

COLLEGE

OF THE EAST



www.collegeoftheeast.ac.uk

About the Review

This Meeting Local Needs Review report considers the activities of Morley College London, and the extent to which they meet local needs. The Review is a new statutory requirement for colleges and Morley is one of a small number of providers nationally who are 'early adopters', contributing in the process to the initiative's roll out later in 2023.

The report looks sequentially in detail at three sources of evidence:

- What Morley College London provides, its role in the wider London education and skills 'ecosystem', its learners, and what is known about the outcomes of learning.
- What is known about local need, from the economic and social perspective, drawing in particular on the new Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP).
- What civic, employer, education provider and community stakeholders and learners think about the College and the extent to which it meets local needs.

In each part of the assessment, key implications for the Review are identified, and these inform the final section, which draws conclusions and proposes actions for the College to consider in order to better meet local needs.

What Morley College Does

Morley College London was founded in 1889 and was a pioneer in offering adults equal access to education.

In 2021/22 the College has a turnover of £18.5m, drawn from a range of mainly public sources and has three main centres at Waterloo, North Kensington and Chelsea. In 2022/23 the College planned to have 12,398 learners and 28,118 course enrolments, the bulk of which were 19+ unaccredited courses and 19+ accredited up to and including Level 2, as well as 16-18 study programmes, 19+ accredited Level 3 courses and some Higher Education.

What is Known About Local Needs

The existing evidence base on London skills needs (most notably the 2023 Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)), highlights that strong growth in demand for labour is expected across all sectors until 2035, but demand for higher-level skills will remain especially strong, transferable skills will be especially important in changing economic conditions, automation and digitalisation will transform the economy and jobs, as will the transition to a greener economy. The implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are only now beginning to be understood. The LSIP identifies particular skills needs for the priority sectors of Built Environment, Creative, Health and Social Care, and Hospitality.

There is also evidence of more local skills needs, which largely reflects the London-wide analysis. Borough-level strategies place an emphasis on helping more disadvantaged groups of people into work by developing skills, typically from a low level, making Essential Skills a key requirement, but also progression to qualifications at higher levels of learning.

Stakeholder Views

The Review engaged a wide range of civic, employer, education provider and community stakeholders, and Morley learners. Those consulted generally took a very positive view of Morley's contribution to meeting local needs, both from the economic and social perspective, and identified a number of specific challenges and opportunities.

Next Steps

The Review identifies the following opportunities for **curriculum development**:

- a) Expand the Essential Skills offer: there is evidence of unmet need and this is a key strength of the College. This will require additional public funding (Adult Education Budget).
- b) Proceed with the planned expansion of unaccredited 19+ courses and Community Learning, as a way of engaging people in learning, creating progression opportunities and improve labour market inclusion.
- c) Develop and grow 16-18 study programmes, 19+ Advanced learning programmes and Higher Education in Creative Industries; Digital; Health and Care; Life Sciences; and Finance, Business and Administration. Specific opportunities to be explored include the following skills shortage roles identified in the LSIP:

| London-wide | Central London Forward |
|-------------|------------------------|
| | |

