

Annex 1 to ‘How can skills and the skills system promote productivity growth in areas of the country that are poorer performing economically? Initial findings and questions and issues for policy’ – Supplementary Information

Skills and Productivity Board

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Contents

Local Bodies	6
1. Black Country Skills Factory	6
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	6
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	6
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	6
Funding sources	8
2. Greater Manchester Combined Authority	9
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	9
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	9
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	9
Funding sources	12
3. Tees Valley MCA	13
Number of funding / volume of programmes	13
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	13
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	13
Funding sources	14
4. D2N2	15
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	15
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	15
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	15
Funding sources	17
5. Marches Centre for Manufacturing Skills	18
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	18
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	18
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	18
Funding sources	19
6. Greater Manchester Colleges	20
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	20
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	20
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	20
Funding sources	20

7. W. Yorks Consortium of College	21
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	21
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	21
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	21
Funding sources	24
8. West Midlands College Group	25
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	25
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	25
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	25
Funding sources	26
9. Stevenage Cooperative Inclusive Economic Charter	27
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	27
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	27
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	27
Funding sources	27
10. Pop Up Business Schools, South and Vale, Cherwell	28
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	28
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	28
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	28
Funding sources	28
11. Inclusive Growth Group Plymouth	29
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	29
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	29
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	29
Funding sources	30
12. South Bank University	31
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	31
Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	31
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	31
Funding sources	32
13. Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	33
Numbers on funding / volume of programmes	33

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve	33
Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves	33
Funding sources	34

This document contains information relating to local bodies that are supplementary to the Skills and Productivity Board publication 'What is the role of skills and the skills system in promoting productivity growth in areas of the country that are poorer performing economically?'

Local Bodies

1. Black Country Skills Factory

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

The Black Country Skills Factory¹ has been awarded additional Growth Funding to extend the Skills Factory programme through until March 2019. The additional funding of £317,500 is a 66% increase to the current funding and will enable the Skills Factory to continue to improve the labour market relevance of education and training across the Black Country.

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

They look to raise employability, education and skills in transformational sectors to meet the requirements of the area. To do this they work closely with employers across these sectors to articulate demand for skills in the future.²

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

The Black Country World of Work Weeks³ are educational celebrations for their local key sectors, supported by local partners and employers. Events, webinars and resources are shared on the sector pages.

- The Black Country World of Construction Week⁴ is an annual event which takes place in March. It is targeted towards primary and secondary school students, parents and carers. It was created to engage and inspire the next generation to become part of the construction workforce to build a better Britain. As a transformational sector for the Black Country, the construction sector is hugely important to the region's economy and the weeklong activity programme will better inform young people and adults of the opportunities which the sector has to offer. £1.4bn of the Black Country's GVA is attributed to Building Technologies with around 23,500 jobs attributed to Building Technologies in the area.

¹ [Additional growth funding awarded to successful Skills Factory \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](http://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

² [People \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](http://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

³ [Black Country World of Work \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](http://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

⁴ [Construction \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](http://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

- The Black Country World of Health and Social Care Week⁵ is an annual event which takes place in April. It is targeted towards primary and secondary school students, their parents, and carers. It was created to engage and inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals. Many staff now work in roles that cover both health and social care, and the values and qualities needed are very similar. The Government has set out the need for the health and social care sectors to develop new integrated care models to promote health and wellbeing and provide care. In the future, this could mean careers crossing both sectors in new and exciting roles. £2.3bn Black Country GVA is attributed to this sector with around 65,000 jobs attributed to Health in the area.
- The Black Country World of Hospitality and Visitor Economy Week⁶ is an annual event in the summer. It is targeted towards primary and secondary school students, their parents and carers and was created to engage and inspire the next generation of professionals. On Friday 10th July 2020, the Black Country officially become a UNESCO Global Geopark which will provide the area with an opportunity to further develop this sector. Currently, £0.5bn of the Black Country's GVA is attributed to the Hospitality & Visitor Economy, with around 22,000 jobs attributed to the sector.
- The Black Country World of Manufacturing⁷ week takes place in November each year and offers a week of celebration and education about the sector as a whole. The sector is enormously important to the Black Country and embedded in the regions history. For young people, this week-long programme is perfect to help them develop opinions regarding what they may or may not like to do in the future, including things that they may never have thought about. For the manufacturing and engineering sector, bridging the skills gap is a huge challenge that can only be achieved by reaching out to the next generation. Currently, £2.7bn of the Black Country's GVA is attributed to Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering with around 68,000 people employed in this area.

The Opening Doors initiative⁸ – Opening Doors in the Black Country provides employers with the opportunity to give students an insight into how their organisation works and showcase the range of career opportunities available. Opening Doors directly supports schools to achieve Gatsby Benchmarks 5 and 6 in Careers Education. Offers an additional approach to that provided by careers fairs, employer visits and talks. It

⁵ [Health and Social Care \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](http://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

⁶ [Hospitality and Visitor Economy \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](http://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

⁷ [Manufacturing \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](http://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

⁸ [Opening Doors \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](http://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

provides the opportunity to more local schools and employers. It also provides companies and schools with the chance to win a regional award for the most 'Innovative Partnership of the Year' which is provided by the Careers and Enterprise Company. The RSA Academy in Tipton has been working alongside the Black Country Skills Factory to bring Opening Doors in the Black Country since 2019. This supports the Career Hub schools and colleges to achieve Gatsby benchmarks 5 and 6. First implemented in Wyre Forest, a pilot was then led by a joint partnership between RSA Academies and the NWEDR (North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Service) involving schools and employers in Redditch. This led to the development of the online brochure, opening the opportunity to more local schools and employers and leading to a regional award for most 'Innovative Partnership of the Year' from the Careers and Enterprise Company.

"My Choices"⁹– Is an ongoing campaign supporting school leavers to make informed choices about their next steps into further education, higher education, training, employment or with an apprenticeship. Throughout the year there are webinars, live events, careers surgeries and more. If you are an employer, training provider, college, school or local authority and would like to help us support school leavers, helping them to make these choices, let us know. The Black Country Skills Factory works to link Business and schools in the delivery of programmes co-funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company. These programmes look to improve the careers provision by accelerating the achievement of the Gatsby benchmarks. Together, we have scheduled a number of live events and webinars to help prepare young people for their next steps towards further education and employment.

Black Country Resources Portal¹⁰ - Inspire and prepare young people for the fast-changing world of work, with the help of carefully curated Resource Directories. Locally and nationally developed resource portals are there to help you find trusted, high-quality material that could make a difference. Choose to use both the national resource portals developed by the Careers & Enterprise Company and the locally managed Black Country Careers Hub Resources portal on File Protect.

Funding sources

Black Country Growth Deal

⁹ [My Choices - Support for School Leavers \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](https://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

¹⁰ [Black Country Resources Portal \(blackcountrylep.co.uk\)](https://blackcountrylep.co.uk)

2. Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Greater Manchester has secured approximately £40m million pounds of the European Social Fund to deliver Skills for Growth from 2020. Over £2million invested in Careers and Apprenticeship Information Advice and Guidance in GM over the last 3 years.¹¹

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

Their ambition is to create an integrated employment and skills eco-system which has the individual and employer at its heart, and that better responds to the needs of residents and businesses and contributes to the growth and productivity of the Greater Manchester economy.¹² They want to see an employment and skills system in Greater Manchester where:

- Young people will leave the education system with the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to succeed
- Working-age adults who are out of work or who have low levels of skills will have access to the support they need to enter and sustain employment
- All adults have the chance to up-skill and progress in their careers

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

GM Kickstart¹³ – The work of this scheme complements the GM Good Employment Charter - designed to improve wages and employment standards - and the Young Person's Guarantee, set up in response to Covid-19 and its impact on young people. The Kickstart Scheme Manchester allows employers to apply for funding to create new placements for young people between 16 - 24-year-olds who are on Universal Tax Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. This is part of the government's aim to create hundreds and thousands of full-time jobs across England, Scotland and Wales. Funding can be applied for directly through a DWP nominated Kickstart Gateway Representative. Funding for each job placement includes the following:

- 100% funded for 25 hours per week at National Minimum Wage for 6 months
- All employer contribution that has been incurred
- All minimum pension contributions by the employer

¹¹ [Work and Skills - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/work-and-skills)

¹² [Work and Skills - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/work-and-skills)

¹³ [greater-manchester-local-skills-report-and-labour-market-plan-march-2021.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/greater-manchester-local-skills-report-and-labour-market-plan-march-2021.pdf)

- An additional £1,500 per job placement for setup costs, training and support.

The Skills for Growth programme¹⁴ - Designed to fill occupational skills gaps identified from employers, who have continually highlighted that they cannot find the technical skills in Greater Manchester required to support and grow their businesses. The aim of this three-year programme is to put Greater Manchester in a unique position to build a truly collaborative programme that shapes skills delivery and responds to the skills needs that emerge throughout the course of the programme. The programme will support more than 25,000 individuals and over 3,000 businesses over its duration. The Skills for Growth programme activities will align with general strategic Greater Manchester priorities around supporting business growth and delivering an integrated approach to employment and skills. In addition, it will support providers of education, employment and training to better meet the needs of residents and employers through the creation of new partnerships and innovative methods of delivery.

There are four key components to Skills for Growth, which will form a constant loop throughout the three-year programme:

- Developing the skills system
- Gathering intelligence from business
- Supporting individuals
- Delivering learning

GM Working Well¹⁵ - Support for people with a health condition or disability who have either recently become unemployed or taken medical leave from an existing job. Since its inception in 2014, Working Well programmes have achieved employment outcomes for over 6,500 Greater Manchester residents (November 2020). Established in 2014, the Working Well Pilot supported 5,000 people who were experiencing chronic/long term unemployment. They had been jobless for at least two years and had left the National Work Programme without finding a job. As part of the 'Working Well' programme package, local services worked with expert agencies to deliver individual support, focusing on specific barriers to employment. The programme combined physical and mental health support and advice on drug and alcohol problems, skills, education and housing. Each unemployed programme participant had their own keyworker to help them get the right support at the right time, keep them motivated, and develop their confidence and independence. The support organisations were only fully paid when the programme participant had been in work for at least a year. On the pilot over 600 people found work, many of which continued working for 12 months or more. Additional benefits, such as

¹⁴ [greater-manchester-local-skills-report-and-labour-market-plan-march-2021.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁵ [working-well-early-help-annual-report-2020.pdf \(shu.ac.uk\)](#)

improved health and reduced antisocial behaviour, were also positive outcomes seen in the programme.

ESOL Service¹⁶ - A single point of entry for adults with ESOL needs to access appropriate courses in each participating local authority area of Greater Manchester, with collaboration across areas to prevent duplication.

Bridge GM¹⁷ - Reduce the inequalities of opportunities experienced by our young people so that they can be inspired, motivated and better prepared to tap into the future opportunities of Greater Manchester's labour market. GMCA is growing the largest network of business, education leaders and careers professionals to provide young people with a careers programme fit for the 21st Century, they believe that bringing everyone together with one common purpose will increase the chance of success for all of our young people. Bridge is the engagement tool that underpins this ambition. Bridge has helped Greater Manchester:

- Over £2million invested in Careers and Apprenticeship Information Advice and Guidance in GM over the last 3 years.
- 2000+ young people each year express an interest in pursuing an Apprenticeship in GM at 16.
- 184,000 – target for number of apprenticeships starts in GM by 2020.
- GM employers more likely to hire 16-18 year olds and offer apprenticeships compared to other areas.
- Progression of 16 and 17 year olds into FE in GM is 83%, compared to only 4.7% to Apprenticeships.
- 67% of secondary schools across GM are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted.
- More than 160 schools in GM are working towards a quality mark in CEIAG.
- Digital skills are among the most in demand in GM.

EnterprisingYou¹⁸ - Programme for the self-employed and those working in the gig economy, will enable up to 2,500 of the city-region's self-employed people and gig workers to sustain and grow their businesses. This programme incorporates training opportunities to fast forward development, help boost skills, increase incomes, or help casual workers find alternative routes and roles which can offer greater stability.

- Self-employed – receive tailored personal and professional development through training, qualifications or retraining opportunities.

¹⁶ [greater-manchester-local-skills-report-and-labour-market-plan-march-2021.pdf \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁷ [Work and Skills - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁸ <https://www.enterprising-you.co.uk/>

- Business owners – receive peer mentoring, access to co-working spaces and advice on professional topics such as finance or business development.
- Skills and career development support – receive expert and specialised advice from our business coaches and access to training and resources.

Fast Track Digital Workforce Fund¹⁹ - To deliver bootcamp programmes links to job vacancies to fill technical skills gaps. The Fast Track Digital Workforce Fund is a joint venture between Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership (LDSP), developed to address locally identified digital skills gaps and support Greater Manchester and Lancashire residents with accessible routes into digital employment. This Fund has been extended through the Department for Education Digital Bootcamps to maximise on this work, giving residents the opportunity to build up their digital skills and fast-track to an interview with a local employer.

The Fast Track Digital Workforce Fund provides accessible pathways into digital careers for underrepresented groups. These programmes come with guaranteed interviews for jobs in the region in specialist tech roles such as DevOps, Data Analysts and Cloud Engineers.

Funding sources

DfE, Devolved AEB, ESF, Local Authority Grant Scheme

¹⁹ [Fast Track Digital Workforce Fund - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

3. Tees Valley MCA

Number of funding / volume of programmes

The Combined Authority has the power to create an Investment Fund, bringing together funding for devolved powers to be used to deliver a 30-year programme of transformational investment in the region. This includes the control of a new £15m a year funding allocation over 30 years.

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

The Tees Valley Combined Authority is driving forward an ambitious agenda for growth with a clear strategy 'Inspiring Our Future' focusing on transforming Education, Employment and Skills in the area with an aim to make 133,000 jobs available in Tees Valley by 2024.²⁰

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

Tees Valley DWP Innovation Pilot – Routes to Work²¹ – In February 2017, the Combined Authority was successful in securing DWP Innovation funding to pilot a major new approach to support those most distant from the labour market to prepare for and to access work, which is named Tees Valley Routes to Work (RTW). This programme developed a holistic, person centred approach to assessing beneficiaries needs and developing bespoke, tailored solutions for the individual. The support was offered by a key worker who mentored the individual through their journey towards work, this included building up a strong relationship that offered support on anything that would assist the individual move towards work. This engagement was pro-active with the key worker providing a regular and consistent method of communication that ensured the individual kept motivated, engaged and built upon success whilst addressing new barriers as they appeared. Since its start in 2018, Routes to Work has supported almost 3,000 people and helped nearly 600 back into employment across the Tees Valley. The true success of the programme has been the consistent, flexible and responsiveness of the key worker to engage and react to the individuals changing needs; both positive and negative. Building on its success the programme has now been extended and expanded and will now offer support to all unemployed people across the region until 31st March 2022. This expansion has enabled engagement with younger people whose chance of gaining employment has been affected by Covid19. The wider eligibility has provided Routes to Work key workers to support people aged 16+ with sign-posting, information, advice and guidance; and where the young person has significant risk of becoming long term

²⁰ [Education, Employment & Skills - Tees Valley Combined Authority \(teesvalley-ca.gov.uk\)](https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/education-employment-skills)

²¹ [Routes to Work - Tees Valley Combined Authority \(teesvalley-ca.gov.uk\)](https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/routes-to-work)

unemployed Routes to Work full provision. This change in criteria means more people can access the service, bridging gaps in the existing support from other projects e.g. ESF, ensuring everyone can receive the help they need to get into employment.

Teesworks Skills Academy²² – The academy was created in January 2021, following a procurement exercise that resulted in creating this “virtual” academy that provides a collaboration of all five Tees Valley Further Education Colleges, Teesside University, and an Independent Training provider: Learning Curve. The model includes the ability to bring in additional training providers, including commercial bodies where skills are demanded by a business that cannot be served by the existing partners. The Academy works closely with the Site Development Company to engage at the earliest opportunity with businesses looking to locate onto the site, continuously engage with infrastructure development businesses including demolition and groundworks and with end users once businesses are established. The ‘Teesworks’ site is the former SSI Steelworks site, the largest development zone outside of London and 4,500 acres in size and the potential to create 18,000 jobs within 5 years of the commencement of freeport status in law. The recent Budget announcements of the Freeport and Offshore Wind commitment will drive forward the development of the site at pace and the remediation of the land is well underway. Teesworks Skills Academy will have a small infrastructure onsite, but most training will be provided by the partners off-site. Already established is an enhanced site mandatory Health and Safety training course that ensures a high level of safety on the site but also develops further than required workers skills in Health and Safety, which assists in future job opportunities. The Academy will work closely with businesses to define their skills and recruitment needs, establish a forward-looking skills plan for the site and develop the skills offer in response to business requirements. A toolkit of support products will be available as part of the Academy and include formal workforce planning support, leadership and management training and business training needs analysis.

Funding sources

DWP Innovation funding

²² [Local-Skills-Report-Tees-Valley-March-202115-06-21.pdf \(teesvalley-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

4. D2N2

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Nothing found

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

D2N2 has two key skills priorities intended to help power up their local economy by addressing the skills gap evident in their region – inclusive recruitment and inspiring their future workforce. Their focus is on breaking down those barriers to work people with multiple and complex needs currently face by encouraging businesses to recruit inclusively. Furthermore, D2N2 works with partners to encourage employers to improve the skills of their employees to increase productivity.

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

Recruiting Talent²³ – The D2N2-wide initiative aimed at increasing inclusive recruitment amongst businesses. Recruiting Talent aims to prompt business leaders to look in new areas for talent that often experience barriers to the workplace, be they for health, logistical, or situation reasons. By amending their recruitment processes to be more inclusive, businesses can unlock an untapped pool of talent, allowing them to fill their skills gaps. Recruiting Talent is currently running workshops across Nottinghamshire with the aim of educating attendees about the current landscape of employment in the county, advocating the benefits of inclusive recruitment, and offering advice in how to find hidden pools of talent.

Skills Support for the Workforce²⁴ – is a programme developed to upskill employees within small and medium-sized businesses, delivered by Serco through a network of expert training providers. The programme will provide recognised accredited qualifications and bespoke training courses to enhance employees' skills, increase the competitiveness of businesses and boost the local economy. As a tailored programme of support, courses are bespoke to the training needs of the individual business at no cost. Many of these courses are now available virtually to facilitate distance learning and home workers.

²³ [Recruiting Inclusively | Inclusive Recruitment | D2N2 \(d2n2lep.org\)](#)

²⁴ <https://www.d2n2ta.org/european-structural-and-investment-funds/european-social-fund/funded-projects/skills/>

The Priority Skills for D2N2 SMEs²⁵ – project aims to support small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire to access free bespoke, employer-led training, career coaching and advice to up-skill their employees in vocational and high-level technical skills. This project is delivered by the High Level Skills Consortium which includes Nottingham Trent University, Derby College, Nottingham College and the University of Derby. The project will specifically support employees who may face additional barriers to high-level skills including:

- women
- employees aged 50+
- employees with disabilities
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) staff
- those who have previously missed out on traditional educational opportunities

The GRADS for D2N2 programme²⁶ – aims to support Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire based small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) by offering a package of free and subsidised support that can help businesses identify their skills and talent needs, and benefit from graduate talent in the region. This project is delivered by the High Level Skills Consortium which includes Nottingham Trent University, Derby College, Nottingham College, the University of Derby and Nottingham City Council. Support available to SMEs includes:

- Organisational needs assessments
- Talent grants and graduate placement
- Advice and workshops from our Employability and Apprenticeships teams
- Putting SME voice at the heart of our curriculum through co-design

The D2N2 Skills Access Hub²⁷ – a 3 year project which aims to support small and medium sized businesses (SME) based across D2N2 to identify and address their skills gaps and training needs. The project is closely aligned with the D2N2 Growth Hub and builds on the Growth Hub's high quality business growth support, by providing a dedicated skills support service for SMEs. The D2N2 Skills Access Hub is delivered in partnership with Nottingham City Council, Direct Help & Advice, Futures, Nottingham College, West Nottinghamshire College and the University of Nottingham. Through the project, businesses can access free impartial advice from experienced advisers to scope

²⁵ <https://www.d2n2ta.org/european-structural-and-investment-funds/european-social-fund/funded-projects/skills/>

²⁶ <https://www.d2n2ta.org/european-structural-and-investment-funds/european-social-fund/funded-projects/skills/>

²⁷ <https://www.d2n2ta.org/european-structural-and-investment-funds/european-social-fund/funded-projects/skills/>

out skills needs and explore relevant opportunities. The Skills Access Hub will also connect SMEs to relevant European-funded projects, such as The Big House, Skills Support for the Workforce and the High Level Skills programme, in addition to supporting SMEs to access funding opportunities such as the Apprenticeship Levy and Adult Education Budget.

Funding sources

ESF

5. Marches Centre for Manufacturing Skills

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Over £5m has been invested in the two state-of-the-art centres in Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury, offering over 40,000 sq. ft of dedicated learning space and access to the latest CNC, metrology, automation and robotic technology.

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

The Marches Centre of Manufacturing & Technology (MCMT)²⁸ is an employer-led response to bridging the skills gap by creating industry-ready apprenticeships and delivering the best upskilling opportunities. Over £5m has been invested in the two state-of-the-art centres in Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury, offering over 40,000 sq. ft of dedicated learning space and access to the latest CNC, metrology, automation and robotic technology. MCMT covers more than 40,000 sq. ft of dedicated space, designed with one vision in mind, to 'inspire Engineers for a Changing World'. Combining the best trainers, best equipment and the best technology, with more than £5m spent on creating learning environments that will challenge individuals to fulfil their potential.

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

MCMT Pre-apprenticeship programme²⁹ – MCMT has developed a programme which provides insight into their technical academies and the apprenticeship journey. The programme has been developed to enable students to fully explore and gain invaluable hands-on experience of potential apprenticeship progression routes. Students will be involved in workshops. By the end of the programme students will have gained key skills, knowledge and understanding to make a more informed choice. The week will develop skills and knowledge across the range of sectors within Engineering and Manufacturing and also give key employability skills to enable them to be successful in applying for an apprenticeship, job or training course dependent on what they decide.

F1 in Schools³⁰ – MCMT launched the first ever “Shropshire Regional F1 in Schools” event in December 2019 and are currently supporting schools across the region. Each school will be partnered with one of our local manufacturers to support them during the process, and give advice, guidance and support with developing their car, team and branding.

²⁸ [MCMT | Apprenticeships & Training in Bridgnorth \(mcmt-bridgnorth.co.uk\)](https://mcmt-bridgnorth.co.uk)

²⁹ [e4359-MCMT-Pre-Apprenticeship-Programme-v2.pdf \(mcmt-bridgnorth.co.uk\)](https://mcmt-bridgnorth.co.uk/e4359-MCMT-Pre-Apprenticeship-Programme-v2.pdf)

³⁰ [Community Engagement - Marches Centre of Manufacturing & Technology \(mcmt-shrewsbury.co.uk\)](https://mcmt-shrewsbury.co.uk)

Engineering Club³¹ – For a monthly membership fee, the MCMT Engineering Club gives companies the unique opportunity to use over £4m of state-of-the-art technology and equipment to help them implement new processes, develop products and explore Industry 4.0. Membership gives an induction on all machines on site, use of machines and access to MCMT employed specialists and engineers if support or ideas are required. The Engineering Club also aims to create a network of contacts within numerous industries, expanding skills and boosting the competitiveness of the region.

Funding sources

The MCMT is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Shropshire Council and the Marches LEP, through the Midlands Engine Growth Deal.

³¹ [About Us - Marches Centre of Manufacturing & Technology \(mcmt-shrewsbury.co.uk\)](https://www.mcmt-shrewsbury.co.uk)

6. Greater Manchester Colleges

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Nothing found

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

The Greater Manchester Colleges Group is a partnership of 10 Further Education colleges, covering all boroughs across Greater Manchester.³² The GMCG's main objectives are to:

1. Provide a strategic focus for Further Education in Greater Manchester; developing the workforce and entrepreneurs needed to support and grow the economy.
2. Work within Greater Manchester with government, other agencies, large companies and organisations to run projects that achieve an impact locally and regionally.

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

The Dream Job³³ – Raising the profile of Apprenticeships across Greater Manchester – June 2014 – July 2015 – The Greater Manchester Colleges Group was committed to putting learners on the path to success and plays a key role in helping them increase their employability and achieve their individual potential. One of the key activities within this project was the opportunity to get involved in and benefit from The Dream Job. This involved partner colleges securing exciting Apprenticeship opportunities at well-known, reputable companies across Greater Manchester, and was used to help promote and highlight the benefits of Apprenticeships to both the individual and the business. Activities focussed on key groups, including:

- Young People (16–24-year-olds including those that are unemployed)
- Schools and colleges
- Parents and carers
- Businesses, particularly SMEs

Funding sources

City Deal funding

³² [GMCG | Greater Manchester Colleges Group](#)

³³ [GMCG | Greater Manchester Colleges Group](#)

7. W. Yorks Consortium of College

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Nothing found

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

The West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges operates on behalf of seven FE Colleges in West Yorkshire, offering a gateway for businesses to a unique package of training and support in the Leeds City Region. They bring businesses, organisations, and training providers together to deliver workforce training and skills support. These programmes contribute to the economic growth of the Leeds City Region, tackle social mobility and connect the education and business sectors. The projects we manage offer funding opportunities for a range of training providers to deliver training in the region.³⁴

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

Let's Talk Real Skills³⁵ - Developing significant improvements in skills provision through a strong collaborative approach between industry and education/training. Working closely with intermediaries, stakeholders and employer groups, our team of Skills Associates will identify the skills needed by SMEs in the region and take a stepped approach to changing the skills landscape. The CSPs will work closely with businesses to encourage and help them take up the pilot training provision on offer and test it out. The learning from these pilot projects will then be used to inform and develop further training programmes for SMEs and where appropriate, the pathways to higher apprenticeships. Skills Plans Available: As part of the project, WYCC and its partner colleges are offering an extensive skills planning service (free) to support businesses with their immediate training needs.

Higher Performing Workplaces³⁶ - Helping SMEs poised for growth - training programmes, coaching, peer to peer sessions and mentoring. Higher Performing Workplaces (HPW) offers training that is designed to help businesses grow by developing internal talent.

- Training – Grow your team's skills

³⁴ [West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges \(westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk\)](http://westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk)

³⁵ [Let's Talk Real Skills \(westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk\)](http://westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk)

³⁶ [Higher Performing Workplaces \(westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk\)](http://westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk)

- Export and Innovation – These programmes are designed to increase in-house skills and knowledge to access new domestic and international markets to drive export
- Innovative Working – Training courses that can help individuals to drive working and employment practices that wrap around operational and employee demands
- Empowering Leaders – A range of courses developed to nurture and progress leadership skills with specific interventions to support female employees to narrow the gender gap in leadership positions
- Effective Human Resources – Training will help individuals to use effective HR practices to support succession planning and encourage workplace diversity and improve workplace cultures.

[re]boot³⁷ - A chance for individuals to upskill, re-skill and gain employability and sector specific skills, qualifications and training within the Digital, Engineering and Construction sectors.

Provide a larger talent pool in the key growth sectors in Leeds City Region. Increase the skill levels from the existing level to the next level up and encourage more progression into higher level employment. Train individuals in their pursuit of careers in Digital, Creative (Production Skills), Engineering and Construction sectors. Develop individuals who, upon completion, are ready to progress in sector occupations as competent sector-specific professionals.

Collaborative Apprenticeships³⁸ - Testing new ways of maximising the Apprenticeship Levy and increasing the quantity and quality of apprenticeships across the Leeds City Region. The project will support all sectors but will have a focus on the skills required to:

- enable the delivery of major capital/infrastructure schemes
- stimulate growth in the digital skills base for businesses in all sectors
- meet replacement demand in engineering and manufacturing
- support sustained growth in the health social care sector.

Collaborative Apprenticeships will increase the number, range and quality of apprenticeships where there is a shortage of skills among:

- those who are considering an apprenticeship,
- those already employed and starting their first apprenticeship, or
- those progressing from an intermediate, advanced, higher or degree level apprenticeship.

³⁷ [\[re\]boot \(westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk\)](http://westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk)

³⁸ [Collaborative Apprenticeships \(westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk\)](http://westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk)

The project will offer support to:

- All Apprenticeship Levy employers, large and SMEs
- Employees within businesses where there are identified skills gaps
- Individual participants who live or work in the Leeds City Region

Reach Higher³⁹ - Striving to widen participation in higher level skills through a programme of activities. These were co-designed by employers to attract and engage new participants onto higher level courses. This was to enable more qualified individuals to fill the skills gaps in employment in key sectors in the Leeds City Region. The project was targeted specifically at individuals from HE cold spots, deprived areas, and those with the potential to progress. Reach Higher aimed to increase skill levels, encourage progression in employment and ultimately support economic growth within the Leeds City Region because of improved productivity.

The More Skills Better Jobs⁴⁰ – £2.2m contract encouraged employers to work with our training partners to develop and deliver learning opportunities for low skilled, low paid adults. The contract built on the recommendations from the ‘More Jobs, Better Jobs’ research carried out by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Leeds City Region LEP and Leeds City Council, and the recommendations of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Lower Paid Workers Commission. The target group for More Skills Better Jobs were those employed and in receipt of means tested benefits and employed women who are in low paid work. Contracted by WYCC, the Joint Venture Colleges worked closely with employers to deliver training programmes to low paid, low skilled workforces. The format of these programmes was adapted on a case-by-case basis to be accessible to the workforce. The objective was to promote social mobility which would allow businesses to become more resilient through developing and training the existing workforce

WYCC also facilitated a series of projects to test methods and seek solutions to overcome barriers faced by those in low paid work through a series of Action Research Demonstrators designed to test new skill approaches to address the ‘In-Work Poverty’ agenda. Facilitated by WYCC, the activities tested the findings of key national and regional research that has identified barriers, and potential solutions to workplace-progression.

The Progression From Low Pay (PFLP)⁴¹ – Project specifically supported employed individuals with low earnings who were working in sectors across Leeds City Region and

³⁹ [Reach Higher \(westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk\)](http://westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk)

⁴⁰ [More Skills Better Jobs \(westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk\)](http://westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk)

⁴¹ [Progression From Low Pay \(westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk\)](http://westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk)

typically have a low skilled workforce. WYCC supported programmes of training with up to a 40% cost contribution (funded by the European Social Fund) that facilitates progression through skills support to increase earning potential and increase social mobility. Project Impact:

- Increase skill levels to encourage job progression
- Greater earning potential for more low paid workers
- Address the gender employment and wage gap
- Drive the increase in the number of people with technical and job-specific skills
- Address barriers to training
- Collaborate to create better jobs, tackle low pay and boost productivity through skills

Funding sources

European Social Fund

8. West Midlands College Group

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Nothing found

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

They are a formal strategic partnership of 20 colleges, including all colleges within the West Midlands Combined Authority area. Work together to support skills development across their regions, responding as a single voice to new initiatives and government reforms. Developing a highly collaborative approach our ambition is to drive up the skills base in our regions, contributing to increased economic prosperity, social cohesion and inward investment. Colleges West Midlands has a mandate to raise the technical skills of young people and adults in full-time education, upskilling in the workplace, undertaking an Apprenticeship or pursuing a higher education programme either full or part-time.⁴²

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

Regional Skills Recovery Programme⁴³ – In response to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, colleges in the West Midlands have come together to work collaboratively to provide training opportunities to offer additional support for residents of the West Midlands following the impact on employment during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Regional Skills Recovery Programme consists of:

- Free sector work-based programmes (SWAPs)
- Free technical training priority sectors

For those at risk of redundancy / their employment has suffered due to Covid-19 / their looking to upskill or change pathways – they can refresh or redevelop their skills for free which will enable them to reignite their passion and secure their future career. These programmes will also help businesses re-establish themselves and flourish again, by continually increasing the number of higher level and technical skills development opportunities, required by employers.

- SWAPs available across West Midlands - digital, construction, health & care, warehousing/logistics/distribution, business and professional, engineering/manufacturing, facilities management, land based, facilities management.

⁴² [Welcome - Colleges West Midlands](#)

⁴³ [Reignite Your Future - Colleges West Midlands](#)

- Technical training available in priority sectors - digital, business and professional, construction and the built environment, health and care, generic skills across all sectors, engineering/manufacturing, motor vehicle maintenance and repair, education and training, warehousing/logistics/distribution, service sectors.

Funding sources

Nothing found

9. Stevenage Cooperative Inclusive Economic Charter

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Nothing found

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

The charter aims to prevent money leaving the area. Ways of doing this include making contracts more accessible to small and medium sized local companies and connecting local people to good jobs. The council identified two main benefits when developing the charter – bringing about a fairer society, as people become more connected to their economy, and a more resilient economy as people and businesses cooperate to create sustainable growth.⁴⁴

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

Community Wealth Building⁴⁵ – The Council had passed a motion at the end of 2019 to drive forward a programme of community wealth building. The unprecedented impact of Covid-19 on the local economy highlighted the vulnerability of large multinational companies as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. A quarter of the town's working-age population were furloughed during the peak of the pandemic, with a significant number losing jobs and income. The Council's community response team "Stevenage Helps" saw an unprecedented rise in hardship cases. The council decided to accelerate its plans around community wealth building to drive recovery. Their approach to Community Wealth Building is underpinned by four key themes:

- Procurement and social value.
- Training and skills.
- Growing the social economy sector.
- Tackling climate change.

Funding sources

Nothing found

⁴⁴ [Council launches Cooperative and Inclusive Economy Charter \(stevenage.gov.uk\)](https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/news/council-launches-cooperative-and-inclusive-economy-charter)

⁴⁵ [Community Wealth Building \(stevenage.gov.uk\)](https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/news/community-wealth-building)

10. Pop Up Business Schools, South and Vale, Cherwell

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Nothing found

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

As part of our BIS Action Plan 2017 to 2020 they strive to support businesses to grow and ensure they benefit from support that is available. The results of the event report shows that their course generates a £43 return for every £1 invested. The course also increases economic activity in the area by supporting more residents to become self-employed and contributes £536,751 to the economy per annum.⁴⁶

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

The PopUp Business School⁴⁷ – a five-day course showing practical ways to get a business idea off the ground and launch it online – without spending any money. The course is free to attend and is open to anyone looking to start a business, including the long term unemployed and budding entrepreneurs, and business owners who need a hand on marketing their product or service.

Funding sources

The course was sponsored by South Oxfordshire District Council and the South and Vale Business Support team

⁴⁶ [South and Vale BIS Action Plans - South & Vale Business Support \(svbs.co.uk\)](https://svbs.co.uk)

⁴⁷ [Kick-start your New Year at the Didcot PopUp Business School \(svbs.co.uk\)](https://svbs.co.uk)

11. Inclusive Growth Group Plymouth

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Nothing found

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

The Plymouth Resurgam Growth Board (PRGB) is a private sector led partnership, bringing together representatives from important city organisations to collaborate and drive forward the economic priorities of Plymouth. They aim to ensure growth in prosperity is achieved in a way that reduces inequality, and is sustainable:

- Develop a campaign to promote inclusive growth across those sectors with very low wages to encourage adoption of living wage
- Support businesses and social enterprises to go further than a standard corporate social responsibility programme to grow
- Encourage clustering of businesses to increase skills, enable career progression, and increase average wages
- Work with influencers across the city to ensure that policy is assessed for the impact on the lowest earners
- Integrate Inclusive Growth through strategic projects in the city – in their planning, design, delivery and legacy
- Ensure that leadership for Inclusive Growth is embedded across the city
- Create a Resurgam Chartermark that businesses and other organisations can apply for to demonstrate their commitment to delivering Inclusive Growth.

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

Skills Launchpad Plymouth⁴⁸ – the city’s one-stop-shop for skills, training, education, careers and jobs. Working in city wide partnership, Skills Launchpad Plymouth aims to help local people in and around the city access independent information, advice and guidance. Supporting those who are facing redundancy through the Adult Hub and offering targeted support for young people including those with additional needs through the Youth Hub. Skills Launchpad Plymouth offers local people a chance to be better informed and equipped for next steps through our virtual service and sign-up offer to access 1:1 tailored support. In the first 6 months, over 9,000 residents have accessed this virtual service.

⁴⁸ [Home | Skills Launchpad Plymouth](#)

Funding sources

Nothing found

12. South Bank University

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Nothing found

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

Our vision is to transform lives, communities, businesses and society through applied education and insight. Over the next five years, we will adapt to take full advantage of both our new Group structure and the digital world. Their Corporate Strategy 2025 sets out how they we will achieve this.⁴⁹

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

Croydon Skills Bootcamp⁵⁰ – Delivered in partnership with John Ruskin College and Croydon College, Skills Bootcamps provide people with the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and fast-track their career prospects. Subject areas available-

- CAD – Engineering DATA
- CAD – Electrical / Engineering diagnostics, welding
- Retrofit Co-ordination and Risk Management
- Construction Site Supervision
- Construction Management
- Solar Energy Decision Software
- Materials and Characterisations

The Business Solutions Centre⁵¹ – is a free student-led service for local businesses and entrepreneurs that require support. The Business Solutions Centre is staffed by Student Advisors from LSBU Business school who have been through a comprehensive recruitment and training process, presenting solutions to you in one of the following forms:

- A written report with detailed guidelines and resources
- A help sheet with useful information and action points for you to implement
- A hands-on, practical Clinic group session where you'll have a chance to gain practical insights and one-to-one support
- A workshop or talk delivered by our Student Advisors

⁴⁹ [Our mission, vision and values | London South Bank University \(lsbu.ac.uk\)](https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/our-mission-vision-values)

⁵⁰ [Skills Bootcamp - Croydon College](https://www.croydoncollege.ac.uk/skills-bootcamp)

⁵¹ [Business Solutions Centre | London South Bank University \(lsbu.ac.uk\)](https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/business-solutions-centre)

- Internships or ongoing paid employment, allowing our students to support your business
- Signposting to appropriate LSBU or other local services

Areas of expertise include:

- Business development and planning
- Tax and small business accounting
- Marketing and social media
- Forecasting and costing
- Access to finance
- Project management
- Consumer behaviour and brand management

Funding sources

Government funding

13. Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

Numbers on funding / volume of programmes

Liverpool City Region successfully secured £41.1m of Local Growth Fund (LGF) monies in 2014 to support skills capital investments as part of their Growth Deal with Government and a further £8m from LGF Round 3 in 2017. Circa £18m is currently available for skills capital investment under the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Strategic Investment Fund (SIF).⁵²

Short statements about what the body is aiming to achieve

Their vision is to build a truly global city region by creating and attracting more businesses, to generate more and higher value jobs, and ensure they have a workforce with the right skills to fill these roles. By 2020, they had created 9000 jobs and 5500 apprenticeships for local people.

Details of schemes/programmes created for themselves

Households into Work⁵³ – Households into Work provides up to 12 months of support to unemployed Liverpool City Region Residents aged 16 and over, who because of their current circumstances are unable to consider taking up or sustaining employment due to dealing with issues like mental illness, addiction, domestic abuse, debt issues or they have low self-confidence and/or low self-esteem and if left unsupported it is unlikely to ever be resolved. Households into Work employs a team of 25, comprising of 5 team leaders and 20 employment advocates working across all 6 of the Liverpool City Region's local authorities, mostly on an outreach basis. The programme can introduce people to one of our dedicated Employment Advocates who will provide 1-2-1 bespoke support which will not only help the participant to resolve the issues, but also develop the skills and resilience to help deal with them or deal with them better, should they arise again in the future. Funding is also available in the form of a household budget, which can be used to pay for goods and services which might help the client overcome some of their obstacles.

Digital Skills for the Workplace⁵⁴ – provides flexible hands-on courses of up to 16 weeks in duration, which are part of the government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee and Plan for Jobs. Skills bootcamps aim to help participants to find jobs in the growing digital and tech sector and help employers to fill digital skills gaps. The programme is funded by the

⁵² [Skills and Apprenticeships | Liverpool City Region Combined Authority \(liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk\)](https://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)

⁵³ [hiw | Liverpool City Region Combined Authority \(liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk\)](https://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)

⁵⁴ [Digital Skills for the Workplace | Liverpool City Region Combined Authority \(liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk\)](https://liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk)

Department for Education and developed locally by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, working with local employers. The training is open to adults aged 19+, either in work, looking for work or returning to the workforce. The courses are intended to be as inclusive as possible, to increase diversity within the digital and tech sector. Liverpool City Region Combined Authority offer the following Bootcamps:

- Skills Bootcamp in Full Stack Web Development
- Skills Bootcamp in Digital Marketing
- Skills Bootcamp in Cyber Security
- Skills Bootcamp in Digital Design
- Skills Bootcamp in AutoCAD
- Skills Bootcamp in Software Developer/Engineer
- Skills Bootcamp in Infrastructure Technician

Funding sources

European Social Fund, DfE, AEB, Skills Capital Fund

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