

The Cornwall College Group

Annual Accountability Statement 2024



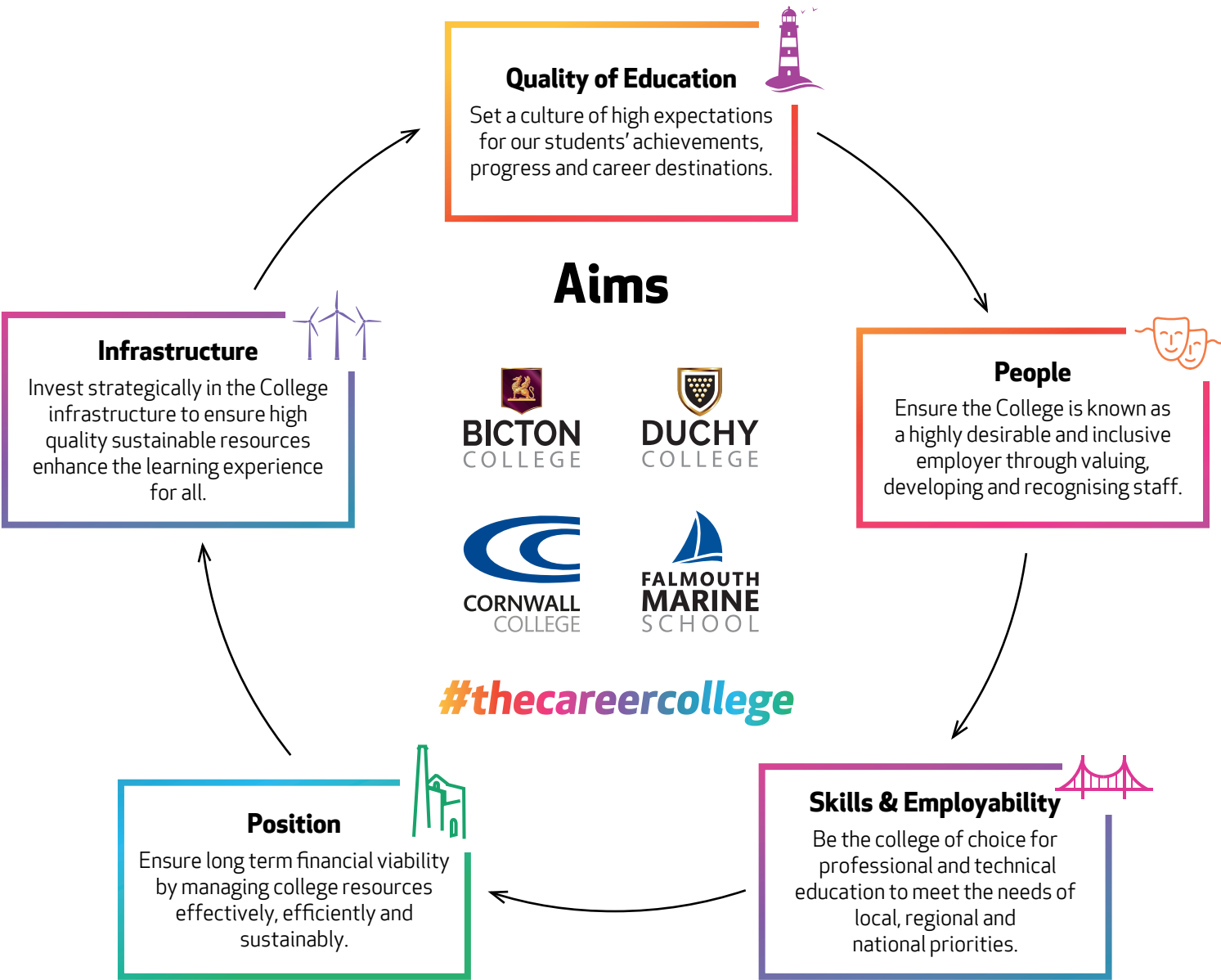
Page 3	Purpose
Pages 4-7	Context and Place
Pages 8-9	Approach to developing the Annual Accountability Statement
Pages 10-11	Employer and Stakeholder Led Skills Cycle
Pages 12-13	Contribution to National, Regional and Local Priorities
Pages 14-15	2024-2025 Targets
Page 16	Local Needs Duty
Page 17	Corporation Statement, Live Hyperlink, Supporting Documents



Mission

Exceptional education and training for every learner to improve their career prospects

Our Values



Context – The Cornwall College Group

The Cornwall College Group (TCCG) is a major provider of post-16 further education, higher education and apprenticeship training. The College delivers training at all levels from Masters' degree to Basic English and maths, but has, for a number of years, developed a specific focus on excellence in professional and technical education at entry level to Level 3.

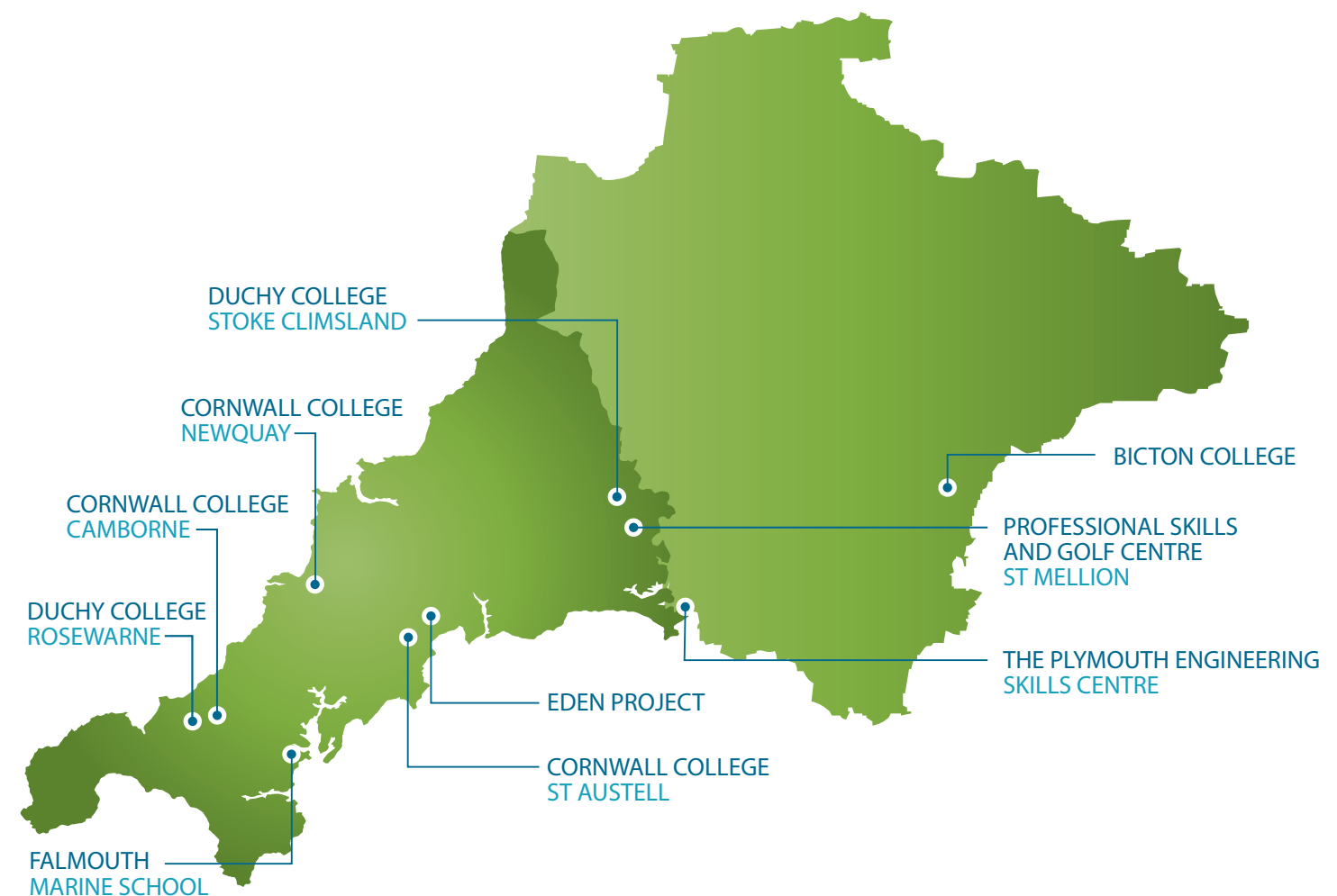
The Group is made up of five core brands: Cornwall College, Duchy College, Falmouth Marine School, Bicton College and Cornwall College Business. Cornwall College has two general further education campuses in Camborne and St Austell. TCCG's two specialist land-based colleges, Duchy College and Bicton College have three campuses: Duchy College Stoke Climsland in East Cornwall, Duchy College Rosewarne near Camborne and Bicton College in East Devon. Falmouth Marine School specialises in marine engineering, water sports and boatbuilding. We also have The Plymouth Engineering Skills Centre, a Golf Centre at St Mellion Resort and specialist University Centres in Newquay and at the world-famous Eden Project.

In 2023/24 the college had 2,766 students aged 16-18 following full-time study programmes. Of these 18.1% are studying up to Level 1, 41.7% at Level 2 and 40.2% at Level 3. There are 1,601 apprentices over the year. There are approximately 6,800 adult students (including Community Learning, Loans Funded, Full-Cost and those with Subcontractors), with the majority being part-time.

The College had 467 learners with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) during 2023-24. Of these, 348 were High Needs Students (HNS). Year on year increases are indicative of our improved reputation with Local Authorities and education providers.

The college works with 14 local schools offering provision for up to 400 14-16 learners from year 9 to 11 offering a range of opportunities to both stretch and challenge and improve engagement including Level 2 qualifications earning performance points, level 1 skills-based qualifications and experiential enrichment sessions. This includes our 14-16 Employer Led Academies in partnership with Cornwall Manufacturers Group and St Austell Brewery. The college works closely with a range of partners to respond to emerging local needs. This has included 25 school refusers funded by Cornwall Council who are still registered with their school and a pilot project for Elected Home Educated to access the college on a part-time infill basis. Working with Cornwall Council and Truro & Penwith College, we launched the Children seeking asylum study programme (Young ESOL) for 14 full-time learners. In response to the crisis in Ukraine, we expanded our ESOL provision to deliver to over 120 learners from Ukraine at campuses across the group.

In 2023/24 the college subcontracted provision with Argyle Community Trust and Studio 4 for 16-19 Study Programmes, Learning Curve Group, South West Skills Academy, Newquay Orchard and The Skills Network for Adult Learning and Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change and Newquay Orchard for Adult Community Learning.



Our core purpose is to prepare our learners for progression to employment, further study, independence, or, in the case of our adult learners and apprentices, promotion or career change. The Cornwall College Group remains firmly rooted in professional and technical education and has, over the years, despite significant financial challenges, developed specialist facilities and resources to support skills-based training in general and land-based education to meet the regional need. This investment has accelerated over the past 4 years as the college through new leadership has earned the confidence of the DfE, ESFA and FEC. However, the investment required in the college's land-based campuses remains significant.

The College was inspected by Ofsted in February 2022 and the college was graded 'Good' in all key judgements and provision types.

The Cornwall College Group (TCCG) operates out of Cornwall and Devon, with delivery of our specialist golf programmes in Cornwall, Sussex, Portugal and Spain.

Cornwall is a county of contrasts, where affluence sits alongside some of the most disadvantaged areas in England. It is the second largest local authority area in the South West region, covering an area of 3,559 sq. km, and has the longest coastline of all English counties at 697 km. The landscapes and environments you'll encounter in the region vary greatly. These include remote rural, coastal and environmentally sensitive areas, interspersed with villages and historic market towns; where areas of affluence are contrasted by high rates of poverty, inequality and insecure work.

Strengthening Cornwall's economy is an ongoing challenge – low economic output (per capita), low wages, low productivity and a lack of big companies have been persistent challenges. Deprivation is a persistent problem in Cornwall. Around 15.9% of children and young people in the region are part of low-income families. Close to 68,800 people (equating to 34,400 households or 12.7% of the population), live in the 20% most 'deprived' communities in England. In some cases, the deprivation prevalent in these areas has not changed for many years.

Challenges such as income and health inequality, paired with a lack of visible higher-level jobs has impacted on ambition and aspiration in young people in the county. Income inequality is linked to health inequality. Mental health and physical health needs and levels of sickness and disability benefit claimants are closely linked to areas of known inequality. Also, sadly the suicide rate in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is higher than both the South West and national average.

Historically, due to minimal higher education opportunities in Cornwall, local talent has been lost with young people leaving the county to pursue university-level qualifications. Subsequently they struggle to return once qualified, due to the lack of suitable employment opportunities available in the region.

Despite these challenges, the geographic areas served by the Group are witnessing exciting developments in economic sectors, which the College supports, such as sustainable energy generation (off-shore wind), agriculture and food production, leisure and tourism and maritime and space technology, which should generate significant additional demand for skilled employees.

Devon is also predominantly rural, yet boasts a diverse economy including agriculture, tourism, and aerospace industries. The employment rate is slightly higher than the national average at 77.5% compared to 75.1% and the average weekly wage is slightly below the national average. The county has a higher than average elderly population and a lower than average percentage of young adults and the population is projected to increase by 10% by 2041, with the largest increase expected in the 65+ age group.

The tourism industry is a significant contributor to the economy of Devon, with over 40,000 people employed in the industry in 2020. The county attracts around 40 million visitors each year. Our focus in Devon is primarily through our land-based Bicton College and The Plymouth Engineering Skills Centre.

To drive the future economic development of the region, the College has played a key role in skills development and has published in its accountability agreement how it will deliver in the key sectors identified through the LSIP. These include Marine, Engineering and Manufacturing (MEM) and Construction and Retrofit including Groundwork skills.



Approach to developing the Annual Accountability Statement

The college has a well-embedded ethos of continual improvement and partnership working and as a result we are well placed to develop our statement in collaboration with key organisations, businesses and fellow academic institutions.

Our approach was reflected in our Ofsted Report in 2022, which noted:

“Governors, senior leaders and managers have worked relentlessly to establish the college as an influential partner in the region. They work productively with local and regional stakeholders to offer a curriculum that meets the needs of learners, the community and local industry. Working closely with Truro and Penwith College, the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly local enterprise partnership, the local education authority and local schools, senior leaders have adapted the curriculum well to meet local needs and build on the strengths of the college. The college makes a positive and vital contribution to the development of vocational skills, especially in the land-based, construction and building service, engineering, hospitality and catering, health and social care, and hair and beauty sectors.”

We also placed our value, ‘Learner First’, central to this statement, and have reviewed its contents with our student representatives and governance.

Our Principal and Chief Executive sits on the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP skills advisory board and is an LSIP panel member. This ensures a top-level view of the challenges and opportunities that exist in skills need and development in the region.

To translate the overarching themes into meaningful change, it is vital we have relationships with all manner of stakeholders. We have listed some of these below to articulate the breadth of our network and illustrate why we are a vital component of transforming the skills system.

Our relationships:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| • Cornwall Manufacturing Group | • Software Cornwall | • RJ Kellow |
| • Pendennis | • FLOW | • Cornwall Council |
| • A&P | • Cornish Lithium | • Plymouth Argyle |
| • Piper’s Farm | • St Austell Family Group | • The National Trust |
| • Blue Flame | • Kier | • Celtic Sea Power |
| • St Austell FA | • Mole Valley | • Bennamann |

We are also determined to find new ways to interact with employers while celebrating skills development. An example of this would be the Apprenticeship Games, which has been rolled out nationally, where apprentices from all sectors come together to battle it out in a series of challenges.

To provide further clarity on how we engage employers to ensure our curriculum is meeting national, regional and local skills gaps, we developed our Employer and Stakeholder led Skills Cycle for 2023/24 to identify need, review our curriculum offer and ensure we deliver the content needed for industry.

In terms of working with other providers, our senior leaders have developed a constructive working relationship with Truro & Penwith College, where we share best practice, plan curriculum and joint resource, and jointly bid to enrich local need.

We have strong relationships with Falmouth University, Exeter University and Plymouth University based on validation of our degrees, sharing best practice and ensuring there are suitable pathways for students to follow in the region.

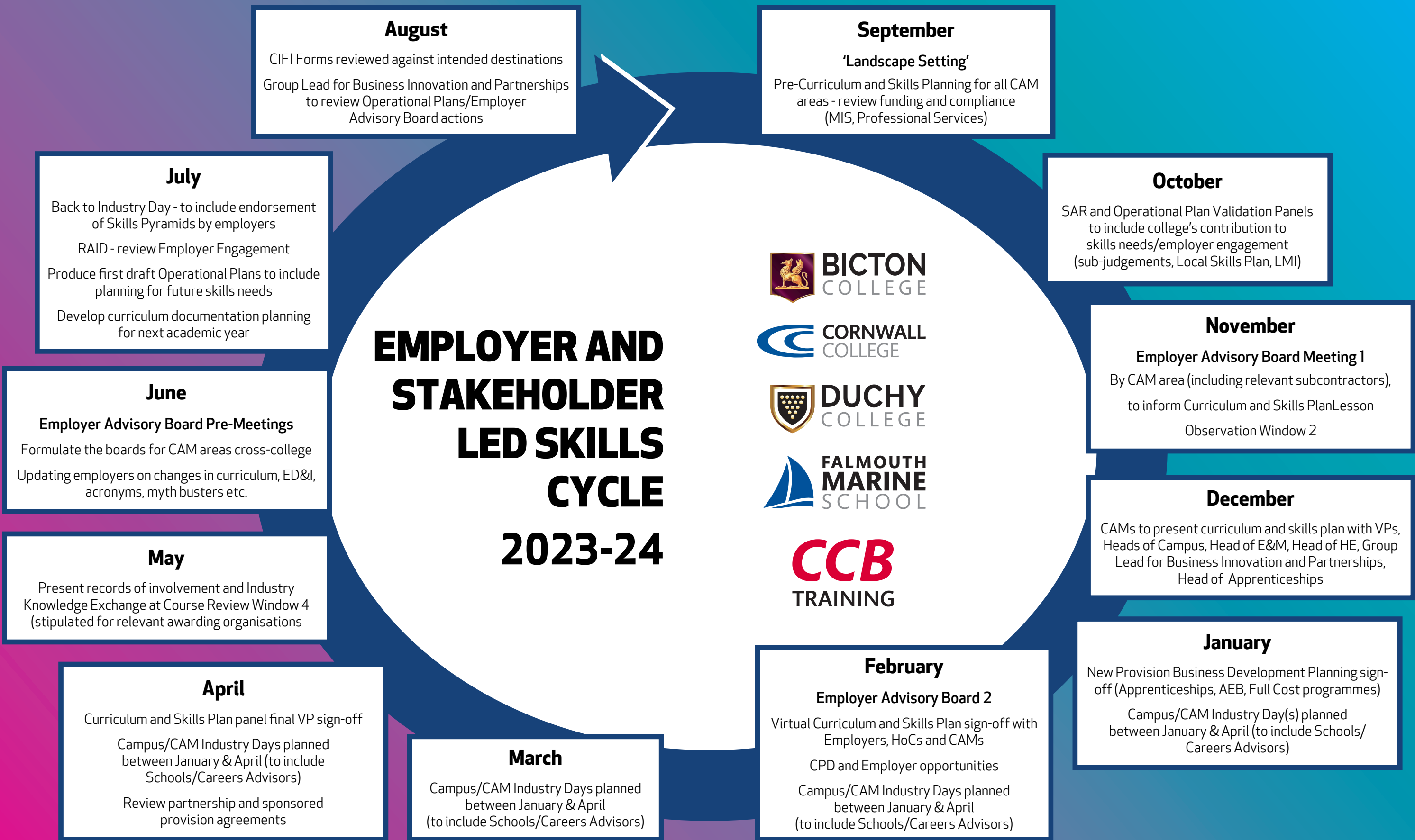
Our schools work has been lauded for our promotion of vocational qualifications, work around the development of key skills and helping schools to ensure there are pathways for all their students, whether through our 14-16 academy programmes, non-attenders or high needs.

We work closely with Cornwall Council and wider partners to meet local need and have developed an inclusive offer focused on school refusers, Elected Home Educated and Children seeking asylum. In response to the crisis in Ukraine, we expanded our ESOL provision to deliver to over 120 learners from Ukraine at campuses across the group.



Employer and Stakeholder Led Skills Cycle

Following a successful pilot in 2022/23, the College has launched its Employer and Stakeholder led skills cycle. The process involves employers and stakeholders at three key points during the academic year through Advisory Boards. These focus on a start, stop, continue, innovate approach to curriculum to ensure we meet local, regional and national skills needs. The process also provides opportunities for employers and stakeholders to undertake learning walks to provide feedback on how we could improve the work we do with learners.



Contribution to national, regional and local priorities

LSIP priority sectors in Cornwall are Manufacturing, Engineering & Marine (MEM) and Construction and Retrofit (CR). In Devon and Somerset, the LSIP priorities relevant to Bicton college include advanced engineering and rural productivity.

Our provision is informed by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Skills and Labour Market strategy. This identifies the distinctive sector strengths in Cornwall including marine, particularly in relation to offshore renewable industries, minerals production, data and space, Agri-food and the visitor economy. There are also clear recruitment challenges for employers in a wide range of sectors including Hospitality, Adult Social Care, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Construction. In particular, the ageing workforce means that there is a need to attract new recruits into these sectors.

In our Accountability Statement for 2023/24 we set ourselves a series of targets. As a result, we have:

- Fully implemented an Employer and Stakeholder led Skills Cycle that include the establishment of advisory boards consisting of relevant stakeholders.
- Revised our bursary offer to enable greater levels of participation.
- Provided a curriculum offer for Elective Home Educated young people.
- Delivered Skills bootcamps in Bricklaying, Hospitality, Cyber Security and Entry to Electrical.
- Introduced electric vehicle training centres at Camborne and St Austell.
- Offered 6 cohorts of learner's opportunities through Turing to develop their skills abroad through extended work experience placements.
- Launched new learning spaces at Cornwall College Camborne and University Centre Eden.

In addition to delivering the above, the college through LSIF Funding and Shared Prosperity Funding has been actively involved in a wide range of projects to meet local priorities. This includes managing and delivering capital and revenue green skills projects in excess of £5m, to include leading large partnership projects with other providers and specialist partners such as Celtic Sea Power.

Construction Skills Hub

The Construction Skills Hubs are new centres for delivery at our Camborne and St Austell campuses with a focus on a new construction green skills programme for pre-16 learners. The project will also include a focus on engaging adults to retrain to progress into construction career pathways and upskilling for the existing workforce in green skills.

The Future is Green

TCCG is the lead for a large Shared Prosperity Fund Green Skills project in partnership with 8 other providers. The project will engage individuals to retrain or upskill through participating in qualifications and training for Green Skills. The project will also engage businesses in high carbon sectors in training to become more sustainable in their practices and methodologies.

Net Zero Project and Agri-Carbon Kernow

Through the Rural Business School, the College using Shared Prosperity funding has extended its highly successful Farm Net Zero project to provide up to 90 decarbonisation, water and environmental audits and plans to farms in Cornwall.

Local Skills Improvement Fund







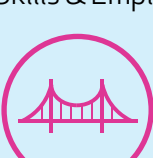
The College is part of a project with other providers to deliver against the LSIP priorities of construction, engineering & manufacturing and marine. This has seen significant capital investment in refurbishing our machine workshops at Camborne including the purchasing of lathes and milling machines. Further investment is planned for Falmouth and St Austell.

The project also includes a focus on new course development at L3 and above and staff development in sustainability and renewables including short courses for upskilling and apprenticeships for Low Carbon Heating Technicians and Junior Energy manager.

For 2024/25 we will continue to target key priority sectors. National priority sectors include: Construction, manufacturing, digital and technology, health and social care, haulage and logistics, engineering and science and mathematics.



2024-2025 Targets

Strategic Aim for Year Ahead	Alignment with our Core Strategic Aims	How we will Achieve	Why we will Achieve
Open an Apprenticeship Agri-Tech Engineering Centre at Bicton College	Quality of Education – The Beacon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use LSIF funding to create inspiring learning environments - Introduce a block week delivery model to meet the needs of employers 	Provide high quality training to industry meeting an LSIP priority
Develop a 14-16 Academy to support the Agri-food Sector	Quality of Education – The Beacon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Great Cornish Food Company and local schools to establish a 14-16 Academy starting with year 9 pupils 	Develop the next generation of learners in a sector key to Cornwall Councils 2050 strategy to address food poverty
Deliver T levels in Health, Education and Childcare, Plumbing and Electrical	Quality of Education – The Beacon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market new programmes to learners - Achieve accreditation with NCFE and C&G - Use DfE capital investment to create innovative learning environments - Deliver staff training to ensure readiness to deliver 	T levels provide learners with the technical and vocational skills identified by employers
Develop and introduce a new approach to tutorial that develops the core skills identified by employers in the LSIP	Quality of Education – The Beacon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilise the LSIP research to inform the introduction of a new personal development programme for learners that incorporates the core skills - Ensure all learners participate in social action projects to develop these skills in action 	The LSIP identifies core skills needed in all sectors. These include communication, teamwork, collaboration, multitasking, leadership, time management, building relationships and problem solving
Develop our delivery of Maths to provide contextual relevancy	Quality of Education – The Beacon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop bespoke resources to support contextual delivery - Provide training to teachers to support vocational specialists to deliver maths - Utilise Century as a digital platform to enrich and enhance learning 	There is a need to overcome the stigma in regards to the relevancy of maths learning and how it is an essential skill for future success
Expand our delivery of skills bootcamps to include Bricklaying, Electrical, Plumbing, Site Carpentry, Welding and Multi-trade Construction	Skills & Employability – The Bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build skills bootcamps into our curriculum planning to ensure we can resource the delivery 	We will provide opportunities for adults to enhance their career prospects through the development of new skills
Open Construction Skills Academies at Cornwall College Camborne and St Austell	Skills & Employability – The Bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open specialist training centres for delivery - Develop new courses including professional skills e.g. EV - Charging point installation and apprenticeships e.g. Low Carbon Heating Technician 	Inspire the next generation of professional to upskill and meet the need for new homes and retro-fit and provide train the trainer opportunities to ensure sufficient training capacity

Local Needs Duty

The college works closely with a wide range of employers and stakeholders to understand local and regional skills needs, enabling it to develop curriculum that supports the economic growth of the communities the college serves, by giving people the skills they need. The college has played a key role in the development of the LSIP both in Cornwall and the Heart of the South West and through a wide range of stakeholders develops a curriculum to meet these needs. For example, partnership working with St Austell Brewery and Fowey River Academy has led to the development of the pre-16 Hospitality Academy, to ensure a pipeline of talent is developed.

The college’s Accountability Agreement includes a focus on the Cornwall and Heart of South West LSIP key target areas of Marine, Engineering and Manufacturing and Construction and Retrofit. These will build on successful SDF projects delivered by the college focused on electric vehicle training and enable partnership working such as the development of an apprenticeship standard between Pendennis and Falmouth Marine School to continue to meet skills needs.

Cornwall College Business builds on existing engagement with over 4000 businesses to identify skills needs with new and existing employers, across all sectors, through Training Needs Analysis, to provide a solutions-based, customer focused approach to training and development in order to support their businesses, our learners and the economy.

The college Rural Business School works closely across the land-based sector with an extensive range of stakeholders, to ensure a research led approach to curriculum and skills development. The college is currently delivering a range of projects in partnership with regional, national and international stakeholders. Projects include Net Zero through Shared Prosperity Funding to provide up to 90 decarbonisation, water and environmental audits and plans to farms in Cornwall, and the Agri-Environmental Living Laboratory to equip a data-visualisation suite, put sensors and automation into the landscape and at Future Farm, and support Cornish companies develop and demonstrate innovations for agriculture and the environment, and local communities and land-based enterprises discover innovations that they can use.

The college collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders regarding the development and implementation of its foundation curriculum including leaders, schools, independent living providers, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly NHS Trust, United Response, Cornwall Council and the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP.

The college piloted an Employer-led skills cycle in 2022/23 and this has been rolled out across the college in 2023/24, with Employer Advisory Boards established in all curriculum areas. These boards will review the curriculum and support a process of stop, start, continue and innovate. This will ensure the curriculum delivered provide learners with the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to make an impact in the workplace.

The college works closely with the wider community to develop curriculum and ensure that those most in need are supported to further develop. This has included Multiply, projects focused on school refusers and elected home educated and close collaboration to deliver for asylum seeking children and learners from Ukraine.

Skills Bootcamps have been successfully run Hospitality, Bricklaying, Cyber and Entry to Electrical ensuring adult learners have access to the training they need to upskill and engage with work.

Corporation Statement

On behalf of The Cornwall College Group Board, it is hereby confirmed that the Accountability Statement set out above reflects and agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the corporation at its meeting on _____ of _____ 2023. The plan will be published on the College’s website within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link **cornwall.ac.uk/**

Chair of Governors

Principal/Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

Dated:

Relevant Supporting Documentation

cornwall.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/TCCG-Strategic-Plan-2022-25.pdf

cornwall.ac.uk/ofsted/

cioslep.com/about/



