NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE

BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE

Strategic Plan
2025-2030

Sub-strategy:
Our Spaces

Our Ambition

Our mission is to create welcoming, safe, supportive, and energising campus environments that enhance the overall experience for students, staff, and our communities. We will improve the atmosphere and utilisation of campuses, celebrate their unique features, and foster deeper community engagement through innovative and inclusive design principles. By investing in and optimising campus spaces, this sub-strategy will support evolving demands while ensuring sustainability, accessibility, and wellbeing.

Linked to Strategic Objectives - 2.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4.
(see table in main strategic plan document).

Key Objectives

1. **To enhance the campus experience** by improving the atmosphere and environment, continuing to develop welcoming, supportive and energising spaces.

2. **To develop our physical infrastructure** by investing in the review and redevelopment of campuses to support changing demands. This incorporates the design and use of general purpose and specialist teaching spaces, staff workspaces, public areas and outdoor amenities.

3. **To promote deeper community engagement** by opening up our campuses and making them more accessible to our partners and neighbours. This is designed to help to increase footfall and occupancy as well as broadening the understanding of the college offer and its facilities.

4. **To celebrate each campus** by highlighting specialist teaching facilities and public spaces. We will signpost the unique attractions of each campus and champion the way in which facilities are bringing learning to life, promoting benefits and opportunities and underlining NESCol's role as anchor institution in the region.

5. **To improve efficiency and utilisation** by ensuring that all spaces are used optimally and managed effectively, in line with the wider aims of the Our Secure Future sub-strategy.

What does success look like?

By 2030 we will have:

INCREASED STUDENT SATISFACTION IN RELATION TO THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR CAMPUSES TO OVER 90%

DEVELOPED A NEW ESTATES MASTERPLAN WITH PRIORITIES AND MILESTONES

Ensured our estate matches demand, delivers value for money and minimises carbon footprint

CONTINUED TO INVEST AT LEAST £1.5M PER ANNUM IN CAPITAL PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Embedded the 'Energy on the Move' vehicle to promote energy transition and outreach delivery

DEVELOPED DESIGN PRINCIPLES TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND CONSISTENCY OF TEACHING FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SPACES ACROSS OUR CAMPUSES

INCREASED TEACHING SPACE UTILISATION BY 15% AND BENCHMARKED OFFICE SPACE UTILISATION

INCREASED THE NUMBER OF EXTERNAL LETS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS HELD ANNUALLY BY 20%

How will we achieve this?

Enhance the campus experience

- **Embedding feedback from staff and students in future planning** – We will incorporate industry developments and evolving student needs. A range of techniques, from collating business intelligence and input from employers to the use of empathy walks, will be utilised to enable benchmarking and ongoing review.

- **Developing design principles for space design** – We will bring consistency across the College estate and embrace best practice in design and pedagogy.

Develop our physical infrastructure

- **Creating an estates masterplan** – We will implement a five-year roadmap that prioritises key spaces for redevelopment, including investment in identified areas of curriculum delivery and public spaces.

- **Identifying opportunities to harness external funding and sponsorship** – We will build upon the success of previous projects and public-private sector collaborations to supplement core capital funding and realise the ambitions of the estates masterplan.

Promote deeper community engagement

- **Increasing commercial lets** - We will review and streamline processes for the administration of commercial lets, considering the structure and pricing of third-party use.

- **Expanding flexible part-time** - We will strive to increase the use of campuses during non-core hours to support enhanced community participation, through innovation in course development and associated promotion.

- **Creating a programme of engagement** – We will bring more partners, stakeholders and community organisations on campus to raise awareness of college spaces and build greater understanding of NESCol's ethos.

- **Expanding co-location** – We will work with partner organisations to identify opportunities for college campuses to be utilised as community hubs, enhancing accessibility to associated services.

- **Utilising outreach resources** – We will seek to build upon NESCol's reputation as the region's College by expanding outreach services and facilities which enable delivery to be agile and responsive.

Celebrate each campus

- **Raising awareness** – We will raise awareness of the unique features of each campus and the opportunities they present to a range of stakeholders.

Improve efficiency and utilisation

- **Driving improvements in room occupancy and space utilisation** – We will ensure effective and accurate development of spaces to ensure alignment with current demand and enhance systems and processes to monitor and review utilisation to meet defined targets.