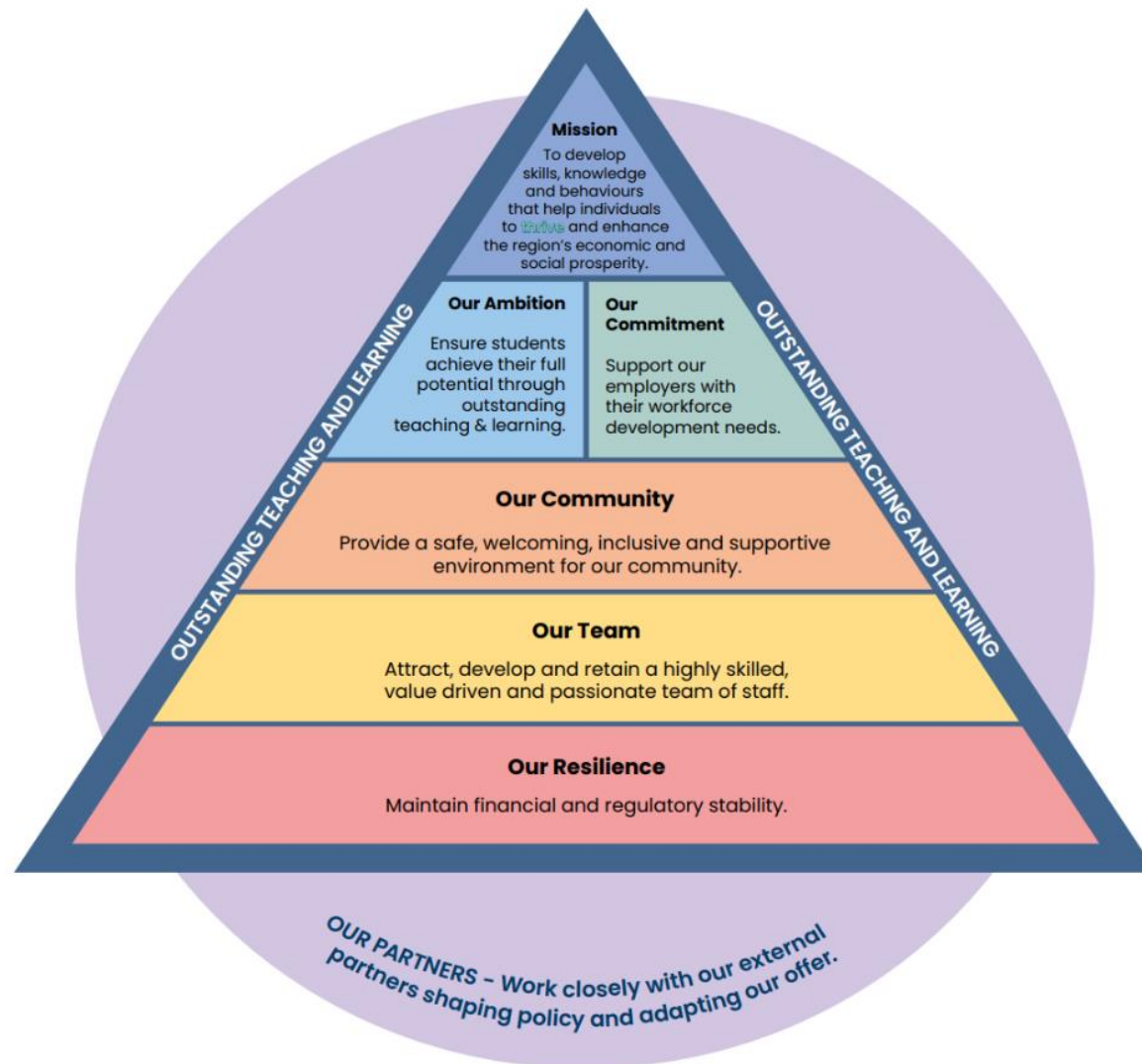
As the largest further Education College in Teesside, the College relocated to Middlehaven in 2008 to ensure students from across the wider conurbation could have greater access to the wide range of regionally significant technical and professional specialisms. With regular insight and input from local employers, alongside careful and frequent mapping against our regional economy, the College offers courses from Entry Level to Level 7 that support every sector of the economy including through:

- A Levels
- T Levels
- Vocational Courses
- Apprenticeships
- Adult courses
- Higher Education courses

Between December 2022 and February 2023, Middlesbrough College consulted with over 200 civic, community, education and employer partners on a proposed, refreshed strategic plan which more closely aligned to emerging local skills priority themes. The feedback from these consultation events were incorporated into a revised Strategic Plan 2023-2025 which was published in March 2023. Whilst our strategic plan sets out high level priorities over multiple years, our core curriculum is reviewed each year, with this annual accountability agreement sitting alongside our strategic plan and outlining specific targets and priorities for the following academic year.

Our Strategic Plan 2023-2025 articulates our dual purpose through our Mission with six underpinning strategic priorities as follows:

Mission: To develop skills, knowledge and behaviours that help individuals to thrive and enhance the region's economic and social prosperity.

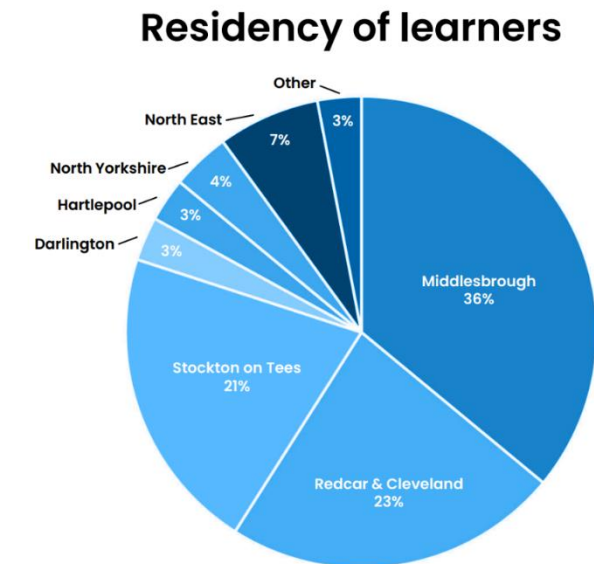
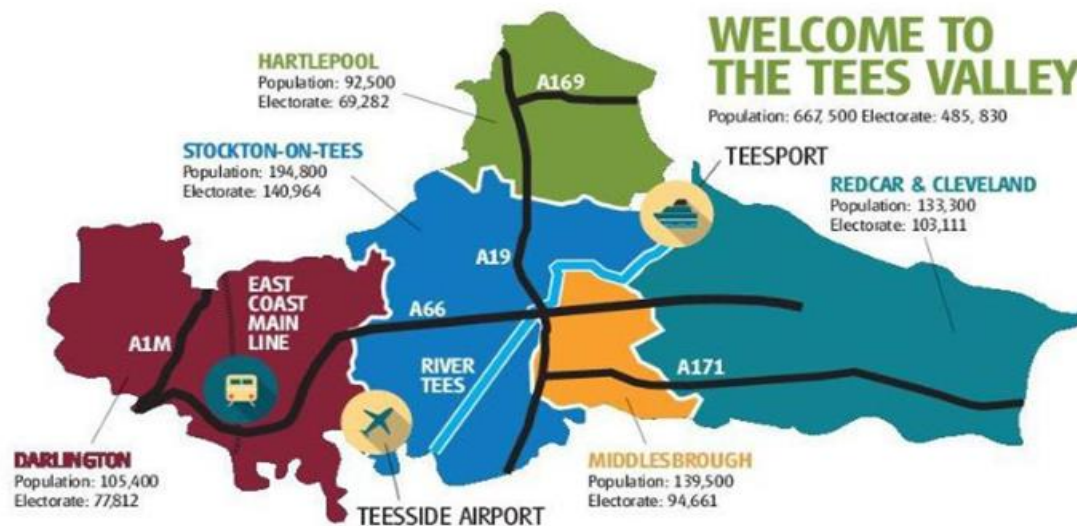


THE TEES VALLEY

Middlesbrough College's main campus is located in Middlehaven, in the heart of the Tees Valley. The Tees Valley is served by a Mayoral Combined Authority, with adult skills de-volution powers and with the geographic area also matching the LSIP Tees Valley boundary.

Whilst almost 90% of the college's students reside in the five Tees Valley local authorities, Northern Skills (the apprenticeship and training arm of the college), offers a regional apprenticeship and training service from a mix of small permanent and temporary sub regional offices in Newcastle, Durham, Sunderland, Darlington, York and Ripon. As an active member of the North East Institutes of Technology we work closely with others to ensure a regional and collaborative approach is in place to develop higher technical skills, and TTE (due to relocate from an industrial site 3 miles away to our main campus next year) offers highly specialist engineering training to UK and International companies and employees alongside a local offer of apprenticeships and study programmes.

This accountability statement therefore references the Tees Valley LSIP primarily, although cognisance is also given to findings within the other north eastern LSIPs.



TEES VALLEY CONTEXT

Tees Valley ranks as the second most deprived Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area in England with all five Tees Valley districts ranking in the most deprived 15% of local authorities nationally. When comparing the Tees Valley local authorities, the employment rate is lowest in Middlesbrough at 64%. Tees Valley has some of the country's highest economic inactivity rates with 25.4% of the working age population in Tees Valley being economically inactive in June 2020 compared to 20.3% nationally. Youth unemployment whilst at a historic low, remains an issue with a higher than average number of 16-24-year olds unemployed and claiming benefits. In addition, a high and recently increasing number of 16-17-year olds are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) with cost of living pressures placing greater pressure on these families.

Tees Valley has a higher percentage of 16-34 year-old residents starting an apprenticeship than nationally and apprenticeship achievement rates are consistently higher than national. However, apprenticeship starts are half what they were five years ago (55% lower) compared to a 45% drop nationally. The percentage of graduates in employment 15 months after graduating matches the national rate. However graduate retention is an issue, with only 41% of Tees Valley graduates finding employment within the Tees Valley 15 months after graduating. Over a quarter of graduates (28%) were working in non-graduate roles, potentially displacing those with lower level skills into unemployment. This is largely due to the Tees Valley having a lower percentage of professional level jobs available compared to nationally (37% compared to 42%) and the median gross annual full-time wage in Tees Valley is lower than nationally (£28,080 compared to £31,770). 73% of graduates from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Tees Valley remain employed within the North East region 5 years after graduation. Lack of qualifications is a significant barrier to employment.

The percentage of Tees Valley residents with no qualifications (11%) is higher than national rates (7%) and the second highest of any SAP area. The Tees Valley has seen increasing numbers of asylum seekers seeking local authority support. At September 2022, over 2000 required support – one of the highest rates in the country. The Tees Valley is an area of skills devolution and as such the College receives its Adult Education funding through our local Mayoral Combined Authority and work closely with them to meet adult skills needs.

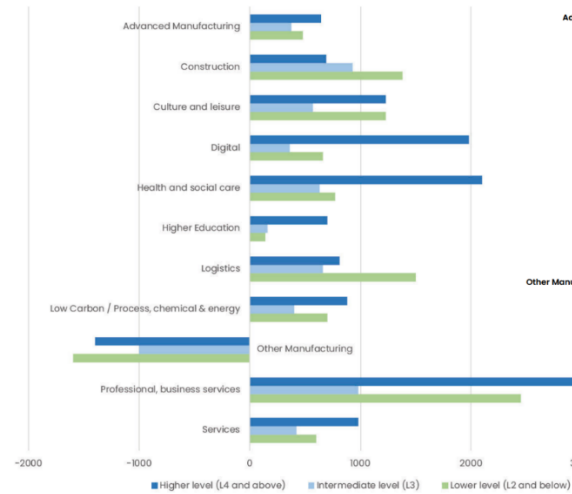
TEES VALLEY ECONOMY

Tees Valley has a conterminous, fully integrated Combined Authority, covering 300 square miles, with a population of around 676,000. The region has a number of traditional industries, some of which have declined over time, resulting in job losses for many Tees Valley residents. However, many industries have successfully evolved and repositioned themselves in the economy - alongside emerging new growth sectors. Tees Valley has significant sectoral strength and relatively high employment in higher productivity sectors such as Chemical & Process, Clean Energy, Low Carbon & Hydrogen and Advanced Manufacturing. Construction sub-sectors including civil engineering and specialised construction together with Logistics sub-sectors such as road freight transport are also well represented. Health and Social Care is one of the largest sectors for employment in Tees Valley, and there are also high volumes of jobs in public administration, defence, education and IT. We have emerging strengths in Digital and Business & Professional Services. Tees Valley has a wide range of extensive development sites, opportunities and financial incentives including the Mayoral South Tees Development Corporation Teesworks the UK's largest industrial development zone and first Mayoral Development Corporation outside of Greater London.

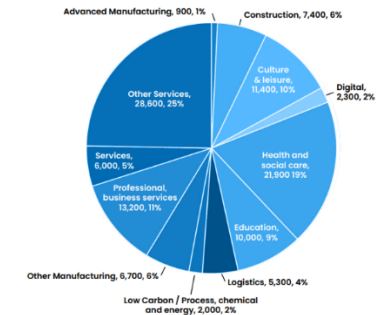
Teesworks has recently been named the UK's largest Freeport, with the potential to create 18,000 high-skilled, good-quality jobs supporting the offshore wind, clean energy, chemicals and processing, and advanced manufacturing sectors. Also, at the heart of the Teesworks site, Net Zero Teesside will be the UK's first carbon capture utilisation and storage facility (CCUS).



Additional jobs by qualification level 2016 – 2026



Replacement demand by sector 2016 – 2026



Sectors for growth

Over half of the new jobs created will require higher level technical, science and digital skills. 45% of these are considered to be in more senior and managerial roles.

High growth is anticipated in:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Process, chemicals and energy
- Logistics
- Health and biologics
- Digital and creative
- Culture and leisure
- Business and professional services

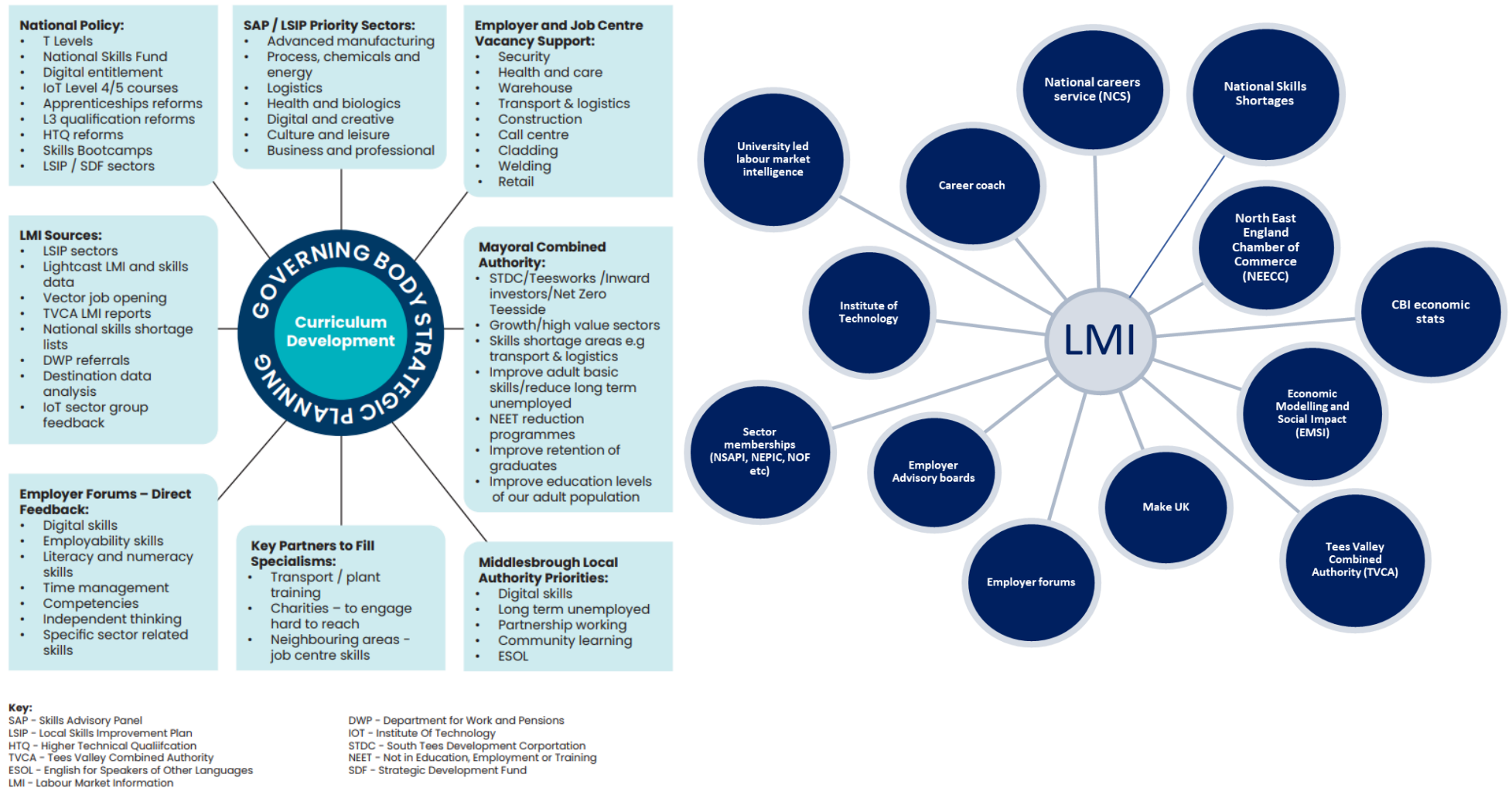
High Volume Employment

46% of replacement jobs will be across a range of levels, including entry level jobs offered as part-time opportunities and apprenticeships. High volume replacement is expected in:

- Public administration, defence and education
- IT, media and other service industries
- Production industries
- Professional and business services
- Healthcare

APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

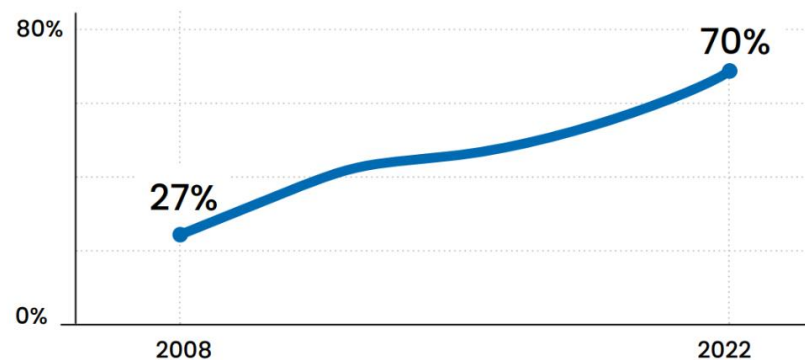
Middlesbrough College plans curriculum through analysing labour market intelligence (LMI) alongside listening to feedback from a network of important stakeholders as set out below:



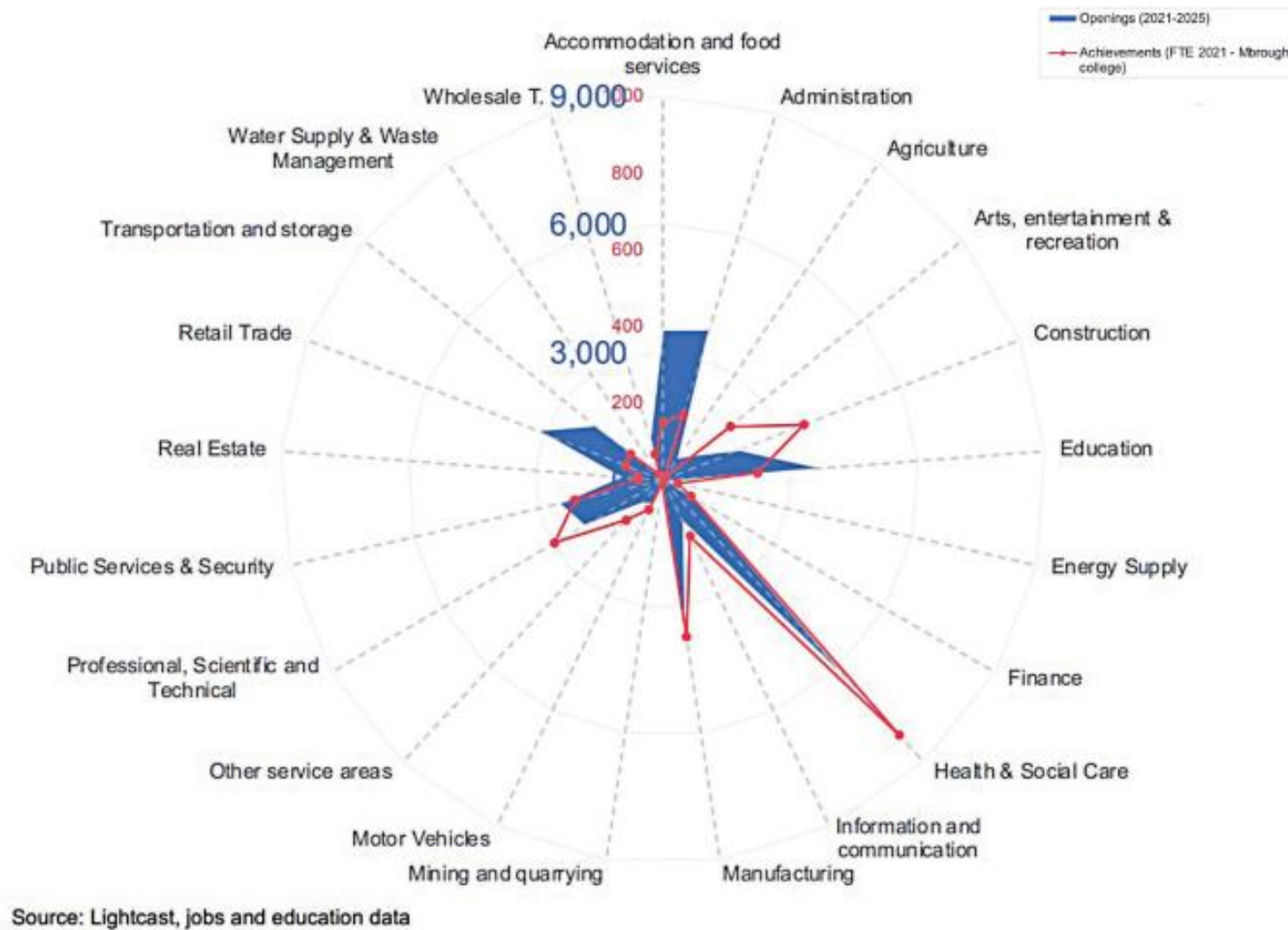
In the last seven years, the College has responded to stakeholders through delivering the following strategic developments:

- A £20m investment in STEM facilities (2015) and subjects; such that now 70% of our school leavers are studying in 'priority' sectors rising from one quarter since our move to Middlehaven
- The acquisition of a respected apprenticeship training company (NECC training) covering complementary sectors and a wider geographic reach across the North East of England – creating Northern Skills, the apprenticeship and training arm of the College (2016) which focuses on technical and professional apprenticeship training including dentistry, accountancy, engineering and digital
- Becoming an active partner in the North East Institute of Technology collaboration (2019) – developing higher technical qualifications to meet local needs
- Utilising devolved flexibilities to develop new and improved bespoke employer led provision (BELPs) through our new adult and community learning centre (2019)
- Transferring TTE, a strategically important specialist engineering training provider into the group (being adjacent to a new Freeport) (2020)
- Delivering T Levels from 2021
- Supporting Freeport inward investors, through a collaboration with local providers as part of the Teesworks Skills Academy consortium (2021)
- Working in partnership with our employer representative body (ERB) to develop a Trailblazer LSIP and delivering associated Strategic Development Fund projects (SDF) (2021-22)
- Investing in skills shortage areas, opening T Level digital & construction centres in 2022

These strategic investments have shifted our school leaver provision such that upon relocation to Middlehaven in 2008 only around one quarter of our school leavers were studying in LEP priority sectors and in the current year, almost 70% are doing so.



Additionally, we periodically commission an external company to map our curriculum to job openings across our local area. The map below was completed in 2022 and highlights a close map across technical and professional areas:



Middlesbrough College consulted extensively on the sector and provision priorities outlined in its latest strategic plan, and these are outlined in more detail within this accountability agreement. Consultees included over 200 civic, employer, community and education partners including key stakeholders such as the Tees Valley Combined Authority, the North East England Chamber of Commerce (Employer Representative Body for developing the Tees Valley Local Skills Improvement Plan), Middlesbrough Council and the North East Institute of Technology.

In addition, the college operates as part of a collaboration called FE+, which has been in place for around thirty years, and which includes all 5 of the Tees Valley GFE and specialist colleges. This collaboration meets monthly, rotating the position of Chair and related positions such as that offered to FE on the Local Enterprise Partnership and an associated seat on the Tees Valley the Skills Advisory Panel. FE+ partners have collaborated on a range of ventures including successfully delivering two skills development funds (SDF) in local priority areas, supporting the provision map element of the Tees Valley LSIP, as well as our current focus, working collaboratively to utilise local skills improvement funding (LSIF), to prepare a joint response to the Tees Valley Local Skills Improvement Plan findings.

CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL, REGIONAL, LOCAL PRIORITIES

Following extensive consultation, the college agreed its economic and social priorities for the term of its strategic plan with targets to achieve them outlined for next year being highlighted below:

PROVISION TYPE OVERALL VOLUMES PLANNED FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 / 2024	PRIORITY	TARGET 2023/24	Sector priorities								Source of Priority: N (National) R (Regional) L (Local) LS (LSIP)
			Construction	Green energy & Manufacturing	Digital	Haulage & Logistics	Business & Professional	Health and Social care	Science and Maths	Soft skills / social priorities	
16-19 SCHOOL LEAVERS (4,500)	Ensure we maintain a high proportion of our school leavers studying in priority sectors and grow T level achievements year on year	Over 65% of learners studying in Tees Valley priority sectors	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		N/R/L/LS
		450 T level students	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y			N
	Develop Microsoft skills (MS) across all school leavers	Ensure all students have access to a MS device and subscription			Y					Y	LS
	Enhanced Thrive programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> skills competitions competency development a tailored progression support pathway resulting in improved employability/next steps	Maintain >85% positive destinations of leavers	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N/R/L/LS
	Introduce new centre to reengage those not in education, employment or training (NEETs)	50 in-year 16-19 NEETs reengaged								Y	L

PROVISION TYPE OVERALL VOLUMES PLANNED FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023 / 2024	PRIORITY	TARGET 2023/24	Sector priorities								Source of Priority: N (National) R (Regional) L (Local) LS (LSIP)
			Construction	Green energy & Manufacturing	Digital	Haulage & Logistics	Business & Professional	Health and Social care	Science and Maths	Soft skills / social priorities	
ADULT PROGRAMMES (4000)	Respond to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) requests through increasing the number of people participating in bespoke employer led provision (BELP) in skills gaps areas such as logistics, green energy, retrofit, ground works, welding	Increase learners on BELP by 10% Ensure a high proportion of adults positively progress (>60%)	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	N / R / L / LS
	Utilise devolution flexibilities to adapt English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) model to improve pace of progress of ESOL learners	Adapt ESOL programmes to include more wrap around support and double the hours of delivery per year								Y	L
	Expand Skills Bootcamps and Free courses for jobs offer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding • Construction/Retrofit • Electrical Vehicle • Renewables – Offshore • Health and Social Care • Teaching 	Double the number of learners on skills bootcamps and free courses for jobs.	Y	Y			Y	Y		Y	N / R / L / LS
APPRENTICES (1600)	Maintain high quality apprenticeship outcomes	Over 70% achievement rate	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N / R / L / LS
HIGHER EDUCATION (600)	Develop higher technical qualifications (HTQ)	Deliver HTQs to 100 students	Y		Y			Y			N
HIGH NEEDS STUDENTS (120)	Increase supported internships	10% increase in supported internships								Y	L

CORPORATION STATEMENT

Middlesbrough College Corporation approved the content of this accountability statement at their meeting on the 5th May 2023.

Signed _____



Rob Davies, Chairman of Governors

Hyperlinks to:

Accountability statement (on website)

Tees Valley LSIP (to be confirmed)

[TVCA Strategic Economic Plan](#)

[College strategic plan](#)