

Outline of Feasibility Study into developing new Further Education provision in CPCA region.

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Introduction and Overview

INTRODUCTION

GT have been commissioned to explore the feasibility and necessity of expanding further education (FE) provision in the CPCA region

- ✓ Support regional productivity, economic growth;
- ✓ Enhance wellbeing and social mobility.

RATIONALE

PURPOSE

- ✓ Identify current and future skills gaps;
- ✓ Assess the capacity of existing FE provision;
- ✓ Propose strategic expansions to fill gaps effectively.

SCOPE

An initial investigation to inform decision-making, with more detailed analysis conducted in later stages as determined by the decisions made from this preliminary inquiry.



Analysis framework

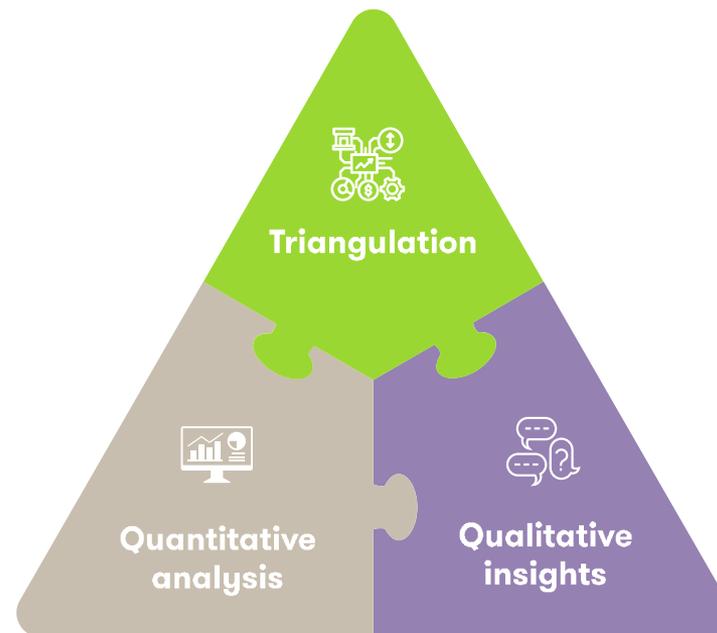
Our approach will be based on consolidating both quantitative and qualitative findings.

Quantitative analysis

Analysis of national and official data, including DfE FE statistics, ONS population projections and employer skills survey.

Qualitative analysis

Semi-structured interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders.



Key considerations

Current & future skills demand

- ✓ Regional employment trends;
- ✓ Emerging industries, including strategically important industries;
 - ✓ Employer needs.



Benchmarking & gap analysis

- ✓ Review of supply against demand;
- ✓ Review of supply against nearest socio-economic neighbours.



Stakeholder perspectives

- Semi-structured interviews with:
- ✓ CPCA, Boards, LA's;
 - ✓ Business;
 - ✓ Education providers.



Current & future skills supply

- ✓ Local educational provision trends;
- ✓ Demographic trends;
- ✓ Impact of housing developments.



Scenario analysis & risks

- ✓ Test impact of key assumptions;
- ✓ Identify risks and potential mitigations.



Potential sites & education delivery partners

- ✓ Geographic location –travel to work and travel to study areas;
- ✓ Expansion of existing institutions;
- ✓ High level estimate of costs.



Caveats and risks

PRELIMINARY NATURE OF ANALYSIS

This work serves as an initial exploration. Some of the questions will be explored in much greater depth as part of any business case process

LIMITED DATA AVAILABILITY

We will use multiple data sources and validation methods (including qualitative research) to produce holistic insights and address any data availability issues.

RISK OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, OR POLICY CHANGES

We will engage with stakeholders to understand potential structure shifts in skills demand and build appropriate flexibility into the recommendations.

RISK OF CURRICULUM CHANGES

We will engage closely and inclusively with providers to understand plans in the pipeline and potential longer-term shifts in skills supply (e.g. remote learning).

STAKEHOLDER BUY-IN & ENGAGEMENT

We will work with CPCA so stakeholders are engaged early and clear on the potential value of the work to them.

Next Steps

- ✓ Identifying key contacts for qualitative information
- ✓ Developing and agreeing on a data framework for quantitative analysis

4 Mar '24



Draft feasibility
study

10 June '24



Final feasibility
study



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