



West Yorkshire Digital Skills Plan | ESC Update

Vision

"Creating an inclusive society and a thriving economy through the growth of digital skills for all"

Scope

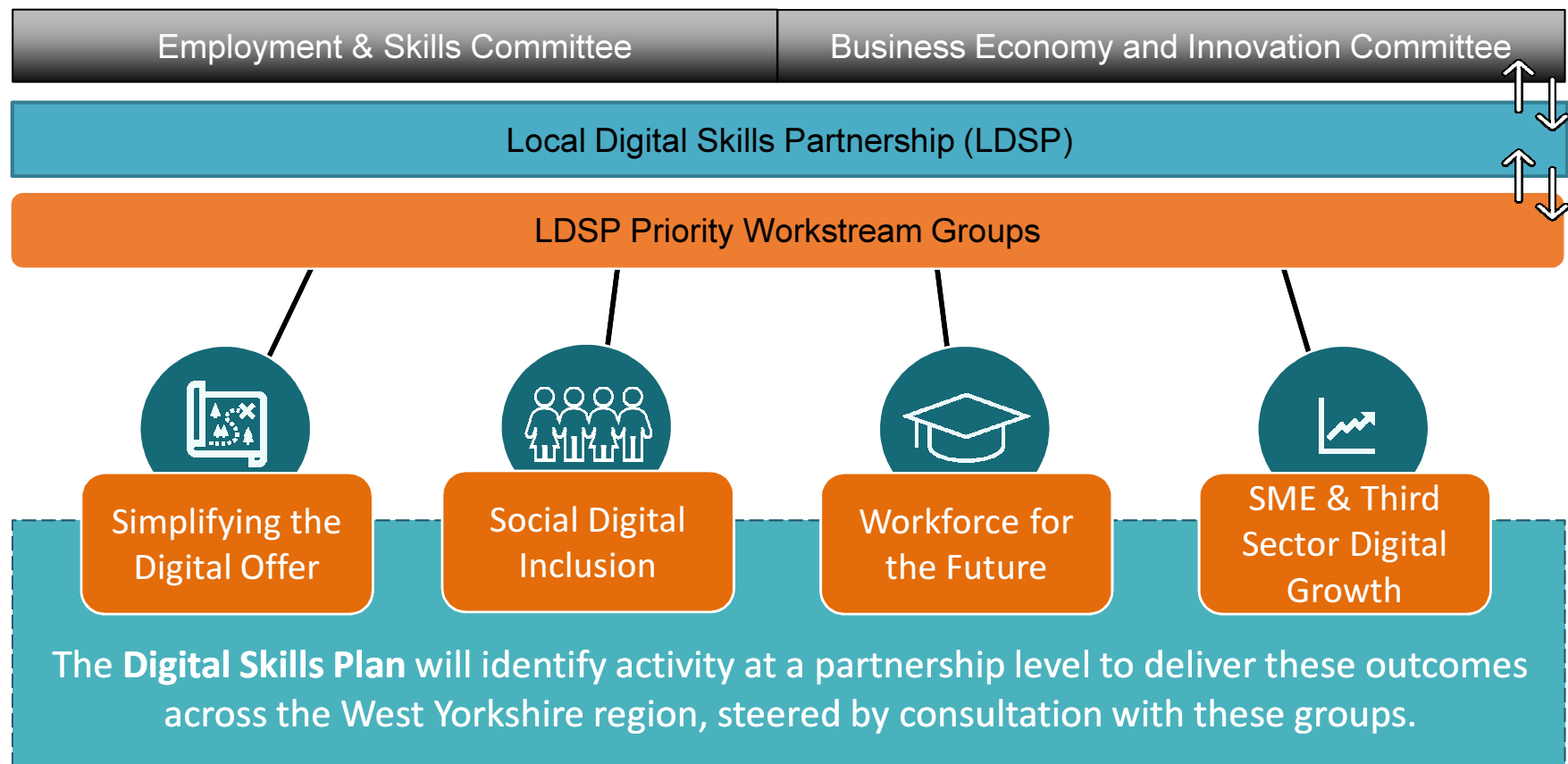
The Digital Skills Plan will need to set out the priorities and actions needed to support inclusive skills growth and digital engagement in West Yorkshire. The Plan is to be developed in partnership with business, education, the third sector and local government organisations.

The Digital Skills Plan must align with the following principles:

1. **Be evidence based**, using the best available data, information and knowledge to guide decisions
2. **Be bold and ambitious** outlining the actions required to deliver the plan's vision
3. **Be strategic and practical** in content and design so that it is accessible to key audiences of business, education and individuals
4. **Be time bound**, with a review after 3 years
5. **Reflect the geographies** of the Mayoral Combined Authority
6. **Ensure** equality, diversity and inclusion is at the heart of the plan
7. **Set out the shared ambitions and priorities** for the region for digital skills
8. **Describe the actions** that can be taken by the Combined Authority and others to deliver the shared ambition and priorities.
9. **Provide a blueprint** for stakeholders and partners to integrate their own priorities and delivery and be responsive to emerging needs in the region.
10. **Align** with the Mayor's Pledges, Strategic Economic Framework, Digital Framework, Employment & Skills Framework and the Economic Recovery Plan and Net Zero Carbon agenda.

Priorities (Thematic Workstreams)

The West Yorkshire **Local Digital Skills Partnership** was the 7th established, made up of passionate digital advocates and leaders from business, education, local communities and third sector organisations, who have proposed regional priorities for delivery:-



Ambitions & Outcomes



Simplifying the Digital Offer

One of our biggest challenges is that those without digital skills are unclear on what training they need, and where and how to access appropriate learning. Yet, 2 in 3 of those without digital skills would like to improve their skills if they knew what skills were needed and where they are available.

Ambition

“Demystifying the regional provision of digital skills by understanding current provision, current and future needs, and ensuring provision is easy to access for all residents.”

Outcomes

- **Universal and simplified regional access** to a widely used and valued digital skills provision.
- **Collaborative work** to create and deliver digital ecosystem that is both accessible and meaningful to all.
- **Residents understand** how to access digital careers guidance and digital skills training for any stage of life or work.

What is happening already? (examples)

- Digital Navigators Pilot
- IBM SkillsBuild: Strategic Partnership for West Yorkshire
- ‘Let's Talk Real Skills’ Digital Collaborative Skills Partnership
- FutureGoals Platform

Potential Activity in this space (examples)

- **Mapping** of regional and national digital skills provision
- **Design** of a model for a simplified/‘one stop’ access to the full digital skills offer in the region.

Ambitions & Outcomes



Social Digital Inclusion

21% of West Yorkshire residents do not have essential digital skills for life, that means things like turning on a device, navigating the internet and communicating with others. 4% remain completely offline. The close association between digital exclusion and other dimensions of inequality underpins an urgent need to act.

Ambition

“To support the growth of digital skills needed for social inclusion, addressing the ongoing challenge of accessibility and connectivity.”

Outcomes

- **No individual is left behind** as all are supported to engage in an increasingly digital society through accessible and inclusive provision of digital skills training
- **Addressing the digital divide** for disadvantaged learners, by ensuring that all communities in the region are able to access digital learning, and experience the economic benefits.

What is happening already? (examples)

- Digital Navigators Pilot
- Digital Champions Network
- Excellent initiatives within pockets of the region (e.g. 100% Digital Leeds)

Potential Activity in this space (examples)

- **Growing a region-wide network** of trusted places where people can get community help with digital inclusion.
- **Growing a regional ecosystem** of coordinated and easy to access skills provision, ensuring it is inclusive through face-to-face provision as well as virtual.

Ambitions & Outcomes



Workforce for the Future

Over 80% of all jobs currently require the minimum of basic digital skills, yet digital education is in dangerous decline with a 40% drop in young people studying ICT GCSEs and the take up of digital apprenticeships also falling by 29%. West Yorkshire has a fast-growing digital sector (now the largest outside of London), yet unmet vacancies continue to be a challenge.

Ambition

“To support greater alignment between business and education to enable growth in digital skills and promotion of digital careers to deliver the workforce for the future, ready for the ‘jobs of the future’.”

Outcomes

- **Greater uptake of STEM and digital subjects** including by underrepresented groups.
- **More students** leaving education with the digital skills needed to thrive in the modern workplace that aren’t currently available through the national curriculum.
- **Growth** of graduate skills retention in the region.
- **More individuals** with the digital skills to support key regional sectors, including STEM and Digital.
- **Individuals are able to digitally upskill and reskill** to support career progression and/or changes across any sector.

What is happening already? (examples)

- ‘Teen Tech’ Initiative
- West Yorkshire Innovation Festival
- FutureGoals
- Digital Bootcamps
- Digital Enterprise
- P-Tech
- T-Levels

Potential Activity in this space (examples)

- **Growing partnerships** between businesses and educators to inform curriculums, facilitate work experience and grow technical routes
- **Supporting educators and students** to improve and increase digital skills

Ambitions & Outcomes



SME & Third Sector Digital Growth

36% of the workforce lack essential digital skills needed to thrive in the modern workplace, and those working at small and microbusinesses are the least likely to have them. Furthermore, digital capability is essential for businesses to compete, succeed and grow their productivity and workforce.

Ambition

“To support SMEs & Third Sector increase productivity through the growth of digital skills in their workforce, improving the resilience and sustainability of organisations.”

Outcomes

- **SMEs & Third Sector are supported to realise** the value of investing in digital skills for their workforce to transform their businesses and build economic resilience and growth
- **Stronger relationships between SMEs, Third Sector and training providers** with good quality digital skills and training opportunities

What is happening already? (examples)

- Amazon Small Business Accelerator
- Digital Boost
- Clockwork City
- Digital Enterprise
- Made Smarter
- Health-tech and ICS digital transformation
- Help to Grow

Potential Activity in this space (examples)

- **Supporting business leaders** understand the benefits of digital transformation and growth of digital skills.
- **Working with** large businesses to support their SME supply chain in digital transformation and skills development