

TSCG Annual Accountability Statement and Local Needs Duty

2026-2027

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Overview

Trafford and Stockport College Group (TSCG) is a large multi-site further education provider serving Trafford, Stockport and the wider Greater Manchester city-region. The Group supports approximately 14,000 learners annually and works with over 800 employers across a broad range of sectors and industries.

TSCG operates within a changing economic and social landscape shaped by:

Increasing demand for technical and higher-level skills.

Growth in 16–18 learner numbers.

Rising SEND and High Needs demand.

Workforce shortages across priority sectors.

Growing demand for adult retraining and workforce development.

Continued inequalities across parts of Trafford and Stockport.

This Accountability Statement sets out how TSCG:

Meets its Local Needs Duty.

Aligns provision to local, regional and national priorities.

Responds to workforce and skills shortages.

Supports inclusive economic growth.

Delivers impact for learners, employers and communities.

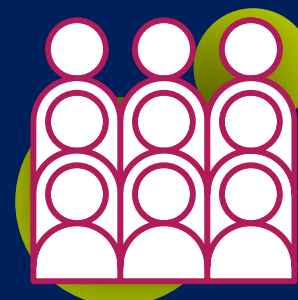


About Us



5 COLLEGE SITES

Altrincham, Cheadle, Marple, Stockport & Stretford



OVER 900

Colleagues



OVER 6000

Young People



OVER 300

T Level Students



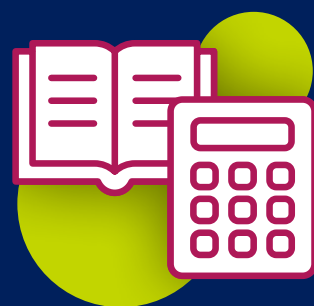
OVER 6000

Adults



OVER 400

University Centre Students



OVER 2300

Maths and English GCSE Students



OVER 800

Employer Partnerships



1500

Apprentices



OVER £60m

Annual Income

Part One. Purpose

The Trafford and Stockport College Group (TSCG) Strategic Plan (2024-30) sets out our purpose, vision, mission and strategic priorities. The Strategic Plan also clearly sets out the context of the College Group.

PURPOSE:

Unlocking Potential for Successful Futures.

VISION:

To lead the way for a city region where everyone has the education and skills to succeed in life and work.

MISSION:

Together we elevate skills, shape futures and transform lives.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Strategic Priority 1: Providing a curriculum that delivers the skills our economy needs – locally, regionally and nationally.

Strategic Priority 2: Positioning TSCG as the employer of choice for the further education workforce.

Strategic Priority 3: Delivering an exceptional student experience.

Strategic Priority 4: Ensuring financial stability and sustainability.

Strategic Priority 5: Driving innovation in technology, facilities and skills delivery.

Strategic Priority 6: Providing civic leadership to positively influence our communities.

This Accountability Statement aligns closely to the Group's strategic priorities and supporting strategies relating to:

Further Education and Skills.

Higher Education and Higher Skills.

Employer and External Stakeholder Engagement.

SEND and Vulnerable Learners Strategy.

These strategies set out the proposed sectors of prioritisation for the College Group in meeting local, regional and national skills needs over the next five years. They set out our strategic curriculum intent and outline which curriculum sector areas we will prioritise, develop and deliver, and how we will work closely with employers and other key stakeholders to meet local, regional and national skills needs. They align with the duration of our new strategic plan and its first strategic priority: Providing a curriculum that delivers the skills our economy needs – locally, regionally, and nationally.



Part Two: Context and Place

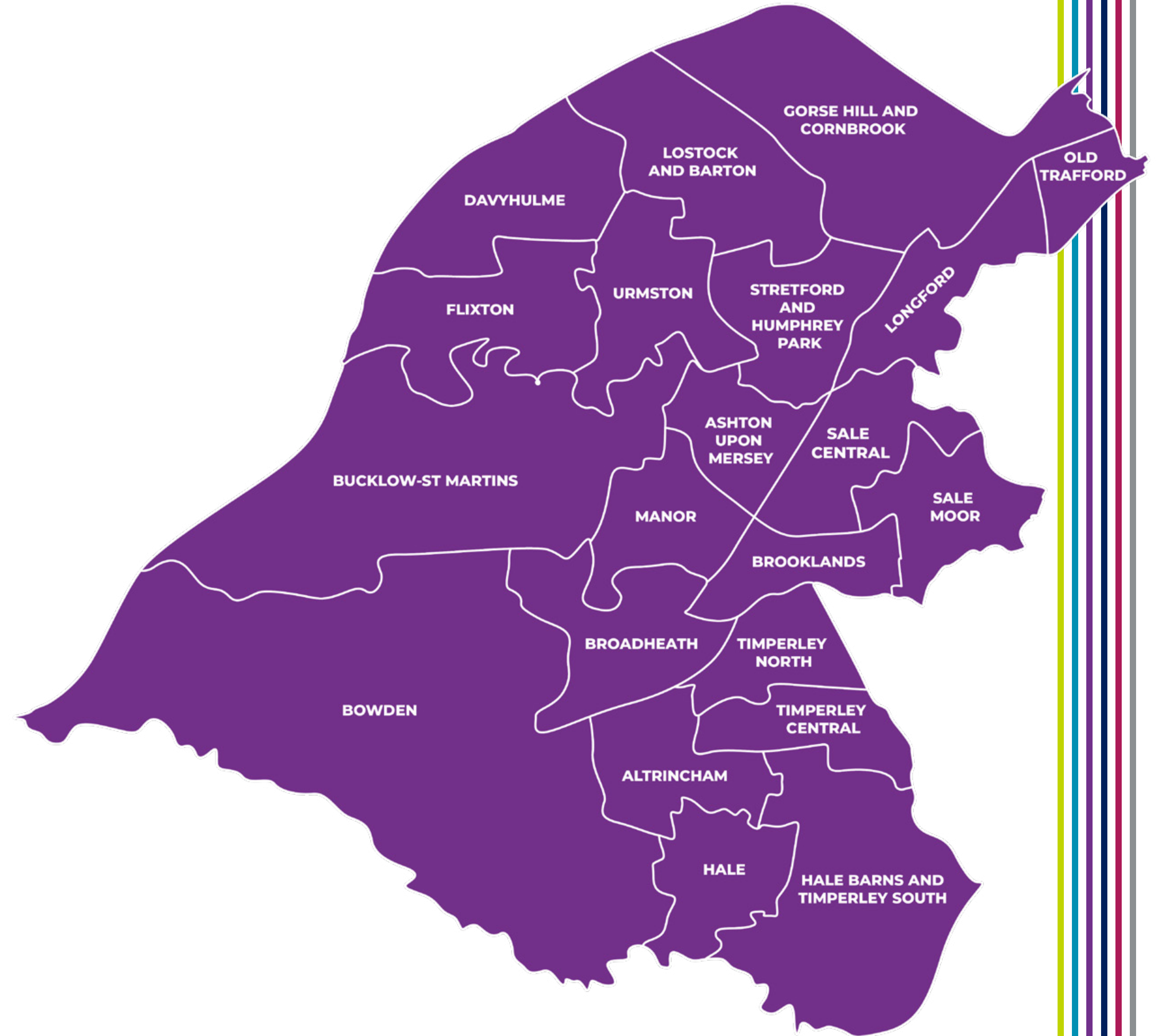
TRAFFORD

Population

Trafford is located in the west of Greater Manchester and includes key economic centres such as Trafford Park, Trafford City, Altrincham and Stretford. The borough has a population of approximately 241,000 and continues to experience steady population growth, alongside increasing demand for education, skills and workforce development.

Trafford is one of the most economically successful boroughs within Greater Manchester, with high levels of educational attainment and strong employment outcomes overall. However, this masks significant variation between communities. Areas including Old Trafford, Partington, Clifford, Sale West and Stretford continue to experience higher levels of deprivation, poorer health outcomes and lower educational attainment.

The borough also has a growing and increasingly diverse population, with continued growth in older age groups and increasing pressure on local services, skills provision and workforce pipelines. Demand for specialist SEND provision and mental health support continues to increase across the borough, alongside the number of learners requiring English and maths resits and additional learning support.



Schools Performance

Trafford has some of the highest school performance outcomes nationally, with GCSE attainment significantly above both regional and national averages. However, there remain clear attainment gaps for disadvantaged learners and learners with SEND, alongside variation in outcomes across different communities and schools within the borough.

These differences continue to influence demand for progression pathways, transition support, Level 2 provision and inclusive learning opportunities across TSCG.

Deprivation and Inclusion

While Trafford is the least deprived borough within Greater Manchester overall, pockets of significant deprivation remain. Some communities continue to experience:

Child poverty and fuel poverty.

Lower progression and participation rates.

Health inequalities.

Barriers to employment and skills development.

Lower attainment for disadvantaged learners and learners with SEND.

There are also significant differences in healthy life expectancy between the borough's most affluent and most deprived communities. TSCG continues to work closely with Trafford Council, schools, community organisations and employers to improve participation, progression and workforce opportunities for local residents, particularly learners at risk of becoming NEET and those furthest from the labour market.

Employment and Skills

Trafford has a strong and diverse business base with over 11,000 businesses, the majority of which are SMEs. Trafford Park remains one of the largest employment and industrial centres in Europe, supporting significant employment across logistics, manufacturing, retail, engineering and professional services.

Major regeneration and infrastructure developments including Trafford Wharfside, Trafford City, Carrington, Therme Manchester and wider green energy investment continue to reshape workforce demand across the borough. These developments are increasing demand for:

Construction and Building Services.

Engineering and Manufacturing.

Digital and Professional Services.

Hospitality and Visitor Economy.

Green and Low-Carbon Technologies.

Leadership and Management Skills.

The Greater Manchester LSIP also identifies ongoing shortages in technical skills at Levels 3–5, particularly across engineering, construction, digital and retrofit-related occupations. These priorities continue to inform TSCG's curriculum planning, technical education pathways, adult skills provision and employer engagement activity.



STOCKPORT

Population

Stockport is located in the south-east of Greater Manchester and is a key economic and regeneration centre within the city-region. The borough has a population of approximately 304,000 and continues to experience population growth, particularly within older age groups and areas linked to housing and regeneration development.

Stockport is undergoing significant regeneration through the Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation, including major investment in housing, infrastructure, transport and commercial development. This is creating increasing demand for technical, professional and higher-level skills across several growth sectors.

The borough includes both highly affluent and highly deprived communities, with significant differences in educational attainment, health outcomes and economic participation across neighbourhoods. Areas including Brinnington, Central Stockport, Lancashire Hill, Adswood and Portwood continue to experience higher levels of deprivation, poorer health outcomes and lower progression rates.



Schools Performance

School performance across Stockport is generally above regional averages, although there remains significant variation between communities and learner groups. Disadvantaged learners and learners with SEND continue to experience lower attainment and progression outcomes compared with their peers.

These challenges continue to influence demand for inclusive provision, Level 2 pathways, transition support and progression opportunities into technical education, apprenticeships and employment.

Deprivation and Inclusion

Stockport faces several inclusion challenges linked to:

Child poverty.

Long-term health conditions.

SEND demand.

Mental health and wellbeing.

Participation and progression inequalities.

The borough has a growing number of residents requiring adult retraining, employability support and flexible learning opportunities, particularly within communities experiencing economic inactivity or barriers to work. Demand for inclusive provision, supported internships and progression pathways for learners with SEND and High Needs continues to increase.

TSCG works closely with Stockport Council, schools, employers and community organisations to support progression, reduce participation gaps and improve access to education, skills and employment opportunities across the borough.

Employment and Skills

Stockport has a strong business base with over 12,000 businesses and significant employment across professional services, health and social care, digital, construction and engineering sectors. The borough has a high proportion of SMEs and growing demand for higher technical and professional skills.

Regeneration linked to Stockport town centre, transport investment and housing growth is increasing workforce demand across:

Construction and Civil Engineering.

Digital and Cyber.

Health and Social Care.

Professional and Financial Services.

Green Technologies and Retrofit.

The LSIP identifies ongoing skills shortages across engineering, industrial electrical trades, health and care, cyber security, software development and digital business systems.

These priorities continue to shape TSCG's curriculum planning, employer partnerships, adult skills delivery and higher technical education offer, ensuring provision remains aligned to local labour market need and regional economic priorities.

Greater Manchester Growth and Regeneration

TSCG supports workforce development across Greater Manchester's key Growth Locations, including Manchester Airport and Airport City, Trafford Park, Trafford City and Stockport regeneration developments. These areas are driving demand for skills in construction, engineering, digital, logistics, hospitality, health and green technologies.

Through partnerships with employers, local authorities and civic stakeholders, the Group continues to align curriculum planning, technical education and workforce development to local economic priorities. This includes the development of the Manchester Airport Skills Hub, supporting recruitment, apprenticeships, employability and progression pathways linked to aviation and logistics, alongside employer-led provision responding to regeneration and infrastructure growth across Trafford and Stockport.

Local and Regional Skills Priorities

The Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) identifies continuing workforce demand across construction, engineering, digital, health and social care, logistics and green technologies. Key priorities include technical skills at Levels 3–5, higher technical education, digital capability, leadership and management skills, and employability skills that support productivity and progression across the regional economy.

These priorities continue to inform TSCG's curriculum planning, employer engagement and workforce development activity.



Part Three: Approach to Developing the Statement

This Accountability Statement reflects TSCG's commitment to delivering a curriculum aligned to local, regional and national skills priorities. Curriculum planning is informed by labour market intelligence, employer engagement, learner demand and collaboration with strategic partners across Trafford, Stockport and the wider city-region.

The Group works closely with employers, local authorities, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce as the designated Employer Representative Body (ERB), schools, universities and community organisations to ensure provision reflects current and emerging workforce needs.

Curriculum Planning and Labour Market Intelligence

TSCG adopts a demand-led approach to provision planning, ensuring learners can progress into:

Further education and technical training.

Apprenticeships and employment.

Higher technical and higher education.

Retraining and workforce development.

Curriculum review is informed through:

Labour market intelligence and economic analysis.

LSIP priorities and employer feedback.

Learner recruitment, achievement and progression data.

Local authority priorities and regeneration activity.

National policy and skills reforms.

This approach supports responsive provision across priority sectors including:

Construction and Building Services.

Engineering and Manufacturing.

Digital and Creative Industries.

Health and Social Care.

Aviation and Visitor Economy.

Green Skills and Sustainability.

The Group also aligns provision to workforce demand linked to major regeneration and growth developments including Manchester Airport and Airport City, Trafford Park and Trafford City, and Stockport town centre regeneration.



Schools and Careers Partnerships

TSCG works closely with schools, careers services, parents and carers to support progression, participation and informed post-16 choices for young people across Trafford and Stockport.

This includes:

School liaison and transition activity.

Careers fairs and progression events.

Information, advice and guidance (IAG).

Curriculum tasters and engagement projects.

Activity to support NEET reduction and progression.

The Group works collaboratively with schools and local partners to support progression into technical education, apprenticeships, higher education and employment, while increasing awareness of vocational and technical pathways linked to local labour market demand and regional growth sectors.



Civic and Strategic Partnerships

TSCG works collaboratively with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council and wider civic stakeholders to ensure provision aligns with local economic priorities, regeneration activity and workforce demand.

The Group contributes to place-based skills planning through engagement with initiatives including Trafford Enterprise, Employment and Skills (TEES), the Stockport Economic Alliance and wider regional partnership activity.

In Stockport, TSCG contributes to the delivery of the Stockport Economic Plan and supports the development of Stockport's emerging Post-16 Skills Plan alongside partners linked to the Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation. In Trafford, the Group is a strategic partner within Trafford Enterprise, Employment and Skills (TEES) activity, supporting workforce development priorities linked to regeneration, infrastructure and sector growth across the borough.

TSCG also engages with partners linked to regeneration and investment activity across Trafford and Stockport to ensure provision reflects emerging workforce priorities linked to construction, infrastructure, digital, health innovation and green economy growth. This collaborative approach supports provision across priority sectors while strengthening progression opportunities, workforce development and inclusive economic growth across the city-region.

Employer Engagement and Skills Advisory Boards

Employer engagement plays a central role in curriculum development and workforce planning. Through Skills Advisory Boards, employer partnerships and LSIP engagement activity, employers contribute to curriculum review, technical content, industry placements, employability skills and progression pathways.

As an active contributor to the Greater Manchester LSIP process, led by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce as the designated Employer Representative Body (ERB), TSCG works collaboratively with employers and business representative organisations to identify current and future workforce needs.

The Group engages with employer and business networks including Stockport Chamber of Commerce, Sale & Altrincham Chamber of Commerce, Marketing Stockport and Altrincham BID.

Employer partnerships with organisations including SHARP, Manchester Airport Group, VINCI Construction and Essity continue to inform technical pathways, placements, workforce development and curriculum design across priority sectors.

Through the Manchester Airport Skills Hub, TSCG works with employers including Manchester Airport Group, Swissport and dnata to support pre-employment training, workforce development, apprenticeships and technical pathways linked to aviation, logistics and customer operations. This activity is informed through employer engagement and the development of a Manchester Airport mini LSIP aligned to workforce demand across the Airport and Southern Growth Corridor.

TSCG also supports workforce development activity linked to Trafford Park, TraffordCity and wider regeneration programmes across Trafford and Stockport, including collaboration with employers and strategic partners to support construction, infrastructure, hospitality, digital and green economy workforce priorities.

Employer and stakeholder feedback has directly informed:

Expansion of construction and retrofit provision.

Development of digital and AI-related content.

Growth in higher technical education.

Expansion of employability and SWAP programmes.

Development of employer-led apprenticeship pathways.

This has supported the continued expansion of employer-led technical pathways, industry placements and workforce development activity across priority sectors.

Higher Education and Progression Partnerships

TSCG works collaboratively with universities and higher education partners to strengthen progression pathways, widen participation and respond to regional higher-level technical skills demand.

This includes collaboration to:

Develop Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) and Level 4–5 pathways.

Support progression into higher education and professional careers.

Respond to higher-level workforce demand.

Align provision to industry and productivity priorities.

TSCG is also a partner within the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology, supporting the development and delivery of higher technical education across sectors including engineering, construction, digital and health innovation.

Collaboration with Other Providers

As an active member of the Greater Manchester Colleges network, TSCG works collaboratively with further education providers across the city-region to support strategic skills priorities and Local Needs Duty responsibilities.

This collaboration includes:

Curriculum alignment and progression pathways.

Employer engagement and workforce development.

Sharing specialist expertise and facilities.

Joint innovation and technical education activity.

Reducing unnecessary duplication of provision.

TSCG also works collaboratively with Independent Training Providers (ITPs), schools, universities and adult learning providers to support coherent local skills planning and progression opportunities across the region. The Group contributes to regional and national education and skills networks including the Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network and Association of Colleges policy forums.

The Group also supports collaborative technical education activity across the city-region, including engagement with the Construction Technical Excellence College (CTEC) initiative led by Wigan and Leigh College and wider discussions linked to technical excellence and specialist delivery models.

Community Partnerships

TSCG works with community organisations, voluntary sector groups and support services across Trafford and Stockport to ensure provision reflects community need and supports inclusive growth.

This includes partnership activity with organisations such as Age UK and NHS partners to support flexible learning, employability, SEND progression pathways and opportunities for disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.

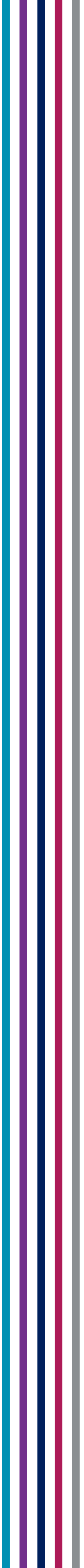
Governance and Review

The Governing Body and relevant committees provide oversight of labour market responsiveness, curriculum performance, employer engagement and delivery against Accountability Statement priorities.

Progress against Accountability Statement priorities is monitored throughout the year through curriculum business reviews, stakeholder feedback, employer engagement activity and governing body oversight. This ensures that provision remains responsive to emerging labour market needs and evolving regional priorities.



Part Four. Progress and Contributions to National, Regional and Local Skills Needs and Priorities



Throughout 2025/26, the Group continued to make strong progress across several strategic priorities including higher technical education, adult skills growth, employer engagement and place-based workforce development. While some objectives were fully achieved, others remain partially achieved due to sector-wide challenges including recruitment pressures, apprenticeship market changes, staffing shortages and evolving national policy reforms.

Overall, TSCG has continued to strengthen its role as a responsive, employer-informed and civic-focused education provider, supporting inclusive economic growth, workforce productivity and progression opportunities across Trafford, Stockport and Greater Manchester.

Young People

TSCG continues to strengthen its curriculum offer for young people in direct response to local demographic growth, LSIP priorities and employer demand across Greater Manchester. With increasing numbers of 16–18 learners across Trafford and Stockport, the Group has strategically utilised the Greater Manchester Sufficiency Grant to expand capacity in key technical and vocational areas, particularly Construction, Electrical Installation and STEM-related provision. Investment in specialist workshops, new electrical facilities at Stockport College and expanded construction provision has enabled the Group to increase learner places in sectors experiencing acute workforce shortages and strong regional growth demand.

The curriculum is employer-led and designed in partnership with industry to ensure learners develop the technical skills, behaviours and employability competencies required for progression into work, apprenticeships and higher-level study. In digital and business, partnerships with SHARP provide learners with live projects, industry insight, employer mentoring and enhanced digital learning environments. In construction, employers including VINCI Construction, Willmott Dixon, Kier Construction and GMI Construction directly influence curriculum content, sustainability practices, work placements and modern methods of construction. This has supported the introduction of



new T Levels and strengthened progression into industry placements and employment.

Through the Manchester Airport Skills Hub, developed alongside Manchester Airport Group, Swissport, dnata and ABM, learners benefit from employer-designed pathways linked to aviation, hospitality, logistics and customer operations. Learners access work experience, recruitment events and direct employment opportunities, ensuring a clear line of sight into growth sectors. Across health and care, partnerships with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and Stockport NHS Foundation Trust continue to shape curriculum delivery, placements and progression opportunities aligned to increasing workforce demand within health and social care.

Skills Advisory Boards remain central to curriculum planning and review, ensuring provision evolves in response to labour market intelligence, emerging technologies and employer feedback. As a result, young people benefit from a curriculum that is ambitious, industry-responsive and strongly aligned to local economic growth priorities and community need.

Learner progression remains a key measure of curriculum impact. Across 16–19 provision, 95% of learners achieved a positive destination, with strong progression into higher education, apprenticeships and employment.

Apprenticeships

TSCG's apprenticeship provision plays a significant role in responding to local and regional workforce shortages by delivering employer-responsive technical training aligned to LSIP priorities and Greater Manchester growth sectors. Apprenticeship delivery has continued to expand in Construction, Engineering, Building Services, Digital, Business, Health and Professional Services, ensuring employers can access a skilled workforce pipeline while supporting economic productivity and progression opportunities for residents.

Curriculum design is shaped directly by employers and industry stakeholders to ensure apprentices develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required within modern workplaces. In construction and building services, employers including VINCI Construction, Willmott Dixon and regional contractors continue to support curriculum planning, technical standards and work-based learning opportunities. This employer input has informed the expansion of apprenticeship pathways in Electrical Installation, Plumbing, Gas Engineering and Green Skills, alongside investment in specialist AM2, ACS and Renewable Technologies facilities at the Stretford and Stockport campuses.

In engineering and manufacturing, partnerships with Essity, Farrat Engineering and Jeff Gosling support the delivery of industry-standard training, workforce upskilling and higher technical skills development. Apprentices benefit from access to modern equipment, employer-led masterclasses and live workplace projects, ensuring they are equipped for progression within advanced manufacturing and engineering sectors.

The Group has also strengthened employer-responsive apprenticeship delivery through closer alignment with local workforce needs and sector recruitment challenges. Apprenticeships continue to support wider economic priorities linked to the Trafford Park Growth Corridor, Manchester Airport growth and regional infrastructure development. Through the Manchester Airport Skills Hub, the Group works collaboratively with airport



employers to support progression into aviation, operations and logistics careers, ensuring apprentices develop sector-specific knowledge alongside transferable employability skills.

Employer feedback and Skills Advisory Board input continue to influence programme design, ensuring provision remains agile and future-focused.

This employer-led approach ensures apprenticeships provide clear progression routes into sustained employment, support business productivity and respond effectively to both current and future skills shortages across Greater Manchester.

Adults and Higher Skills

TSCG continues to deliver a highly responsive adult and higher skills curriculum that supports inclusive growth, workforce development and economic participation across Trafford, Stockport and the wider Greater Manchester region. Adult provision is strategically aligned to LSIP priorities, local authority employment strategies and regional skills shortages, with a strong focus on employability, progression and supporting residents furthest from the labour market.

The Group has significantly expanded its employer-responsive provision through Sector Based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs), employability programmes and targeted adult skills delivery. Through a partnership approach with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and local NHS and employer partners, TSCG is expanding Health and Care SWAPs to support recruitment into critical frontline roles.

These programmes combine employability skills, sector-specific training and guaranteed interview opportunities, enabling adults to progress directly into employment.

Digital SWAP programmes have also expanded in response to employer demand and regional digital skills shortages. Working alongside employers and partners including SHARP and digital SMEs, learners develop skills in cyber security, digital business processes, AI tools and data analytics through practical, employer-informed delivery models. This complements wider FE Innovation activity and supports Greater Manchester's ambitions around digital productivity and inclusion.

The Group's adult employability model continues to operate through the Skills Shop and Manchester Airport Academy, delivering dedicated employer-responsive provision linked to aviation, logistics, customer service and hospitality. Through partnerships with Manchester Airport Group, Swissport and ABM, adults access tailored recruitment pathways and sector-specific training linked directly to live vacancies and workforce demand.



Higher skills and Level 4 and 5 provision continue to expand through the University Centre and Higher Technical Qualification offer, particularly within Engineering, Construction, Counselling, Digital and Leadership & Management. Access to HE provision remains a significant progression route for adults returning to education, particularly within Health, Midwifery and Social Sciences, supporting progression into university and higher-level careers.

Across all adult and higher skills provision, curriculum planning is informed by Skills Advisory Boards, employer feedback and labour market intelligence, ensuring learners gain relevant technical knowledge, professional behaviours and transferable skills that support progression into employment, career advancement and higher-level study.

Inclusion

TSCG continues to make a significant contribution to local and regional priorities relating to inclusion, SEND, participation and NEET reduction across Trafford and Stockport. Through strong partnership working with Local Authorities, schools, employers and community organisations, the Group has developed a highly inclusive, place-based approach focused on early intervention, personalised support and clear progression pathways for vulnerable learners and those at risk of disengagement.

TSCG has strengthened targeted programmes and transition support for learners with complex needs, including those with emotionally based school non-attendance (EBSNA), persistent absence and disrupted prior education. Flexible pathways such as Mission Pass, Engage, Step into Learning and Immersive Wellbeing support learners to rebuild confidence, improve attendance and progress into further learning or employment.

This targeted approach is delivering measurable impact. Retention for 16–19 learners increased to 92.2%, with strong performance maintained for High Needs learners and learners with an EHCP. Achievement rates have improved significantly across vulnerable groups, while positive destinations increased to 95%, demonstrating effective progression into employment, apprenticeships and higher-level learning. Supported Internships continue to deliver strong employment outcomes, with 74% progressing directly into paid work.

Through this work, TSCG continues to act as a key civic anchor institution,



supporting inclusive economic growth, social mobility and improved life chances across Greater Manchester.

The Group continues to demonstrate strong progression outcomes for disadvantaged and high needs learners. In 2024/25:

96% of learners with high needs achieved a positive destination.

96% of learners with EHCPs achieved a positive destination.

94% of learners in receipt of Free School Meals progressed positively.

100% of learners in care achieved a positive destination.

These outcomes reflect the Group's continued investment in inclusive curriculum pathways, SEND support, employer engagement and personalised progression planning.



Summary of Progress Against 2025/26 Accountability Statement Objectives

TSCG Group made strong overall progress against its 2025/26 Accountability Statement objectives, demonstrating continued alignment to local, regional and national skills priorities, including the Greater Manchester LSIP, Growth and Skills Levy reforms, sustainability priorities and inclusive economic growth.

Significant progress was achieved in priority technical curriculum areas, particularly within Construction and Building Services. Recruitment targets were exceeded in Electrical Installation and Brickwork, supported by investment in facilities, curriculum capacity and employer-responsive planning. Electrical Installation recruitment exceeded targets across both Stockport and Stretford campuses, while additional workshops and teaching space enabled further expansion of study programmes and apprenticeships.

Apprenticeship provision remained broadly on track, with strong recruitment performance in technical and construction sectors. The Group responded positively to emerging green skills priorities through investment in electrical infrastructure, heat pump training and sustainability-focused curriculum activity, despite slower employer demand within specific low-carbon apprenticeship standards.

Progress against sustainability and green skills objectives was strong overall. A cross-college Green Week engaged over 300 students and multiple employer partners, including SUEZ and City of Trees, while sustainability principles were increasingly embedded into curriculum delivery and tutorial programmes. The development of a Green Curriculum Framework and participation in Greater Manchester green skills initiatives further strengthened the Group's position within the regional sustainability agenda.

Adult skills delivery also performed positively, with Adult Level 3 delivery and National Skills Fund allocations increasing significantly and remaining on track. Growth was particularly evident in Health and Digital provision,

although some planned expansion within Construction and Green Skills was constrained due to prioritisation of 16–18 delivery and resource capacity.

The Group continued to strengthen its higher technical and employer-responsive offer through successful membership of the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology (GMIoT), exceeding first-year learner recruitment KPIs and expanding employer engagement activity. However, Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ) recruitment remained challenging due to wider market competition and learner demand across the higher technical education sector.



Substantial progress was made in place-based skills development and employer partnerships. The next phase of the Manchester Airport Skills Hub exceeded delivery expectations, with strong learner progression outcomes into employment and enhanced employer engagement activity. In parallel, the Trafford City “mini-LSIP” partnership was successfully established with the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Trafford Council and partners to identify future workforce and skills priorities linked to regional growth developments.

The Group also strengthened inclusive progression pathways for learners with SEND through the expansion of Supported Internship pathways and employer partnerships, including delivery with HMRC and Amazon. While some sector-specific pathways remain in development, early outcomes and employer engagement have been highly positive, providing a strong platform for future growth.

TSCG continues to deliver strong learner progression and destination outcomes across all provision types. Destination analysis for 2024/25 completers shows that 90% of learners progressed into a positive destination, including employment, apprenticeships or further study. Positive destinations include 95% of 16–19 learners, 98% of apprenticeships, 92% of higher education learners and 96% of learners with high needs and EHCPs. The Group continues to outperform national benchmarks for learner progression. Positive destinations for 16–19 external progressors were 82%, compared to the national FE college benchmark of 70.4%, with TSCG achieving the highest published destination rate amongst FE colleges in Greater Manchester

Overall, the 2025/26 objectives demonstrate strong progress against strategic priorities, with many targets achieved or exceeded, particularly in technical education, employer engagement, sustainability activity and place-based skills development. Where targets were partially achieved or not achieved, this was generally due to external market conditions, employer demand, funding changes or capacity constraints rather than lack of strategic intent or delivery activity.



Strategic Objectives and Success Measures 2026/27

TSCG has established a clear set of strategic objectives and success measures for 2026/27 to support national, regional and local skills priorities. These objectives align with the TSCG Strategic Plan, Skills England priorities, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) priorities, the Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), Trafford and Stockport Economic Plans, and local authority priorities relating to inclusion, employment and SEND reform.

Our priorities are informed through employer engagement, Skills Advisory Boards, labour market intelligence and collaboration with civic and strategic partners. In response to demographic growth, changing workforce needs and identified skills shortages, TSCG continues to strengthen its focus on technical education, higher-level skills, workforce upskilling and employer-led provision.



During 2026/27, TSCG will prioritise the following strategic areas to support workforce demand, inclusive economic growth and learner progression across Trafford, Stockport and Greater Manchester:

Develop a responsive curriculum aligned to priority growth sectors including Construction, Digital, Engineering, Health and Green Skills, while expanding capacity to meet growing 16–18 demand and increasing T Level participation.

Expand apprenticeships, Level 4–5 and Higher Technical Qualifications through flexible, employer-led and modular pathways aligned to Growth and Skills Levy reform and Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) developments.

Strengthen progression into employment, apprenticeships and higher-level study through high-quality placements, industry partnerships, supported internships and employer co-designed curriculum.

Expand adult skills, employability and workforce development through SWAPs, modular CPD and leadership programmes that respond to employer and community needs.

Continue to develop place-based provision linked to Airport City, Trafford Park, Trafford City and Stockport regeneration priorities, supporting inclusive economic growth and workforce demand.

Deliver an ambitious and inclusive curriculum that improves outcomes for learners with SEND, High Needs and learners at risk of becoming NEET through flexible progression pathways and enhanced support.

Embed digital, AI, sustainability and transferable employability skills across all provision to support future workforce requirements.

Strengthen workforce capability, teaching excellence and employer engagement through industry updating, collaborative delivery and system leadership across Greater Manchester.

Priority Areas of Provision

Industry Priorities:

Construction and Building Services.
Creative and Digital Industries.
Education and Early Years.
Engineering and Manufacturing.
Health and Social Care.
Aviation, Logistics and Visitor Economy.

Cross-Sector Priorities:

Business and Professional Services.
Digital and AI Skills.
Green Skills and Sustainability.
Leadership and Management.
Employability and Transferable Skills.

Growth Locations:

Airport City and Manchester Airport Growth Corridor.
Trafford Park, Trafford City and Wharfside.
Stockport Town Centre and Wider Borough Regeneration.

Inclusive and Community Priorities:

Provision for Young People at Level 2 and Below.
SEND and High Needs Pathways.
Adult Skills and Workforce Upskilling.
NEET Reduction and Inclusive Employment Pathways.



The following strategic objectives and success measures will be monitored through curriculum performance reviews, learner outcomes, employer engagement activity and Corporation oversight throughout 2026/27.

Objective: Develop a highly responsive curriculum aligned to priority growth sectors across Trafford, Stockport and Greater Manchester.	Contribution to National, Local and Regional Priorities: Skills England priorities. GM LSIP priorities (Construction, Digital, Health, Engineering, Green Skills). Trafford and Stockport Economic Plans. In response to LSIP and employer feedback on skills shortages in priority sectors.	Measure: Increase 16–19 recruitment to 6,250 (from 6,000 FY26 baseline). Increase T Level enrolments by 30%. Meet targets set Level 4–5 and HTQ enrolments in Digital, Health and Engineering. Meet apprenticeship targets in priority sectors e.g health, construction, and engineering 900 Total. Prepare for modular and flexible pathways aligned to LLE reforms FY28.	GM LSIP Priority: OP2, OP3, OP7C3, C6, DT1–DT6, HSC1–HSC3, EM1–EM3	Deadline: July 2027
Objective: Improve progression into employment, apprenticeships and higher-level study through employer-led pathways.	Contribution to National, Local and Regional Priorities: LSIP priorities. NHS Workforce Strategy. Local Authority NEET reduction priorities. Strengthened in response to employer feedback on work-readiness and progression gaps.	Measure: 90% of learners complete work experience / work-related learning. 92% of T Level learners achieve a positive destination. To expand the supported internship programme to accommodate the local skills need further e.g. in retail or construction. To remain 10%+ above the national average supported internship conversion rate (60%).	GM LSIP Priority: OP4, OP5, OP6 All sector priorities (employer demand and progression focus)	Deadline: July 2027
Objective: Strengthen employer partnerships and place-based collaboration to support economic growth and workforce demand.	Contribution to National, Local and Regional Priorities: Get GM Working Plan and LSIP priorities. Trafford City, Airport City and Stockport regeneration. In response to need for stronger system coordination and employer engagement.	Measure: Strengthen employer partnerships to increase curriculum collaboration, industry placements, apprenticeships and employment opportunities. Achieve year 1 of GMCA FE innovation project targets. Complete phase 2 Airport Skills Hub and Phase 1 of Trafford City activity. Deliver the T level placements required. Increase employer co-designed curriculum activity through the review and employer endorsement of at least 10 programmes across priority growth sectors.	GM LSIP Priority: OP5, OP6, OP7C1–C6, DT1–DT6, HSC1–HSC3, EM1–EM3, H1–H2, FBPS1–FBPS3	Deadline: December 2027

Objective: Deliver an inclusive curriculum that reduces NEETs.	Contribution to National, Local and Regional Priorities: SEND Reform: Putting Children and Young People First. Trafford and Stockport SEND and NEET priorities. Strengthened in response to increased demand for inclusive provision and high needs support.	Measure: Increase SEND learner access to work placements, supported internships and employer-led progression opportunities by 5%. Improve progression outcomes for learners with SEND to 80% (baseline 73%).	GM LSIP Priority: OP4 Cross-cutting priority across all sectors	Deadline: July 2027
Objective: Improve outcomes for learners with SEND and high needs through the effective delivery of the Inclusive Mainstream Funding (IMF) objectives	Contribution to National, Local and Regional Priorities: SEND Reform: Putting Children and Young People First. Inclusive mainstream fund. Strengthened in response to increased demand for inclusive provision and high needs support.	Measure: Achieve the delivery of specific courses (Mission Pass, Step Into Learning and Immersive Well Being programmes) aimed at NEET learners, reducing the specific LA NEET numbers by 30. Increase attendance for learners with persistent attendance barriers to 67% (baseline 66%). Increase EHCP learner retention to 92% and achievement to 84%. Reduce early withdrawals for High Needs learners (pre-Day 42) to 2.3%. Increase progression into further learning, supported internships and employment for learners with SEND to 74%. Increase learner confidence, independence and preparation for adulthood, with student satisfaction reaching 92%.	GM LSIP Priority: OP4 Cross-cutting priority across all sectors	Deadline: July 2027

Objective: Expand adult skills, workforce upskilling and leadership development to improve productivity and career progression.	Contribution to National, Local and Regional Priorities: Growth and Skills Levy reforms • Adult Skills Fund priorities. In response to the removal of L&M Apprenticeships and employer demand for leadership and workforce development.	Measure: Expand adult skills participation across priority sectors linked to regional workforce demand and economic growth. Develop modular Leadership & Management pathways at Levels 3–5 aligned to employer workforce development priorities. Strengthen flexible and employer-responsive short-course provision aligned to sector workforce needs. Increase progression from adult learning into employment, career progression and further study to 86%.	GM LSIP Priority: OP1, OP5 HSC3, L2, L3, FBPS2, OP1	Deadline: July 2027
Objective: Embed future skills, including digital, green, and transferable skills, across all provision.	Contribution to National, Local and Regional Priorities: Skills England digital and green priorities. GM Green Skills Strategy. LSIP cross-cutting themes. In response to employer demand for AI, digital and sustainability skills.	Measure: Ensure over 85% of 16–19 learners report improved digital skills and confidence. Ensure 95% of 16–19 learners develop transferable skills that support progression into higher education, apprenticeships or employment. Increase learner participation in sustainability, green skills and climate-awareness activity by 40%. Expand participation in Carbon Literacy and sustainability-related enrichment across curriculum and tutorial programmes.	GM LSIP Priority: OP3, OP7 DT2, DT4, DT5, CM1, CM2, CM5	Deadline: July 2027
Objective: Strengthen workforce capability, teaching excellence and system leadership across Greater Manchester	Contribution to National, Local and Regional Priorities: National FE workforce priorities. GM system leadership and collaboration. In response to sector workforce challenges and need for system-wide improvement.	Measure: Maintain retention of newly appointed teaching staff above 90%. Ensure all curriculum areas engage in employer-led CPD, industry updating and professional practice activity. Strengthen TSCG's leadership contribution to Greater Manchester Colleges, LSIP development and regional innovation programmes. Expand collaborative delivery and workforce development activity with employers, local authorities and GMCA partners.	GM LSIP Priority: OP1, OP6, OP7 Cross-sector leadership and workforce priorities	Deadline: September 2027

GM LSIP Overarching Priorities

OP1 – Leadership & Management.

OP2 – Engineering Skills (L4–L6).

OP3 – Digital Skills.

OP4 – Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG).

OP5 – Employer Uptake of Training.

OP6 – Employer and Provider Collaboration.

OP7 – Future Skills Intelligence & Labour Market Responsiveness.

Sector Priority References

C = Construction.

DT = Digital & Technology.

HSC = Health & Social Care.

EM = Engineering & Manufacturing.

H = Hospitality.

FBPS = Financial, Business & Professional Services.



2025/2026 Performance and Growth Summary: T Levels

Area: Advanced Manufacturing

2024/2025: 53
2025/2026 - Planned: 53
2025/26 - Actual: 62
2026/27 - Planned: 52

Area: Life Sciences

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: 8
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: 18

Area: Health

2024/2025: 22
2025/2026 - Planned: 45
2025/26 - Actual: 61
2026/27 - Planned: 27

TOTALS:

2024/2025: 236
2025/2026 - Planned: 389
2025/26 - Actual: 326
2026/27 - Planned: 433

Area: Creative Industries

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: 16
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Business and Professional

2024/2025: 47
2025/2026 - Planned: 60
2025/26 - Actual: 74
2026/27 - Planned: 54

Area: Education and Early Years

2024/2025: 54
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: 24
2026/27 - Planned: 68

Area: Digital Technologies

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: 36
2025/26 - Actual: 23
2026/27 - Planned: 59

Area: Clean Energy (Green)

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: 52

Area: Retail

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Financial Services

2024/2025: 21
2025/2026 - Planned: 110
2025/26 - Actual: 36
2026/27 - Planned: 103

Area: Construction

2024/2025: 39
2025/2026 - Planned: 61
2025/26 - Actual: 46
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Logistics

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

2025/2026 Performance and Growth Summary: Apprenticeships

Area: Advanced Manufacturing

2024/2025: 336
2025/2026 - Planned: 182
2025/26 - Actual: 157
2026/27 - Planned: 189

Area: Life Sciences

2024/2025: 3
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: 4
2026/27 - Planned: 1

Area: Health

2024/2025: 152
2025/2026 - Planned: 105
2025/26 - Actual: 136
2026/27 - Planned: 72

TOTALS:

2024/2025: 972
2025/2026 - Planned: 982
2025/26 - Actual: 1,053
2026/27 - Planned: 968

Area: Creative Industries

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Business and Professional

2024/2025: 180
2025/2026 - Planned: 175
2025/26 - Actual: 151
2026/27 - Planned: 177

Area: Education and Early Years

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: 12
2025/26 - Actual: 18
2026/27 - Planned: 75

Area: Digital Technologies

2024/2025: 6
2025/2026 - Planned: 21
2025/26 - Actual: 4
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Clean Energy (Green)

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: 6
2025/26 - Actual: 16
2026/27 - Planned: 48

Area: Retail

2024/2025: 21
2025/2026 - Planned: 117
2025/26 - Actual: 110
2026/27 - Planned: 95

Area: Financial Services

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: 1
2026/27 - Planned: 3

Area: Construction

2024/2025: 240
2025/2026 - Planned: 364
2025/26 - Actual: 441
2026/27 - Planned: 308

Area: Logistics

2024/2025: 4
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: 15
2026/27 - Planned: -

2025/2026 Performance and Growth Summary: Free Courses For Jobs

Area: Advanced Manufacturing

2024/2025: 10

2025/2026 - Planned: 3

2025/26 - Actual: 8

2026/27 - Planned: 12

Area: Life Sciences

2024/2025: -

2025/2026 - Planned: -

2025/26 - Actual: 35

2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Health

2024/2025: 120

2025/2026 - Planned: 95

2025/26 - Actual: 84

2026/27 - Planned: 104

TOTALS:

2024/2025: 336

2025/2026 - Planned: 344

2025/26 - Actual: 348

2026/27 - Planned: 478

Area: Creative Industries

2024/2025: 6

2025/2026 - Planned: 2

2025/26 - Actual: 12

2026/27 - Planned: 12

Area: Business and Professional

2024/2025: 38

2025/2026 - Planned: 92

2025/26 - Actual: 54

2026/27 - Planned: 93

Area: Education and Early Years

2024/2025: 123

2025/2026 - Planned: 126

2025/26 - Actual: 104

2026/27 - Planned: 236

Area: Digital Technologies

2024/2025: 7

2025/2026 - Planned: -

2025/26 - Actual: 10

2026/27 - Planned: 3

Area: Clean Energy (Green)

2024/2025: 4

2025/2026 - Planned: -

2025/26 - Actual: -

2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Retail

2024/2025: 3

2025/2026 - Planned: -

2025/26 - Actual: 5

2026/27 - Planned: 2

Area: Financial Services

2024/2025: 22

2025/2026 - Planned: -

2025/26 - Actual: -

2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Construction

2024/2025: 2

2025/2026 - Planned: 26

2025/26 - Actual: 36

2026/27 - Planned: 16

Area: Logistics

2024/2025: -

2025/2026 - Planned: -

2025/26 - Actual: -

2026/27 - Planned: -

2025/2026 Performance and Growth Summary: Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

Area: Advanced Manufacturing

2024/2025: 16
2025/2026 - Planned: 45
2025/26 - Actual: 1
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Life Sciences

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Health

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

TOTALS:

2024/2025: 45
2025/2026 - Planned: 101
2025/26 - Actual: 47
2026/27 - Planned: 46

Area: Creative Industries

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Business and Professional

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Education and Early Years

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Digital Technologies

2024/2025: 18
2025/2026 - Planned: 24
2025/26 - Actual: 15
2026/27 - Planned: 21

Area: Clean Energy (Green)

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Retail

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Financial Services

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Construction

2024/2025: 11
2025/2026 - Planned: 32
2025/26 - Actual: 31
2026/27 - Planned: 25

Area: Logistics

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

2025/2026 Performance and Growth Summary: 16-18

Area: Advanced Manufacturing

2024/2025: 232
2025/2026 - Planned: 179
2025/26 - Actual: 199
2026/27 - Planned: 291

Area: Life Sciences

2024/2025: 83
2025/2026 - Planned: 190
2025/26 - Actual: 200
2026/27 - Planned: 223

Area: Health

2024/2025: 516
2025/2026 - Planned: 373
2025/26 - Actual: 422
2026/27 - Planned: 459

TOTALS:

2024/2025: 3,256
2025/2026 - Planned: 3,327
2025/26 - Actual: 3,558
2026/27 - Planned: 3,746

Area: Creative Industries

2024/2025: 615
2025/2026 - Planned: 531
2025/26 - Actual: 621
2026/27 - Planned: 595

Area: Business and Professional

2024/2025: 507
2025/2026 - Planned: 324
2025/26 - Actual: 449
2026/27 - Planned: 315

Area: Education and Early Years

2024/2025: 46
2025/2026 - Planned: 217
2025/26 - Actual: 146
2026/27 - Planned: 270

Area: Digital Technologies

2024/2025: 228
2025/2026 - Planned: 201
2025/26 - Actual: 159
2026/27 - Planned: 108

Area: Clean Energy (Green)

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Retail

2024/2025: 435
2025/2026 - Planned: 544
2025/26 - Actual: 552
2026/27 - Planned: 604

Area: Financial Services

2024/2025: 2
2025/2026 - Planned: 20
2025/26 - Actual: 15
2026/27 - Planned: 19

Area: Construction

2024/2025: 592
2025/2026 - Planned: 730
2025/26 - Actual: 740
2026/27 - Planned: 899

Area: Logistics

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: 18
2025/26 - Actual: 55
2026/27 - Planned: 53

2025/2026 Performance and Growth Summary: Adults

Area: Advanced Manufacturing

2024/2025: 138
2025/2026 - Planned: 3
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: 30

Area: Life Sciences

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: 88
2025/26 - Actual: 119
2026/27 - Planned: 96

Area: Health

2024/2025: 418
2025/2026 - Planned: 217
2025/26 - Actual: 334
2026/27 - Planned: 539

TOTALS:

2024/2025: 2,716
2025/2026 - Planned: 3,864
2025/26 - Actual: 2,257
2026/27 - Planned: 4,003

Area: Creative Industries

2024/2025: 96
2025/2026 - Planned: 210
2025/26 - Actual: 30
2026/27 - Planned: 67

Area: Business and Professional

2024/2025: 718
2025/2026 - Planned: 1,604
2025/26 - Actual: 690
2026/27 - Planned: 750

Area: Education and Early Years

2024/2025: 114
2025/2026 - Planned: 213
2025/26 - Actual: 286
2026/27 - Planned: 390

Area: Digital Technologies

2024/2025: 569
2025/2026 - Planned: 580
2025/26 - Actual: 332
2026/27 - Planned: 850

Area: Clean Energy (Green)

2024/2025: -
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Retail

2024/2025: 62
2025/2026 - Planned: 54
2025/26 - Actual: 40
2026/27 - Planned: 97

Area: Financial Services

2024/2025: 157
2025/2026 - Planned: -
2025/26 - Actual: -
2026/27 - Planned: -

Area: Construction

2024/2025: 248
2025/2026 - Planned: 695
2025/26 - Actual: 152
2026/27 - Planned: 784

Area: Logistics

2024/2025: 196
2025/2026 - Planned: 200
2025/26 - Actual: 274
2026/27 - Planned: 400

25/26 Performance and Growth Summary

The 2025/26 performance profile demonstrates continued growth across key priority provision areas, particularly within T Levels, Apprenticeships and 16–18 recruitment, reflecting strong demand for technical education aligned to local and regional labour market priorities.

T Level recruitment increased by 38.1% compared to the 2024/25 baseline, growing from 236 to 326 learners, with ambitious further growth planned for 2026/27. This reflects continued investment in technical pathways, employer engagement and progression opportunities linked to priority sectors such as Digital, Health, Construction and Engineering.

Apprenticeship provision also demonstrated positive growth, increasing by 8.3% from 972 to 1,053 learners. Growth was particularly strong within Construction, Health and Clean Energy related provision, supporting employer workforce development priorities across Greater Manchester.



The 16–18 study programme offer continued to perform strongly, increasing by 9.3% overall, with significant growth in Construction, Creative Industries, Business and Professional Services, and Health. This reflects increasing learner demand alongside the Group’s investment in curriculum capacity, specialist facilities and employer-informed curriculum planning.

Free Courses for Jobs delivery increased slightly during 2025/26 and is planned to grow significantly into 2026/27, reflecting increased alignment to devolved adult skills priorities and sector-based workforce demand.

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) remained broadly stable despite ongoing market challenges across the higher technical education sector. Recruitment performance continues to be strengthened through the Group’s collaboration with the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology and employer-led curriculum development.

Adult learner volumes reduced during 2025/26, primarily reflecting changes in funding priorities, curriculum reshaping and resource focus towards high-demand 16–18 provision areas. However, significant growth is planned for 2026/27, particularly within priority sectors aligned to devolved adult skills funding and regional workforce shortages.

Overall, the performance tables demonstrate a strong trajectory of growth in priority technical and vocational areas, supporting the Group’s strategic commitment to delivering responsive, employer-led provision aligned to LSIP priorities, economic growth sectors and future workforce needs.

The Group recognises several ongoing sector challenges including apprenticeship reform, recruitment and retention pressures within specialist staffing areas, increasing SEND demand, changing adult funding priorities and competition within the higher technical education market. These risks continue to inform strategic planning, curriculum prioritisation and workforce development activity.

Page 5. Inclusion Mainstream Fund

TSCG will use the Inclusive Mainstream Fund (IMF) to accelerate a shift from reactive support to a proactive, inclusive mainstream model, aligned to the national SEND reform agenda and local authority priorities across Trafford and Stockport.

This approach directly supports earlier identification of need, improved preparation for adulthood, and reduced reliance on specialist provision, ensuring that learners with SEND can access, participate and succeed within high-quality mainstream education and progress into employment and independent adult life.

In both Trafford and Stockport, increasing demand for SEND provision, rising Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), and higher levels of young people at risk of becoming NEET present significant system challenges. TSCG will align its IMF investment to these priorities by strengthening inclusive practice, improving transition, and increasing progression into employment.

A central priority will be the embedding of preparation for adulthood (PfA) across all areas of provision, with a focus on developing independence, self-regulation, communication and employability skills. This will be supported through the repurposing of physical spaces and staffing models to create structured, low-stimulus learning environments and consistent approaches to behaviour, wellbeing and study skills, enabling learners to build resilience and sustain engagement.

IMF will also be used to scale the effective use of assistive technology, ensuring that learners can independently access learning, organise their work and communicate effectively. Investment will include both technology and a targeted workforce development programme to embed its consistent use across teaching, learning and support.

Strengthening transition and early intervention will be a key area of delivery. TSCG will implement enhanced pre-entry assessment and information sharing with schools and local authorities, alongside structured transition programmes including extended engagement, phased starts and bridging provision. This will ensure learners are well-prepared, supported from the outset, and less likely to disengage.

The fund will also support the development of inclusive employment pathways, working with employers to expand supported internships, work placements and sector-based opportunities aligned to local labour market need. This will ensure that learners with SEND have clear and meaningful routes into employment.

By 2026/27, TSCG expects to deliver measurable impact, including:

Increased attendance for learners with systemic attendance issues to 67%.

Increased retention for learners with an EHCP to 92%.

Increased achievement rates for learners with an EHCP to 84%.

Improved transition outcomes and reduced early withdrawals (pre-Day 42) to 2.3%.

Increased progression into further learning, supported internships and employment too 73%.

Enhanced learner confidence, independence and readiness for adulthood with student satisfaction rate increasing to 92%.

Impact will be evidenced through performance data, learner and employer feedback, and case studies demonstrating progression and sustained outcomes.

Through this targeted use of IMF, TSCG will strengthen its contribution to local SEND system reform, supporting a more inclusive, responsive and employment-focused skills system across Trafford and Stockport.

Page 6. Local Needs Duty

TSCG is committed to meeting its Local Needs Duty through collaborative, evidence-based and employer-informed curriculum planning aligned to local, regional and national skills priorities. The Group works closely with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, employers, education providers and community partners to ensure provision responds effectively to labour market demand and community need.

Curriculum planning is informed through ongoing engagement with the Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), labour market intelligence, employer feedback, learner progression data and local economic strategies including the Stockport Economic Plan and Trafford Enterprise, Employment and Skills (TEES) priorities. The Group also contributes to place-based skills planning linked to major Growth Locations including the Airport and Southern Growth Corridor and the Western Gateway.

During 2025/26, TSCG played a leading role in establishing the Manchester Airport Skills Hub and supporting the development of a Manchester Airport mini-LSIP, bringing together employers, civic stakeholders and education providers to address workforce needs linked to aviation, logistics, hospitality and infrastructure growth. The Group has also supported strategic discussions linked to Trafford City and Trafford Wharfside, including collaborative workforce planning activity with Growth Company, University Academy 92 and Therme Manchester.

TSCG works collaboratively with providers across the Greater Manchester Colleges network, schools, universities and Independent Training Providers to review provision, reduce unnecessary duplication and strengthen progression pathways. The Group also maintains a strong focus on inclusive participation through targeted provision supporting learners with SEND, vulnerable learners and those at risk of becoming NEET.

Governance oversight is provided through the Group's Skills Accountability Committee and annual self-assessment processes. Following significant progress in employer engagement, technical education and place-based workforce development, the Group now self-assesses as making a Strong Contribution to meeting local and regional skills needs.



Page 7. Corporation Statement

Following review of the TSCG strategic priorities, curriculum offer, local skills contribution and alignment to local, regional and national skills needs, the Corporation confirms that this Accountability Statement reflects the agreed strategic direction, priorities and objectives of the Group for 2026/27.

The Corporation is satisfied that the Accountability Statement has been developed through appropriate engagement with employers, local authorities, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, education partners and wider stakeholders, and that it demonstrates clear alignment to the Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), Local Needs Duty requirements and regional economic priorities.

At a quorate meeting of the Corporation Board held on 15/07/2026, it was resolved that the TSCG Accountability Statement 2026/27 be approved for publication and submission to the relevant authorities.

The Corporation will continue to monitor progress against the objectives set out within this statement through its governance and committee structure, ensuring ongoing oversight of curriculum responsiveness, employer engagement, learner outcomes and contribution to local and regional skills priorities.

Signed

Chair of Corporation

Name: Graham Luccock

Signature: 

Date: 15/07/2026

Signed

Chief Executive Officer

Name: James Scott

Signature: 

Date: 15/07/2026



Page 8. Supporting Documentation and Evidence Base

TSCG Accountability Statement 2026/27 has been informed by a wide range of national, regional and local policy documents, labour market intelligence, economic strategies and stakeholder evidence.

These documents have supported curriculum planning, local needs analysis, employer engagement and the identification of strategic priorities aligned to local, regional and national skills needs.

National Policy and Skills Strategy

[Skills England – GOV.UK.](#)

Information relating to national skills reform, workforce development and technical education priorities.

[Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth.](#)

National strategy outlining government priorities for technical education, adult skills and employer-led reform.

[Get Britain Working White Paper – GOV.UK.](#)

National policy framework focused on employment, participation and workforce inclusion.

[Every Child Achieving and Thriving – GOV.UK.](#)

National priorities relating to inclusion, participation and outcomes for children and young people.

[Curriculum and Assessment Review Final Report.](#)

National review informing curriculum reform and future education priorities.



Greater Manchester Strategies and Labour Market Intelligence

[Greater Manchester Strategy.](#)

Long-term vision and strategic priorities for Greater Manchester

[Work and Skills – Greater Manchester Combined Authority.](#)

Greater Manchester’s approach to employment, skills and workforce development.

[Technical Education City Region.](#)

Regional strategy supporting technical education and higher-level skills development.

[Adult Skills Fund – Greater Manchester Combined Authority.](#)

Information relating to devolved adult education and skills funding priorities.

[GM Local Industrial Strategy.](#)

Regional economic and productivity strategy for Greater Manchester.

GM Sector Insights Pack – Autumn 2023.

Labour market intelligence and sector insight analysis across Greater Manchester priority sectors.

Greater Manchester Labour Market and Skills Intelligence Portal (GMLSIP).

Regional labour market intelligence platform providing sector, employment and workforce data.

Get Greater Manchester Working Plan.

Greater Manchester’s strategy for improving employment, inclusion and workforce participation.

Local LSIP Spring 2025.

Regional LSIP intelligence and sector priority analysis.

[Local LSIPs Spring 2025 – Report 1](#)

[Local LSIPs Spring 2025 – Report 2](#)

Local Authority and Place-Based Strategies

[Economic Plan – One Stockport.](#)

Stockport’s economic growth and regeneration strategy.

[One Stockport – One Future Plan.](#)

Strategic borough plan for inclusive growth and community development.

[Our Big 4 Ambitions – Stockport Council.](#)

Stockport Council’s strategic priorities and ambitions for the borough.

New Corporate Plan 2024–2027 – Trafford Council.

Trafford Council’s strategic priorities relating to growth, skills and inclusion.

Core Strategy – Trafford Council.

Trafford’s development and planning framework supporting regeneration and economic growth.

Technical Education and Strategic Partnership Development

[Greater Manchester Institute of Technology \(GMIoT\).](#)

Regional partnership supporting higher technical education and Level 4/5 skills development.

Manchester Airport Skills Hub and Mini-LSIP Development.

Employer and stakeholder intelligence relating to aviation, logistics, hospitality and infrastructure growth linked to Manchester Airport and Airport City.

Trafford City and Trafford Wharfside Development.

Stakeholder engagement and workforce planning activity involving Trafford Council, employers, Growth Company and strategic education partners supporting future skills planning linked to TraffordCity and regeneration activity.

