

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

2023-24

PURPOSE

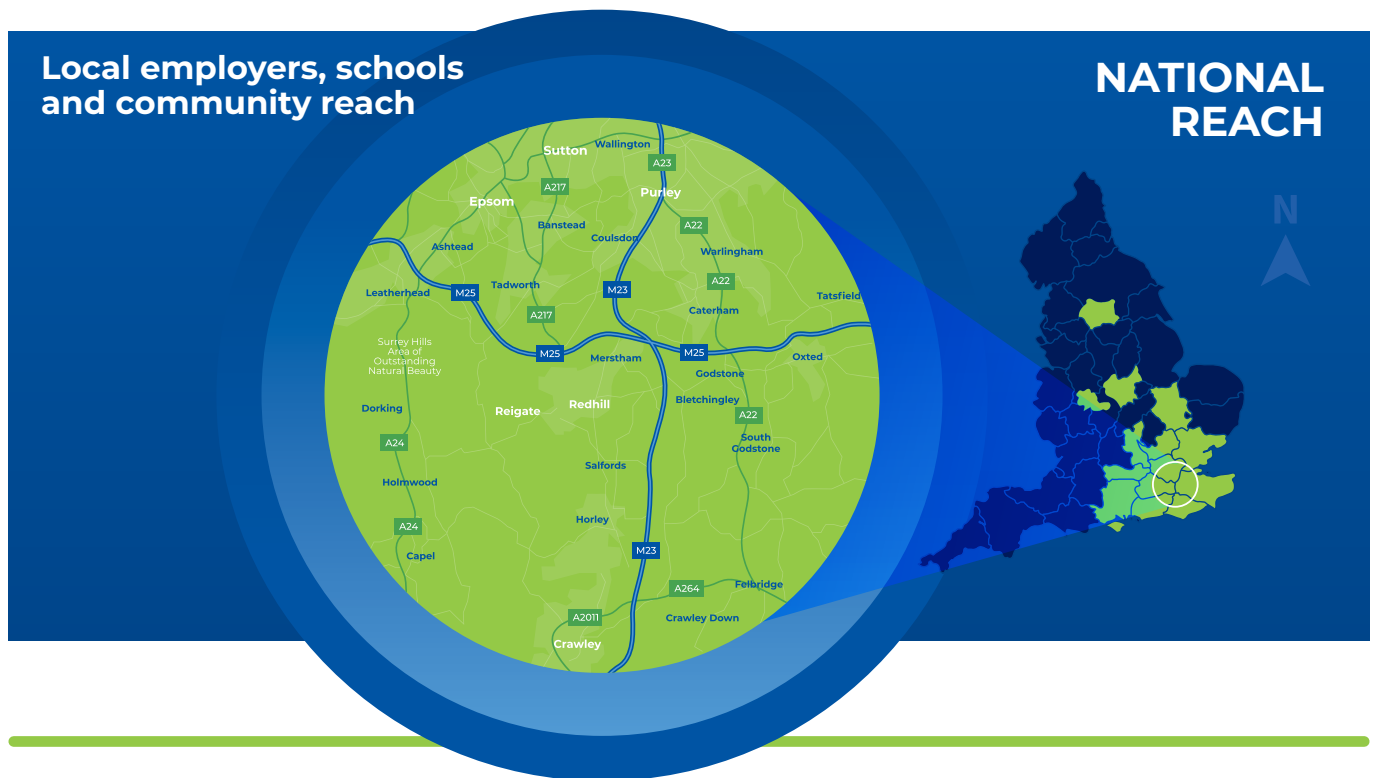
Orbital South College's (OSC) mission is to provide inspirational, inclusive and high-quality education and training which:

- Empowers individuals
- Creates a talent pipeline for employers
- Enriches our local and wider communities

Our strategic aims were renewed in 2022, involving feedback from all our key stakeholders to inform our future aspirations.

- We co-create an innovative curriculum through high-quality teaching/training, learning and assessment, fostering a culture of personal and professional transformation.
- We promote and celebrate an inclusive, diverse community where everyone feels safe, heard, valued and happy.
- We build agile, collaborative, and complementary partnerships that contribute positively to sustainable communities.
- We manage robust delivery structures and generate strong finances which enable us to invest in the sustainable future of our College community.

OSC – which is made up of East Surrey College (incorporating Reigate School of Art) and John Ruskin College, is a medium-sized general further education corporation trading as Orbital South Colleges. The College Group has two main sites based in Selsdon (South Croydon) and Redhill (Surrey). We serve Surrey, West Sussex and South London. Together, our Colleges form a substantial College Group in the South East.



OUR COMMUNITIES

Our Colleges sit at the heart of our communities, transforming lives through learning, guidance and support and offering real-life vocational experiences led by industry qualified teachers and trainers. We offer a comprehensive range of core skills, technical and professional qualifications and courses including Apprenticeships, ranging from Entry Level up to Degree Level. Our outstanding facilities and resources enable our students to learn and practise skills in a wide range of vocational areas, preparing them for the workplace, university or further training.

Since the Strategic Plan was published, we have been successful in the SDF application with EM3 and London to further develop our resources in electrification of vehicles and domestic heating engineering, including solar and wind turbines. We have engaged with the development of both the South London Partnership and Enterprise M3 (EM3) LSIP and have reflected on their draft documents within our strategic focus for the next academic year.

A link to our strategic plan can be found [here](#).



PRIORITY SECTORS

The LSIP draft plans have identified the following priority sectors that are important to the economy:

EM3 and Surrey	South London Partnership
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering2. Aerospace, Space and Satellite3. Animal Health and Life Sciences4. Construction5. Creative6. IT7. Health and Social Care8. Hospitality and Tourism9. Land based10. Professional Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Administration and Support Services2. Construction and the Built Environment3. Education4. Information and Communications5. Health and Social Care6. Hospitality and Retail
Cross Cutting Themes	Cross Cutting Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Green skills■ Employability 'soft' skills■ Digital skills■ Professional skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Green skills■ Transferable skills■ Technology■ Inclusion (Health and Disability)■ Supporting international recruitment

The LMI, LSIPs and stakeholder feedback has helped to shape the College curriculum delivery focusing on contributing to the following skills needs:

1. IT and Digital
 2. Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering
 3. Digital Tech
 4. Construction (including supporting anticipated high levels of house building and infrastructure projects)
 5. Creative
 6. Professional Services
 7. Green Specialist Sectors
 8. Health and Social Care needs: there are major social challenges to be addressed
 9. Life Skills, ESOL, Maths and English
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CONTRIBUTING TO LOCAL NEEDS

Orbital South Colleges has carefully considered national, regional and local priorities, particularly where these directly align. OSC currently delivers a wide range of programmes in priority sectors. This includes the cross-cutting themes of decarbonisation, digitalisation and core professional 'soft' skills identified across EM3 and South London LSIPs. We are continuously refining our curriculum to reflect the changing needs of skills in the market place.

The investment we are making in our capital resources will contribute to meeting these needs, including our Strategic Development Funds across London and Surrey which will directly support engineering and construction employers to decarbonise and embed this in our learning programmes. The current work to identify skills needs in London, Surrey and wider geographical footprints, does identify specific occupational shortages and priorities, and OSC is responding to this. We are working closely with employers and partnerships focusing on future design, co-delivery and careers as well as developing specialist CPD (Continuous Professional Development) with employers to ensure we are preparing our workforce for current, new, and emerging skills needs.

For occupational shortages, this is particularly relevant to our Apprenticeships, Adult Education Budget, and National Skills Fund provision. We currently work directly with employers to identify and respond to specific occupational priorities, for example through our T Level, Apprenticeships and Sector Work Academy programmes in STEM, Digital and Health Care.

OSC will build on and integrate its existing strategic planning to ensure that it meets the new statutory duty to undertake regular reviews on how well our provision meets local needs. We will continue to work closely with the Surrey and London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, key employers, community groups, education providers, and other stakeholders to ensure they are fully involved in the review process, whilst ensuring we align with the LSIP, LMI and other existing evidence bases and networks.

We also have a strong forum of employer partners to provide ongoing insight, support and challenge to our existing provision and future planning. OSC combines ongoing dialogue, data sets, evidence bases, and the work of other strategic partners in our reviews. This in turn will be reflected in the strategic aims and objectives of our accountability plans and longer-term Strategic Plan.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

OSC works collaboratively with a wide network of partners for the benefit of our communities. This has remained a core strength of the Group.

OSC will continue to work closely with a range of key stakeholders to achieve its strategic objectives and to identify the key priorities and associated target outcomes that inform this Accountability Statement. The partners we have consulted with include:

1. Surrey County Council
2. Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
3. Mole Valley District Council
4. Tandridge District Council
5. Croydon Council
6. Surrey & London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
7. Local Enterprise Partnership; (EM3, Coast to Capital, South London Partnership)
8. Our key employers
9. Key community groups
10. Strategic educational partners
11. Business representative groups and networks
12. Careers Enterprise Hubs
13. Young people, parents and carers
14. Local MPs





SKILLS NEEDS

Specific economic and social characteristics of the area served that inform skills needs.

Economy and Enterprise

Most businesses across Croydon, Redhill and surrounding areas are SME and represent 99.6% of the total business footprint. There is an above average concentration of businesses, especially micro and small enterprise.

Labour Force and Demographics

- High economy activity rates with near full employment levels in Surrey, at around 80%.
- An ageing population challenges labour surplus and activity across the LEP regions.
- Sharp decrease in employment of younger workers between 2019-2022.
- Large and persistent employment gap between white and ethnic groups.

Skills

- Above average concentration of high skills occupations; 4 in 10 resident workers have a degree or above across Surrey and EM3.
- A large number of vacancies and a shortage of applications with persistent vacancies in many sectors including Digital, Health, skilled trades and Social Care in Croydon and Surrey.
- Young people continue to overlook Apprenticeships and T Levels in general as preferred progression routes.
- 67% of businesses in Croydon did not know where their future skills would be.



Contribution to National, Regional and Local Priorities

Our aims and target outcomes for the year ahead that reflect the priorities we are taking forward from the LSIPs are:

Aims & Objectives	Contribution to National/Regional/Local Priorities
Continue to align our Apprenticeships offer by introducing two new standards in 2023/24 and good progression to higher and degree Apprenticeships: led by key employers. <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Engineering■ Construction and The Built Environment	Contribute to meeting specific sector and occupational needs that have been identified by employers and LSIPs (Construction and Engineering)
Engage in wider National Skills Funding programmes in 2023/24, enabling adults to improve their job prospects into priority sectors, such as Logistics, Health & Social Care, Digital, Green Skills, Construction & the Built Environment	Adults will gain the skills they need to improve, develop or upskill; and succeed in priority sectors, whilst supporting the economy
Continue to implement our specialisation plan, including the introduction of 2 new T levels for 2023/24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Engineering■ Accounting and Finance	Continue to develop curriculum specialisations that meet national, regional and local needs
Increase the number of SEND learners at JRC campus with increased employability focus	Contribute to social and economic inclusivity by supporting SEND learners into fulfilling careers, whilst meeting skills needs
Design specialist ESOL programmes for adults in Croydon and Surrey in 2023/24 across our communities	Enable adults with required English language skills to fulfil their potential and increase their positive participation in their local area
Launch two new Sector Work Academy Programmes in Health Care and Digital	Contribute to meeting the needs of a priority sector and a specific cross-cutting theme identified in the LSIP
Launch two new sustainability programmes for adults designed by employers and strategic partners <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Retrofit Revolution (Mayoral Academies and Clarion Housing)■ Heat Pump programmes (Surrey County Council)	Contribute to meeting sustainability priorities across (eg. Construction, Retrofit)
Further develop our partnerships with employers, civic, schools and communities which inform design, infrastructure and capital investments	SDF projects contribute to the LSIP priority across: Decarbonisation, Solar, Wind and Hybrid Vehicle Maintenance

CORPORATION STATEMENT

On behalf of Orbital South Colleges (trading as East Surrey College Corporation), it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the Corporation at their meeting on 18 May 2023.

The plan will be published on the College's websites within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed via the hyperlinks below.



Chair of Governors: Robert Pickles

Dated: 18.5.23



Principal & Chief Executive: Lindsay Pamphilon

Dated: 18.5.23

Hyperlinks

A live hyperlink to our website where the annual accountability statement is located:

East Surrey College – www.esc.ac.uk

John Ruskin College – www.johnruskin.ac.uk



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

There are several supporting documents that have contributed to the publication of the Accountability Statement, and are listed below:

OSC Strategic Plan 2022-25

OSC Ofsted Report March 2023

Surrey Skills Plan Oct 2022

OSC Financial Statements

Mayor of London: Skills Roadmap for London Jan 2022

EM3 Local Skills Plan (Draft) May 2023

South London Partnership Local Skills Plan (Draft) May 2023





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