

Warrington and Vale Royal College
Public Contribution Statement (updated June 2023)

1. Introduction

- 1.1** Warrington & Vale Royal College is an FE institution providing education and skills training in the communities it serves notably: Warrington, Winsford, Northwich and within the Liverpool and Manchester City regions. Our aim is to maximise the college's effectiveness in delivering our defined mission.
- 1.2** As part of the AoC College's Code of Good Governance (updated September 2021) and the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022, the Board of Corporation (governors) must ensure that the college is responsive to the communities it serves, responding to labour market intelligence and local skills needs and builds strong and effective relationships with key stakeholders.
- 1.3** **This document should be read in conjunction with the college's Accountability Agreement which supersedes it in many ways.**

2. Our Mission, Values and Strategic Aims

- 2.1** Our Mission is "Realising potential; transforming lives".
- 2.2** Supporting our Mission we have seven core values which are at the heart of every decision we make:

1. We put our learners and customers first;
2. We recognise that people are our greatest asset;
3. We pursue excellence in all we do;
4. We embrace change;
5. We collaborate and work in partnership with others;
6. We operate ethically and responsibly and
7. We are guided by the principles of sound financial stewardship and operational efficiency

- 2.3** The college also has six strategic aims (SAs) that are updated every year to ensure the college remains on track to fulfil its mission, as follows:

SA1: Leading a first-class technical college, preparing for and securing a Good - or better - Ofsted outcome.

SA2: Leading a first-class technical college, developing curricula and technical teaching and learning that serves the sectors and skills need locally, aligned with EMSI data, the Cheshire and Warrington LSIP and the Warrington Skills' Commission.

SA3: Embed the college's Transforming Lives Strategy, engaging in the 'Levelling Up' agenda to develop human, social and institutional capital. Establish the college as an 'anchor institution' for the communities it serves.

SA4: Evolving a 'digital first' culture, engaging in innovation digitalisation.

SA5: Implementing the college's Carbon Management Plan and taking fuller action to 'green' the college and safeguard its sustainability.

SA6: Meeting planned growth targets, mitigating risk to maintain good financial health and investing for the future.

3. College Engagement (not an exhaustive list)

- 3.1** The college and its governors believe that communication with stakeholders should involve a mutual exchange of views and dialogue. It is important to actively consult with local people, schools, community groups, local businesses, Local Authorities and public agencies/ authorities to effectively deliver the college's Mission and to gauge levels of satisfaction with existing and planned service provision.

3.2 Public Engagement

Information is disseminated to a wide range of audiences through publications, traditional and social media, exhibitions, open days, workshops and other such means.

3.2 Engagement with Schools

The college's marketing and admissions team visit schools, engaging in schools' liaison activities and pupils are also invited onto college campuses for open events and other admissions-related activities. Members of the college's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) sit on local headteachers' forums: WASCL and CWASH.

3.3 Economic and Business Engagement

The college and its governors seek to forge and sustain strong business and economic links so that the needs of employers and local skills priorities are understood and reflected in the college's education and skills training offer. See the college's Accountability Agreement for more detail.

The college has an increasing number of 'Academy' projects - Health and Social Care, Construction and Civil Engineering for example - which have been grant funded, for example by Towns' Fund, DfE and LEP capital, and through which a number of Business Centre Managers form the 'lynch-pin' between employer partners (on steering groups) and curriculum teams to develop employer-responsive provision.

3.4 Civic and Partnership Engagement

The college and its governors recognise the importance of the college's work with the Local Authorities of Warrington Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council and the benefits of collaborative working with other, key stakeholders such as the University of Chester and The Warrington and Halton Hospitals' Health Trust (the latter for which the principal sits as a governor). See also section 4 for a list of key stakeholders, many of whom the college is formally engaged with.

College governors are committed to using their local networks, wherever possible, to encourage dialogue and understanding between the college and the communities it serves.

4 Our Key Stakeholders

4.1 The college acts as an anchor institution and is well represented in the communities it serves, working with many local, operational stakeholder groups, and in strategic partnership with a number of key stakeholders and stakeholder groups (not an exhaustive list) as follows:

- Employer Steering Groups, various and in all stated priority sectors
- Local Enterprise Partnership: Board membership, various LEP funded projects
- Warrington Borough Council: Warrington and Co., Levelling Up (Town Deal) Board
- Cheshire West & Chester: Anchor Institutions' Group
- The University of Chester
- WASCL: Warrington Association of School and College Leaders
- CWASH: Cheshire West & Chester School Headteachers
- CWIEB: Cheshire West Improving Education Board
- Consortium of Cheshire (FE) Colleges: working in close collaboration with Cheshire West and Chester College, Reaseheath College and Macclesfield College, various groups from principals' group onwards
- Warrington & Halton Health Trust: Town Deal partner, reciprocal governor representation
- Warrington Disability Partnership: partner and advisor
- Community groups / centres in Orford, Westy, Fearnhead, Croft, Culcheth, Bewsey and Dallam and Nora Street with plans to extend the reach even further in Warrington, Winsford and Northwich
- Association of Colleges: partner colleges across the north, for example, York College
- Department for Education: Strategic Development Fund and Institute of Technology bids / projects
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: Town Deal bids / projects

The college is in almost constant dialogue with the local and national stakeholders above and considers its agency as an anchor institution, at least in part, to help its partner stakeholders to meet their priorities. The college aims to improve and build upon its stakeholder engagement, acting as a local system leader and cementing its place in the hearts and minds of the stakeholders and communities it serves.