

Department for Education – Press Release

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Skills training boost for Yorkshire and the Humber to support more people into jobs locally

- More high-quality training opportunities will soon be available, supporting people to kickstart careers in manufacturing, construction and digital
- Training including apprenticeships and Higher Technical Qualifications will help meet the growing demand for these skills across the region
- Part of government drive to get more people into good jobs closer to home, plug skills gaps and grow the economy

People across Yorkshire and the Humber are set to benefit from more skills training including in health care, green construction and artificial intelligence.

From next year, colleges and other training providers across the region will start to offer these exciting opportunities, which have been specifically aligned to the priority sectors identified by local employers in their [Local Skills Improvement Plans](#).

Across the region, employers identified skills including digital, construction and manufacturing as their priorities.

Colleges and universities will receive a share of £200 million to help transform skills training, so that local businesses can continue to tap into the skilled workforce they need to thrive, while helping more people to secure good jobs closer to home.

Innovative projects have given the go ahead which will support people to gain the skills needed to launch careers in the green sector and support the local economy to grow.

Leeds College of Building has been awarded funding for the development of new specialist hubs for digital skills within the construction industry to meet the demands in the area for diverse skilled workers. This will also include funding for mobile digital hubs across the region with AI technology and VR/AR equipment.

Nikki Davis, Principal and CEO of Leeds College of Building said:

“We are delighted to be awarded this funding to help support local people to access high quality provision, with industry leading facilities. The focus on digital construction will provide opportunities for employers and future employees to develop vital skills.”

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan said:

“This investment is about boosting local industries, building people’s skills and ultimately futureproofing our economy and the career prospects of the next generation.

“Our local skills projects will bring together regional organisations, businesses and education providers to respond to the specific needs of employers, building an increasingly skilled workforce and growing local economies.



**Funded by
UK Government**



“Whether it is green skills, construction, engineering or digital, thousands more people can now gain the skills they need to secure good jobs closer to home.”

As part of the government’s work to support more people to gain the skills they need to secure rewarding careers, the British Chambers of Commerce and other employer representative organisations were commissioned to lead work to publish local skills improvement plans, published in the summer, so the training on offer better meets the current and future skills needs of local areas.

Jane Gratton, Deputy Director of Public Policy at the British Chambers of Commerce, said:

“Businesses are crying out for more people with technical skills to fill the great jobs we have today and new ones in the developing green economy.

“It’s vital that everyone can access the training they need locally to grasp these opportunities.

“Business-led LSIPs are setting out the skills needs and opportunities, and this new funding will ensure the right training solutions are put in place.”

The funding will also make sure more people can access Higher Technical Qualifications – that sit between A level, T levels and degrees – to gain in demand skills including digital, health care and engineering as alternative to a traditional three-year degree. HTQs are designed in close collaboration with employers, so they equip students with the skills they need to go onto further study or straight into a good job.

The investment in local areas announced today is just one way the government is boosting skills, alongside a huge range of other high-quality programmes including T levels, free courses for jobs and Skills Bootcamps.

More than 40,000 people started a Skills Bootcamp in the last financial year, exceeding the government’s ambitious target. Skills Bootcamps are free short courses with an offer of a job interview on completion. They are available across the country in a wide range of subjects including heat pump engineering, electric vehicle maintenance, and digital.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- Please see the allocations of the Local Skills Improvement Fund in the attached spreadsheet.
- Colleges and other providers will receive a share of the £165 million from the Local Skills Improvement Fund to invest in the projects outlined in these plans.
- This funding comes on top of the success of the Strategic Development Fund, which has already made £157 million available to the FE sector to invest in a range of projects that have already helped level up communities up and down the country.
- Training providers will receive a share of £44 million from the Skills Injection Fund to support more people to take Higher Technical Qualifications [HTQs].