



Public Benefit Statement

The Corporation was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purposes of conducting Halesowen College which is an exempt charity under the terms of the Charities Act 1993 as amended by the Charities Acts 2006 and 2011. The College is accountable to its learners, to the wider community it serves and other stakeholders. As such this public benefit statement describes how Halesowen College seeks to add value to the social, economic and well-being of the community it serves.

Aims and Objectives

The College mission as approved by its members is “to be the leading choice for post 16 education and training”. Section 3 of the 2011 Charities Act specifies charitable purposes for the public benefit which includes the advancement of education. The provision at Halesowen College meets the public benefit principles in as much as there are identifiable benefits to the public/section of the public. The purpose of the College is the delivery of high quality education and training that maximises student opportunities and success. This will be achieved through a framework to:

- design and promote services to fulfil clients’ requirements and needs
- provide a wide range of high quality learning programmes
- ensure that the College actively seeks to improve quality, efficiency and effectiveness in all its activities

The aims of the College are defined in its Strategic Plan 2011-2015 ‘Leading the Way to 2015’ and are as follows:

- Maintain and develop an exceptional range of core 16-19 learning opportunities delivering high levels of success and progression.
- Diversify the portfolio of provision through curriculum, partnership and distributed approaches to delivery.
- Lead, recognise, retain and develop the most capable and committed staff.
- Secure an outstanding estate and facilities.
- Vigorously pursue the enhancement of reputation, brand and mutuality.

The mission and strategic plan make provisions for the advancement of education and knowledge to the public/section of the public.

The College mission and strategic priorities are supported by [key aims](#).

The Annual Report provides information on the College’s achievements against these objectives and outlines any transformational projects for the future.

Outstanding student achievement and progression to higher level courses reflect the exceptional range of learning opportunities which deliver high levels of success. The Associate College Partnership with University of Worcester is an example of curriculum diversification through partnership. The College has again participated in the Best Companies staff engagement survey and is recognised as an Investor in People; leading, retaining and developing the most capable and committed staff. The College is also recognised as a Leader in Diversity. The rigorous assessment to gain this accolade encompassed a range of demonstrable actions to extend equality of opportunity and celebrate diversity. To secure outstanding estates and facilities the College reported on a decade of continuous improvement focusing on the complete overhaul of the estates. The current outstanding financial profile supports the vigorous pursuit of enhanced reputation, brand and mutuality.

In implementing the aims and objectives the College is mindful of its responsibility to ensure that the College acts for the benefit of the public.

Student Admissions and Widening Participation

The College is committed to having a student body that is balanced and diverse in terms of background and experience, with all the educational and cultural benefits that this brings. The College encourage applications from all students whatever their background and prior educational attainment. There is an outstanding breadth of curriculum which offers courses in most subject sector areas and from pre-entry through to Level 4 and above. Each full time student has an individual interview and places are offered on appropriate programmes. Further information on the open admissions policy is available on the website.

www.halesowen.ac.uk

As part of the strategy for widening participation, the College has well developed school links and works with local schools by offering taster days and 14-16 programmes to raise aspirations and engagement. There are bursary and hardship funds to remove financial barriers to education. The College has a well-established programme of activities designed to raise levels of attainment, aspirations and applications among underrepresented groups.

The College is committed to ensuring that all students benefit from an excellent learning and teaching experience as well as tutorial and pastoral support, plus community volunteering programmes, that enable students to develop as individuals and enhance future employability. The College provides a range of student services to ensure student welfare and a successful passage through College life and beyond, including counselling, specialist provision for students with disabilities, mental and physical medical conditions and/or learning difficulties, sport and exercise facilities, careers advice including HE and job fairs, and financial advice. Further information can be found in the Student Handbook available on the website.

Halesowen College works with a local charity The Halesowen Foundation which supports students to develop their talents and potential in sport, music and academia.

Environmental Sustainability Policy

The College believes that environmental sustainability is the foundation of wider economic and social sustainability and is an integral part of good practice. All operations and activities are conducted with proper regard for the environment and there is a commitment to maintaining and, wherever possible, improving the quality of the environment both for the people who work in the College, and for the wide community now and in the future. The College seeks to make the most effective and efficient use of all resources, encouraging all

members of the College community to develop a sustainable approach to work. There is an approved environmental policy with the following aims:

- Reduce carbon emissions by at least 10% by 2016
- Eliminate all waste sent to landfill
- Develop links with the carbon trust
- Efficient and environmentally excellent facilities
- Implement the programme of LED lighting
- Convert all IT hardware to environmentally positive kit
- Reduce paper consumption by 20% by the development of digital systems
- Explore environmental accreditation
- Further educate staff and students thus raising the profile of the environmental agenda

Procurement and Trading Activities

The College has approved procurement, treasury management and financial policies which encompass:

- Not investing College funds or trading with bodies who may have aims contrary to the education and wider aims or objectives of the College or if their activities are illegal under the UK law.
- Not trading or entering banking arrangements with institutions, if the aims of the institutions concerned are contrary to the education or wider aims or objectives of the College or if, by so doing, the wider interests of the College are likely to be materially harmed.
- When procuring goods, budget holders should give due consideration to environmental and sustainability issues. Wherever possible and practical to do so, budget holders should reduce the level of procurement by cutting down on waste and repairing or re-using existing goods and use environmentally friendly goods whenever practical, taking into account best value. Budget holders must balance environmental and social factors alongside economic consideration to achieve value for money on a whole life basis.
- The College adheres to all relevant legislation regarding procurement including Public Services (Social Value Act 2012).

Overall the College serves the community in terms of provision of education, significant employer in the area and through trading activities. This statement captures the diverse nature and scope of benefits provided by the College and confirms its charitable status.

Each year the Corporation formally reviews all activities against public benefit.