

Black Country



Our modern Industrial Strategy sets out our long-term plan to boost productivity by backing business to create high quality, well-paid jobs throughout the United Kingdom with investment in skills, industries and infrastructure.

In the Black Country a partnership of business and civic leaders – alongside other local partners – is working with the government to build on existing strengths, help business to flourish, and grow skills and opportunities for workers across the area.

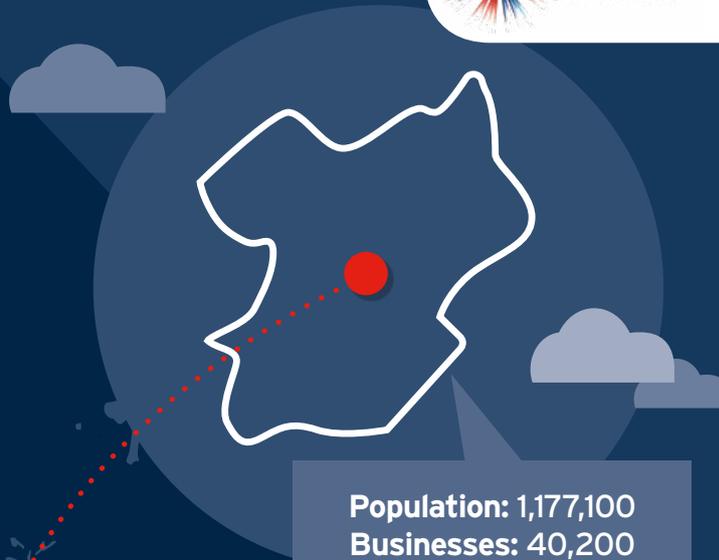
Industrial Strategy highlights include:

 **£4.9m** for a new Science, Technology and Prototyping Centre at the University of Wolverhampton Science Park, to provide the region with much-needed high quality laboratories and workshop space.

 Additional funding to provide residents with digital connectivity through improvements in the availability of full fibre broadband. Wolverhampton is one of the centres for the multi-million pound trial of new high speed 5G connectivity in urban areas.

 Funding for the Pensnett Estate Development – home to almost 200 companies – including the delivery of warehousing and manufacturing facilities on the Pensnett Estate.

 **512,400** people in employment, an increase of **54,800** since 2010. **43,700** workers directly benefiting from the National Living and Minimum Wages. **13,570** apprenticeships starts last year.



Population: 1,177,100
Businesses: 40,200

Case study: Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills

Opened in 2018, this flagship facility provides employer-led training in high-value manufacturing. Benefiting from £8.2m of funding, the Elite Centre provides apprenticeships and short courses to help close the skills gaps identified by local employers and will be based at the Springfield Campus Hub (Wolverhampton) with facilities at the National Foundry Centre (Tipton), the Advance Welding Centre (Dudley) and the Metalforming Centre (Walsall).

For more examples go to bit.ly/IS-map

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership is part of the trailblazer West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy

We have committed more than £45bn to Industrial Strategy programmes supporting research, local infrastructure, training and business growth throughout the United Kingdom. This money is already starting to be spent on the ground.