SOUTH ESSEX COLLEGES GROUP

BASILDON COLLEGE

SOUTHEND CITY COLLEGE

THURROCK COLLEGE

Accountability Statement

www.southessex.ac.uk/the-college/governance

2026–27



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Our Vision

We are the **heart** of community transformation.

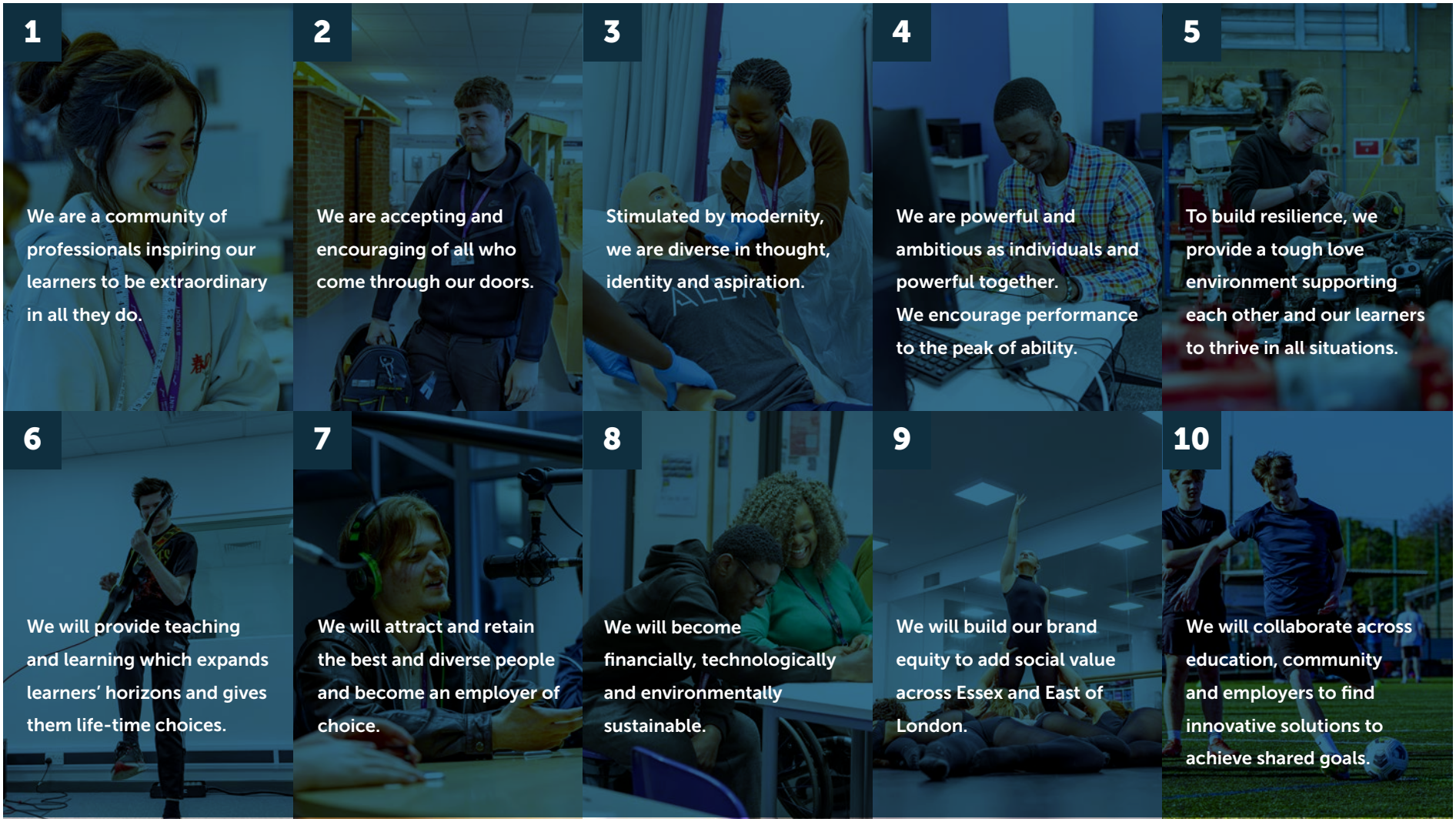
Our Mission

Working together, we will provide knowledge, education and skills development for all.

Our Values

Professional, Encouraging, Diverse, Ambitious, Resilient.

Values and Strategic Priorities





Purpose

The South Essex Colleges Group (SECG) strategic plan of 2023 to 2027 sets out our ambition to be central to the transformation of our communities, enabling everyone to achieve their potential.

As the largest provider of technical and vocational education and training for 16-18 year olds, adults and apprentices within Greater Essex, SECG is highly conscious of its responsibilities in providing a breadth of curriculum which both meets the aspirations of individuals and is responsive to local and regional skills priorities.

The 2026/27 Accountability Statement is influenced by and aligned with the SECG 2026/2030 Growth Strategy. This Strategy is informed by both Government policy and local infrastructure projects and identifies gains and losses of market share and potential areas for recovery and expansion in 16-19 programmes, adult learning, higher education, and apprenticeships.

SECG provides a comprehensive range of vocational, technical and academic courses for 16-19 year-olds and adults, with a small number of electively home educated (EHE) 14-16 year old students. Higher Education (HE) provision is delivered in partnership with the University of East Anglia, University of the Arts London and the Open University. The Group offers apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds and adults primarily within the local area.

SECG is committed in playing a leading role in ensuring that the young people of South Essex today are able to access the high-value, highly skilled and well paid jobs of tomorrow, and that our adult population is equipped to take up the opportunities which are immediately available.

Annual curriculum review enables us to amend, remove and introduce programmes and ensure the relevance of a rich curriculum which empowers our learners to develop the knowledge and skills demanded by our diverse economy.

Annual curriculum review

Annual curriculum review enables us to amend, remove and introduce programmes and ensure the relevance of a rich curriculum which empowers our learners.

As a consequence we have:

- Reallocated resources to focus on priority STEM provision using Skills injection funding to support Engineering, Construction and Digital Higher Technical Qualifications
- Acquired an OfS grant for Higher Education to facilitate the building of Clean Energy Centres at Thurrock and Basildon to support higher level courses and apprenticeships in Clean Energy areas
- Introduced an A Level Computer pathway in September 2026
- Expanded Digital provision through growth of T-level pathways and effective development of employer relationships to deliver high quality Industry Placements for high numbers of students
- Developed progression routes onto HTQs in Stem, Digital, Engineering, Creative and Health
- Gained investment from the Savoy Trust to expand our teaching kitchen at Southend City
- Developed in Engineering, Building Services, Construction and Automotive add-on qualifications and bespoke sessions in Sustainability and Green technologies
- Utilised the Innovation fund and tailored learning funding to support bespoke employer led courses for Thames Clippers, the NHS, UPS, National Talent Academy and South East Advanced Technical Skills, DP World and Sales training for local businesses

SOUTH EAST INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The South East Institute of Technology (SEIoT) is led by South Essex Colleges Group with core partners University of East Anglia, Anglia Ruskin University, Canterbury Christchurch University, Harlow College, MidKent College, East Sussex College Group, Chelmsford College and Plumpton College. Employer partners include DP World (London Gateway), Stansted Airport, Balfour Beatty and Leonardo.

The SEIoT provides training particularly in higher technical skills for industry relevant to LSiPs across Essex, Kent and Sussex. Funding for the IoT has enabled investment in high-tech equipment alongside similar equipment for engineering, digital and logistics, which enables the sharing of expertise across the partnership to help alleviate tutor shortages. The key industry sectors which are supported through applied research and skills development include Engineering and Manufacturing, Transport and Logistics, Health Science, Construction and the Built Environment, Horticulture (including viticulture) and Animal Science, and Information and Communication Technology.

Collaboration between the FE Colleges include skills competitions, use of Matterport cameras to showcase the investment that has taken place and the co-teaching of units between the Colleges in Construction Management. SECG is a spoke within the Construction Technical Excellence College led by Eastern Group and the Clean Energy TEC led by Colchester Institute working together for the delivery of courses within Construction and Clean Energy.



Context and place

Serving our communities

South Essex Colleges Group consists of three local Colleges: Basildon Technical College, Thurrock, and Southend City.

The group structure recognises that the communities we serve are both distinct and geographically distant, and that the South Essex region is better served by having a training provider with a clear local focus, accountable to local stakeholders and with a curriculum tailored to meet the specific needs and interests of local people.







South Essex Colleges Group is currently located within the Unitary Authorities of Thurrock and Southend and the Local Authority in Basildon, part of Essex County Council. In 2025 the Government accepted a request from Greater Essex to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme and the three councils will combine, initially as a Combined County Authority and ultimately as a Strategic Mayoral Authority for Greater Essex.

Alongside the devolution process the three councils have committed to Local Government Reorganisation which would see all fifteen councils in Greater Essex combined into five Unitary Councils. SECG's influence will be mostly felt in South West Essex and South East Essex.

SECG serves the towns and surrounding areas of South Essex and the Thames corridor, having two large main campuses delivering a general further education curriculum in Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock, and three smaller specialist centres delivering motor vehicle, construction and engineering programmes in Leigh-on-Sea, digital technologies at Basildon town centre, and engineering and building services in Basildon. The Back Stage Centre in Purfleet is a specialist production campus for the creative industries.

SECG

SECG serves the towns and surrounding areas of South Essex and the Thames corridor.

Essex is one of the largest areas in England, with a population of 1.93m with the largest share of residents aged 50–64 and 65+, highlighting an increasingly ageing population. It is diverse, with one of the longest coastlines, rural and urban areas and some of the wealthiest and the most deprived parts of the country.

Proximity to London is significant to the labour market, with high levels of commuting into the capital and other areas (10% of Essex residents travel more than 10km to work). Home working is now sizeable, with 32.1% of residents working from home. Proximity to areas such as Cambridge, Hertfordshire and Suffolk are also factors for people commuting in and out of Essex.

The county is experiencing major growth on a nationally significantly scale and much larger than in other parts of the country. This will further impact local skills needs and future jobs and is already increasing demand in sectors like construction and engineering.

Essex population

Essex is one of the largest areas in England, with a population of 1.93m



The LSIP area comprises approximately 81,000 enterprises with 99.7% of those being small or medium in size, and 777,850 jobs. Greater Essex demonstrates a broad and mature economic structure, closely mirroring the wider East of England and England overall, but with several distinctive strengths.

Wholesale and retail trade is the largest employment sector (15.7%), followed by Human health and social work (13.2%) and Administrative and support services (9.4%). These proportions align with national patterns, though Greater Essex shows a slightly higher concentration in Construction (8.4% vs. 5.0% in England) and Transportation and storage (7.9% vs. 5.1%).

This reflects the area's strategic logistics role, supported by major ports and transport corridors. Manufacturing accounts for 5.8% of employment, below regional and national averages, highlighting a continued shift towards services. Professional, scientific and technical activities (7.1%) and Information and communication (2.3%) remain comparatively modest. Education (8.9%) and Public administration (3.7%) broadly match national shares, while Human health employment is slightly lower than the England average (13.2% vs. 13.5%). Overall, Greater Essex's profile indicates a service led economy with strong retail, health, and logistics bases. There are a number of large infrastructure projects located within the area such as Lower Thames Crossing, Thames Freeport, Freeport East, and Bradwell B, but Essex has a smaller share of larger employers compared to both the East of England and England overall.

Over the last two years (Jan 2024–Dec 2025), unique job postings show a steady decline from the elevated levels seen in 2023. Early 2024 begins around 40,000 postings, but numbers gradually fall throughout the year, dipping to around 30,000 by late 2024. Throughout 2025, the labour market remains relatively flat, with postings fluctuating modestly between roughly 28,000 and 34,000. However, the year ends with another noticeable drop in December 2025. Overall, the trend suggests cooling employer demand, reduced hiring activity, and a more restrained job market compared with the peak observed in mid 2023.



The data shows strong demand across several key sectors from Jan–Dec 2025. Health and social care dominates, with care workers and home carers representing the largest share at 7,375 postings (13%), reflecting ongoing workforce pressures and high turnover in care roles. Nursing and social work roles also generate steady demand. The Retail and hospitality sector shows similarly high volumes, with sales related roles (6,359; 11%) and cleaners and domestics (6,108; 11%) among the most advertised, highlighting reliance on lower paid, high churn occupations. Education also contributes significantly, especially secondary teachers (7%) and general teaching professionals (6%), pointing to continued recruitment challenges. Transport demand is notable too, with large goods vehicle drivers (3,461; 6%), suggesting persistent shortages in logistics.

Overall, the postings show a labour market heavily driven by essential services, care, education, logistics, and consumer facing sectors, where staffing pressures remain high and recruitment demand consistent. The key areas of growth expected within Essex are Construction, Travel, accommodation and transport, Business and other services and non-marketed services.

Compared to the UK average of 67.9%, 56.2% of the working population of Thurrock have qualifications at Level 3 or above; 59.5% in Southend and 36.8% in Basildon are similarly qualified. Level 4+ qualification rates are at 36.7% for Thurrock, 42.7% for Southend and 35.0% for Basildon compared to the UK average of 47.6%.

SECG has a significant number of students from areas of deprivation with 22.5% coming from areas of low deprivation, 35.8% coming from areas of medium deprivation and 37.4% coming from areas of high deprivation.

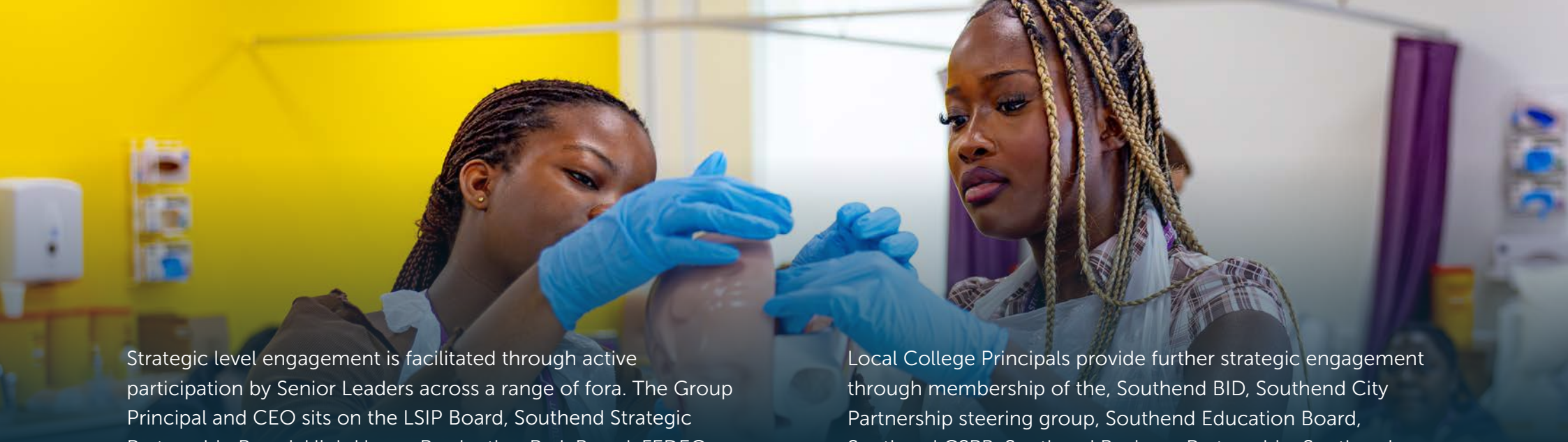
Area	Percentage of students
Low deprivation	22.5%
Medium deprivation	35.8%
High deprivation	37.4%



Approach to developing the annual Accountability Statement

South Essex Colleges Group ensures that its curriculum offer aligns with local needs through active engagement with key partners across the region. In 2024, Ofsted identified that the college makes a strong contribution to meeting skills needs. "Leaders are working very effectively with partners across Essex on the skills strategy. Leaders have developed a skills agenda that is at the heart of their vision and strategy to be an anchor institution in each locality, collaborating on major high-profile projects. Leaders have developed effective curriculums to meet the need for skills in new and emerging technologies and have a strong input on major employment and skills forums across the county."

Curriculum planning at SECG is based around a system of ongoing review of new and emerging needs across the South Essex region and beyond. Heads of School own the process, with oversight from the Executive Director Curriculum Innovation, in order to effectively utilise their specialist knowledge and skills within individual industries. To ensure a responsive offer, SECG actively engages employers in curriculum design and delivery, allowing for locally bespoke provision mapped to current and emerging need. The early involvement of LSIP partners in curriculum planning continues to expand collaborative relationships. SECG works in collaboration with other local providers to meet specific local and regional skills needs. This includes joint working with the Federation of Essex Colleges on local projects, the work of the South East Institute of Technology, the Essex Providers Network, and the newly developed Colleges of Technical Excellence in both Construction and Clean Energy.



Strategic level engagement is facilitated through active participation by Senior Leaders across a range of fora. The Group Principal and CEO sits on the LSIP Board, Southend Strategic Partnership Board, High House Production Park Board, FEDEC (Federation of Essex Colleges),and the AoC Workforce Strategy Group, enabling the Group to drive the development of a cohesive offer against identified local priorities.

South Essex Colleges Group is represented at senior level on the Southend Business Executive, Southend Skills Board, Thurrock Skills Board, Thurrock Economic Development and Skills Partnership, Essex Provider Network, Essex Construction Alliance, Basildon Business Group, FEDEC Green Skills Advisory Panel, Local Skills Improvement Plan skills groups for Engineering and Logistics and Basildon Creative People and Places. There is extensive engagement with employers for major projects including Lower Thames Projects, Balfour Beatty, the Murphy Group, Thames Freeport, South East Advanced Technical skills, Basildon New Vision, Mid and South Essex NHS Trust and Eastgate shopping centre as well as supporting Basildon Council with skills accelerator courses, Basildon Creative Technical Festival and the Social Spark steering group led by the Mid and South Essex NHS.

Local College Principals provide further strategic engagement through membership of the, Southend BID, Southend City Partnership steering group, Southend Education Board, Southend CSPB, Southend Business Partnership, Southend Executive Business Buzz Essex, Basildon Construction Skills Group, Essex Business Partnerships Limited (Construction), Tech Partnership (Basildon), and the Thurrock 11-25 Strategy Group. The Basildon College Principal works with over 230 local employers within the Engineering, Automotive, Digital, Creative, Construction and Electrical and Plumbing areas, and sits on the Gatsby Foundation curriculum design groups alongside a collaborative national network of educators for Engineering and Digital.

Engagement

Strategic level engagement is facilitated through active participation by Senior Leaders across a range of fora.

Contribution to regional and local priorities

SECG actively seeks new funding opportunities to grow and develop our curriculum in line with local needs, including the seeking of funding for the delivery of HTQs in line with LSIP priorities. Resources are aligned across the Group to ensure that equipment, people and investment provide the best opportunities for our students.

SECG has accessed a number of projects and funds to support initiatives which align with local and regional skills needs:

- Skills injection funding (SIF1) to support the development of HTQs in Community Coaching, Leadership & Management and Early Years Educator
- Skills injection funding (SIF2) to support the development of HTQs in Digital, Engineering, Construction, Creative and Health Care Professions
- Skills Bootcamp funding to support the training of HGV drivers in Essex and the Midlands
- Thames Freeport bid to support the writing and delivery of Level 3 and 4 in Hydrogen and e modules for CPD for College staff across the SEIoT
- Thames Freeport funding in partnership with Port of London at Tilbury for an immersive connected classroom to allow for collaborative teaching across curriculum areas and within the Construction TEC, Clean Energy TEC and Freeport consortium
- Tailored funding to support bespoke training for Thames Clippers, UPS, the NHS, Engineering companies for welding skills, Sales Geek for sales courses, and DP World for Engineering courses
- OfS Higher Education Capital Grant to support the provision of higher level qualifications in Retrofit, Modern methods of construction and Clean Energy skills

New funding opportunities

SECG actively seeks new funding opportunities to grow and develop our curriculum in line with local needs.



Contribution to regional and local priorities

Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering

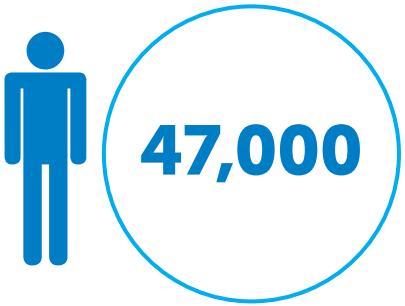
Priority



☑ Local ☑ Regional

Employment

Over 47,000 employed people across Essex.



Market analysis

Top posted occupations:

- Production Worker (1881)
- Maintenance Technician (1648)
- Utilities Technician (1142)
- Mechanical Engineering (1131)
- Civil Engineering (1095)
- Quality Inspector/ Engineering (824)
- Construction Helper/Worker (417)
- Industrial Engineer (409)
- Scheduler/Operations Coordinator (363)
- Electronic/Electrical Assembler (322)

Developmental aims

- Ageing workforce impacting on skills needed – high need for digital skills
- Cross-over with digital and robotics and changing the skills needed
- Projected reduction in overall employment in the sector, but the ageing workforce, need for digital skills and competition from other sectors means a skills shortage is still likely

Examples of courses and facilities locally

- Range of Courses from Level 2 to T Levels in Engineering
- Apprenticeships across a range of standards – Welder, Fitter, Machinist, Mechatronics, Engineering Technician including Marine Engineering, MOET including Higher Apprenticeships in Engineering and Automation & Control Engineering
- Upskilling courses in Welding
- HTQ Mechatronics and Automation & Control Engineering
- Specialism of South East Institute of Technology

Contribution to regional and local priorities

Construction and the Built Environment

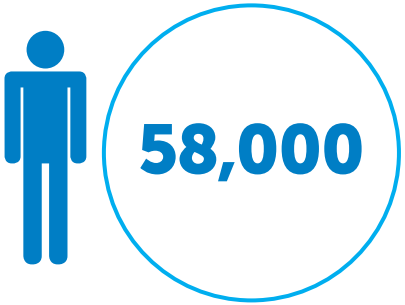
Priority



☑ Local ☑ Regional

Employment

Over 58,000 employed people across Essex.



Market analysis

Top posted occupations:

- Construction Helper/Worker (1975)
- Labourer/Material Handler (1656)
- Quantity surveyors (1565)
- Forklift/Pallet Jack Operator (906)
- Manufacturing Machine Operator (451)
- Carpenter (761)
- Validation Engineer (575)
- Land Surveyors (526)
- HVAC Mechanic Installer (496)
- Repair/Service Technician (496)

Developmental aims

Male dominated, ageing workforce – need to diversify

- Competition from London
- Perception and awareness – a barrier
- Large infrastructure and housing – significant
- Growing need for green, digital, retrofit, modular and low carbon skills
- Shortage of construction tutors and latest industry knowledge of existing tutors

Examples of courses and facilities locally

- Range of courses from Entry Level to Level 3 T Level in DSP
- Apprenticeships in Construction
- HTQ in Construction Management
- Upskilling courses in CAD and BIM
- Adult courses for entry into Construction
- Green skills
- Specialism of South East Institute of Technology

Contribution to regional and local priorities

Creative and Cultural

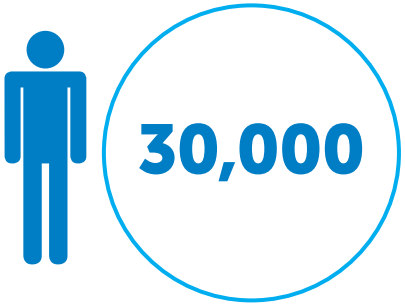
Priority



☑ Local ☑ Regional

Employment

Over 30,000 employed people across Essex.



Market analysis

Top posted occupations:

- Production – film production, fashion design, ceramics, television production, software engineering, publishing, musical production, theatre set production
- Supply Chain – Construction services, freight transport, wood manufacturing, metal work

Developmental aims

- Talent retention as close to London
- Lack of career opportunities locally
- Deprivation and lack of equity in terms of access to cultural activity
- Economic developments
- Widespread between cities, towns, villages and rural areas
- Lack of skills of younger community

Examples of courses and facilities locally

- Range of courses from Level 1 to Level 3 in Creative
- HE courses in Costume Design, Film and Media, Media Make-Up
- Apprenticeship with the ROH in Garment Maker
- NCCI
- The Backstage Centre offering Commercial lettings to Film and Music industry

Contribution to regional and local priorities

Digitech

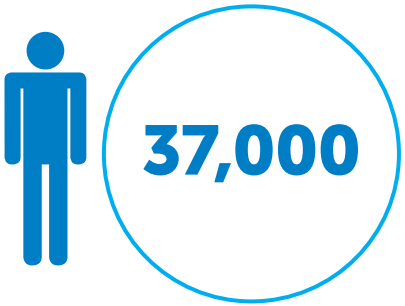
Priority



☑ Local ☑ Regional

Employment

Over 37,000 employed people across Essex.



Market analysis

Top posted occupations:

- Computer Support Specialist (1744)
- IT Project Manager (607)
- Database Administrator (336)
- Software QA Engineer/Tester (282)
- Information Security Engineer/Analyst (261)
- Network/Systems Administrator (250)
- Network/Systems Support Specialist (239)
- Data Engineer (148)
- Hardware Engineer (144)
- Project Manager (73)

Developmental aims

- Impact on all sectors due to the 'digital revolution' as well as specialists needs
- Disproportionately male
- Resilient and jobs able to be done flexibly/remotely
- Shortage of tutors and speed of sector change impacting on knowledge of existing tutors

Examples of courses and facilities locally

- Range of courses from Level 2 to T Level in a number of occupational specialisms
- HTQ in Cyber Security, Data Analytics and Network Engineering
- Adult courses entry into Digital
- Specialism of South East Institute of Technology
- Degree course in Games Design and Digital Animation

Contribution to regional and local priorities

Education

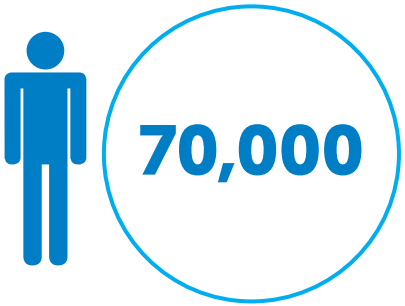
Priority



☑ Local ☑ Regional

Employment

Over 70,000 employed people across Essex.



Market analysis

Top posted occupations:

- Teaching Assistant (2728)
- Tutor (2533)
- Primary School Teacher (1612)
- University Lecturer (1155)
- Secondary School Teacher (694)
- SEN Teacher (533)
- Science Teacher (508)
- Supply Teacher (471)
- Vocational Education Tutor (460)
- English/Language/Arts Teacher (389)

Developmental aims

Currently facing shortages, particularly given general recruitment challenges and in areas such as construction and engineering teaching

- A continued need given population growth

Examples of courses and facilities locally

- Range of courses from Level 1 to T Level in Early Years
- Teacher training courses from Level 3 to Level 5
- HE courses in Early Childhood Studies and SEN

Contribution to regional and local priorities

Health and Social Care

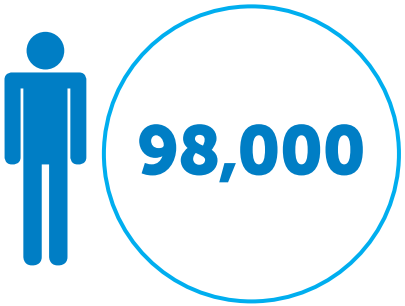
Priority



☑ Local ☑ Regional

Employment

Over 98,000 employed people across Essex.



Market analysis

Top posted occupations:

- Caregiver/Personal Care Aide (6064)
- Registered General Nurse (RGN) (5912)
- Care Assistant (4938)
- Nursing Assistant/Healthcare Assistant (1937)
- Physician (1395)
- Nursery Nurses/assistant and playworker (1194)
- Healthcare Manager (1149)
- Family/School/General Social Worker (1042)
- Nurse Practitioner (879)
- Physiotherapist (655)

Developmental aims

- Population growth and ageing population (above national average) will impact on sector
- Vacancies have increased – challenges recruiting and perceptions of sector as a result
- Some reduction in EU and overseas careworkers
- The pandemic raised the profile of health & Care

Examples of courses and facilities locally

- Range of courses from Level 1 to T Level in Health
- HE Access courses in Health
- HTQ in Nursing Associate
- Adult courses entry into the NHS
- Specialism of South East Institute of Technology

Contribution to regional and local priorities

Transport and Logistics

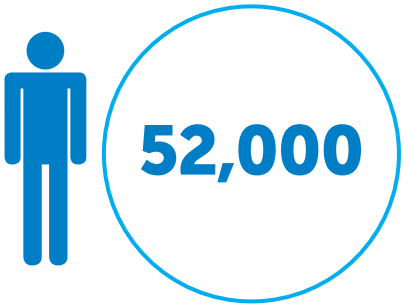
Priority



☑ Local ☑ Regional

Employment

Over 52,000 employed people across Essex.



Market analysis

Top posted occupations:

- Delivery Driver (2965)
- Automotive Service Technician/Mechanic (2367)
- Warehouse/Inventory Associate (210)
- Labourer/Material Handler (2035)
- HGV/LGV Class 2 Driver (1817)
- HGV/LGV Class 1 Driver (1041)
- Storage/Distribution Manager (489)
- Van/Taxi/Shuttle Driver (467)
- Driving Instructions (454
- Auto Body Technician (285)

Developmental aims

- Impact of digital and robotics on future skills requirements and automation (e.g. warehousing)
- Thames Freeport and Freeport East to grow and expand economic activity near local ports
- Parts of sector (e.g. HGV driving) saw huge increase in demand throughout pandemic which has continued

Examples of courses and facilities locally

- Range of apprenticeships International Freight Forwarding, Large Goods Vehicle, Transport and Warehouse Supervisor, Warehouse Operative
- Skills Bootcamp in HGV Driving in Essex and the Midlands
- Commercial Driving courses in Essex and the Midlands
- Adult courses entry into Warehouse including Forklift driving courses
- Automated warehouse upskilling courses
- Specialism of South East Institute of Technology

Proposed Aims and Target Outcomes for 2026/27

Proposed Aim	Objective	Target Outcomes	Timeline
Aim 1: Grow priority technical provision in sectors critical to local and national economic growth	Increase enrolments in Construction, Engineering, Digital and Green Skills programmes by at least 12% in 2026/27 compared with 2025/26 baseline volumes, with growth focused on areas identified through the Essex LSIP, Lower Thames Crossing, Freeport and DP World developments.	• Increase learner numbers from 985 to 1110 across the identified priority sectors, for 16-19 study programme learners. • All curriculum plans aligned to emerging regional labour market demand. • Annual review of provision undertaken with employers and LSIP partners.	July 2027
Aim 2: Expand Higher Technical Education and progression to Level 4+	Increase participation in higher-level learning by expanding Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs), methods of delivery, Higher Education and Level 4–5 technical programmes.	• Increase in Level 4+ enrolments compared with 2025/26, Degree numbers to increase from 385 to 397 and HTQs from 29 to 130, with the introduction of distant learning delivery models. • At least three new progression pathways from Level 3 into HTQs in visual effects, modern methods of construction and engineering. • Increase the proportion of Level 3 completers progressing to Level 4+ study, to at least 20%.	July 2027

Proposed Aims and Target Outcomes for 2026/27

Proposed Aim	Objective	Target Outcomes	Timeline
Aim 3: Strengthen adult skills and employment outcomes	Increase adult participation in flexible skills provision that addresses local skills shortages and supports economic inactivity reduction.	• Growth in Logistic Bootcamps., specifically HGV drivers, forklift telehandlers for lower Thames crossing and introduction of bus drivers in March 2027. • Growth in Green Skills Bootcamps, specifically Hydrogen skills • Increase in adults progressing to employment, apprenticeships or higher-level learning.	July 2027
Aim 4: Grow and diversify apprenticeship provision	Develop a responsive apprenticeship offer aligned to priority growth sectors and employer demand, specifically Construction, Engineering, Digital and Green Technologies.	• Introduction of the apprenticeship units, with a minimum of 40 in Green skills and welding. • Expansion of apprenticeship opportunities in Construction, with the introduction of Groundworks apprenticeships. • Increase employer satisfaction with apprenticeships to at least 90%.	July 2027

Proposed Aims and Target Outcomes for 2026/27

Proposed Aim	Objective	Target Outcomes	Timeline
Aim 5: Embed employer leadership within curriculum design and delivery	Ensure all technical and vocational programmes are informed by current industry practice and employer need.	• 100% of technical and vocational curriculum areas have documented employer input into curriculum planning and review. • Every learner in technical provision participates in at least one meaningful employer-led activity annually. • Increase the number of active employer partners supporting curriculum design and delivery.	July 2027
Aim 6: Improve learner achievement, progression and destinations	Deliver outstanding outcomes that support progression into employment, apprenticeships and higher-level study.	• Overall achievement rate of at least 90%. • Positive progression rates maintained or improved across all learner groups. • Reduction in achievement gaps between learner groups.	July 2027

Proposed Aims and Target Outcomes for 2026/27

Proposed Aim	Objective	Target Outcomes	Timeline
Aim 7: Support inclusive participation and social mobility	Improve participation and achievement for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds and those furthest from education and employment.	• Increase enrolment of learners from areas of disadvantage and under-represented groups. • Expand access programmes enabling progression into Level 3, Level 4+ and employment. • Increase enrolments on Access to HE pathways and progression to higher-level study.	July 2027



Inclusive Mainstream Fund

The Inclusive Mainstream Fund will be used to strengthen our whole-college approach to inclusion for learners aged 16–19, ensuring that learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can access high-quality education and achieve strong outcomes within mainstream provision.

Our strategy is rooted in early and accurate identification of need across the learner cohort, including those without prior diagnosis, enabling timely and proportionate support. We will continue to embed a consistent, college-wide graduated approach—assess, plan, do and review—so that inclusive practice is integral to teaching, learning and assessment. This includes developing staff expertise in adaptive teaching, ensuring curriculum intent and implementation reflect the needs of diverse learners, and providing targeted support that enables learners to access, progress and succeed within their chosen study programmes.

Leaders will ensure that provision remains aligned with national SEND priorities and local skills needs, supporting learners' sustained progression into employment, apprenticeships or further study. The impact of this funding will be evaluated through robust quality assurance processes, including analysis of retention, achievement and progression for learners with SEND, alongside learner voice and curriculum review. This will provide clear evidence of the effectiveness of our inclusive practice and will inform self-assessment, improvement planning and accountability discussions.



Local Needs Duty

In response to The Skills Act (2022), the Board of Governors have conducted a review of the SECG approach, determining how well our curriculum meets local skills needs and prepares for those that will emerge in the future, through oversight, challenge, and discussion with employers and Senior Leaders.

SECG will continue to work with key partners within the region to review and refine our curriculum offer. We continue to collaborate with our partner Higher Education Institutions to design seamless progression routes into higher technical and academic study and with Independent Training Providers through subcontracting where provision adds value to our offer. We will continue to act as a key contributor to educational partnerships and initiatives across the region, sharing best practice, resources and skills

Key partners

SECG will continue to work with key partners within the region to review and refine our curriculum offer.

Corporation/Governing Body statement

On behalf of the Governing Body of the South Essex Colleges Group, it is hereby confirmed that Governors have reviewed the Group curriculum plan and have concluded that the education and training provided and planned by SECG meets local and regional needs. Governors have confirmed that the SECG Accountability Statement fulfils the statutory Local Needs Duty and sets out an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives approved by Governors at their meeting on 14th of July 2026.

Supporting documentation

- https://data.essex.gov.uk/
- https://www.essexchambers.co.uk/lsip/
- https://www.thurrockopportunities.co.uk/
- https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1941962833/report.aspx?town=essex
- https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/31/130672
- https://mides.rcu.co.uk/login
- https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/lower-thames-crossing/what-is-the-lower-thames-crossing/




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