

Segment One

Sector: Digital

Executive summary:

This Segment One report for Let's Talk Real Skills will facilitate the development a robust understanding of skills provision in the Leeds City Region connected to areas of identified occupational skills shortages within the digital sector.

Sector overview

The digital sector is at the heart of contributing to the economy, underpinning growth through the technology it develops and the services it provides. The Digital sector employs 3 per cent of the UK workforce and contributes nearly £69 billion Gross Value Added to the UK economy (7.4 per cent).

Leeds City Region is home to dynamic technology scene that is home to 23 of the fastest growing technology businesses in the North, according to the Northern Tech 100 Report by Tech North.

Over 100,000 people are employed in the digital sector and digital jobs in the region are predicted to grow at 10 times the rate of non-digital

Centre for Cities has identified that Leeds and York are leading the transition to a knowledge based economy and are the only two northern cities to have high knowledge city centres and suburbs

This report will examine the current "state of play" of the digital sector for Leeds City Region - including skills gaps, labour market analysis, current provision and some of the challenges the sector currently faces now and in the years to come.

Key findings/conclusions:

The LEP Board have identified 4 key challenges facing Leeds City Region – areas which are holding back the economy and constraining growth.

- Challenge: Widening productivity gap: LCR is ranked 29 out of 38 LEPs on productivity and evidence shows it is underperformance within sectors as oppose to adverse sector mix.

Solution: By ensuring all businesses have the opportunity to exploit new digital technologies to become more productive. By upskilling staff and ensuring everyone has the digital skills they need to increase productivity.

- Challenge: Low SME investment in R&D and innovation despite the significant assets we have in the City Region.

Solution: By ensuring all businesses have the opportunity to exploit new digital technologies to drive product and process innovation.

- Challenge: Living standards have stalled

Solution: By ensuring that everyone can access the same opportunities (employment, lifestyle, and learning) through the use of digital technologies.

- Challenge: Deprivation



Solution: By ensuring that the current divide between the haves and have nots is not further exacerbated through the increasing use and proliferation of digital technologies.

Find out more about the Digital Collaborative Skills Partnership and get in touch through - <https://www.westyorkshirecolleges.co.uk/contracted-projects/lets-talk-real-skills/digital>