Somerset LSIP: Annex of Activities

The below activities annex outlines planned activities from Business West, as the LSIP ERB, as well as stakeholders, employers, Local Authorities and Further Education providers in Somerset. This annex is a live document and will be updated regularly, with new activities added and a status update for each proposed activity.

Skills Need	Actions/Changes Needed	Activities	Lead	Partners Involved	Timescale and Milestones	Expected Outcomes	Monitoring and Measurement	Status
Develop the skills required to support Somerset's role as a national leader in innovation	**Innovation Integration in Training & Industry**	TECs, Agratas, Gravity, Innovation in Manufacturing analysis, Productivity through innovation responses	Local Authority	Business West, FE Colleges	Ongoing August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Ensuring existing provision recognises emerging needs of regional investments and developments, and new provision is developed where it doesn't	Review and development of provision	Not Started
	Career Pathways into High-Growth Sectors	Recruitment Entry/Apprenticeships – Marketing campaign/modules/incentives/Day in the Life videos	Employers	Business West	Developed between January 2027 – June 2028 (TBC)	Development of a bank of career insights resources	20 careers insights outputs created and hosted on the Business West LSIP Resources Page	Not Started

	Workplace Exposure to Emerging Industries	Development of robust and flexible Industry Insights (including cross-sectoral opportunities) programme - guest lecturing, placements	Local Authority	FE Colleges, Business West	Ongoing from August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Report highlighting Industry Insights offering in the region.	Increased employer engagement. Wider range of engagement opportunities available.	Not Started
		Deep dive research sprints into Defence	Business West		Delivery by January 2027 – June 2027 (TBC)	Sprint report into Somerset Defence sector	Proposal and outline of deadline with monitoring requirements embedded	Not Started
Address barriers to skills development and employment linked to rurality	**Improved Transport & Connectivity Consideration**	Review transport infrastructure in rural areas	Local Authority		Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Review and identify areas of improvement	Request for intel and update via Governance	Not Started
		Review digital infrastructure in rural areas	Local Authority		Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Review and identify areas of improvement	Request for intel and update via Governance	Not Started
	Flexible & Localised Training Delivery	Work collaboratively with training provider network – highlighting localised training opportunities for rural areas	Dorset and Somerset Training Provider Network	Business West, Local Authority	Ongoing between January 2027 – June 2028 (TBC)	Develop and maintain a training provider network. Signposting to localised provision. Increased visibility and uptake of training.	Reviews at Governance meetings	Ongoing

	Expanded Access to Opportunities	Work collaboratively with local training providers to ensure range of opportunities for engagement	Local Authority		Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Awareness raised around available provision.	Engagement with existing provision	Ongoing
		Webinar on flexibility in recruitment processes	Local Authority	Business West	Delivery by June 2027 (TBC)	Raise awareness with employers about the importance of flexibility in recruitment processes due to rurality and connectivity barriers	Amount of webinar attendees	Not Started
		Review transport infrastructure in rural areas	Local Authority		Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Review and identify areas of improvement	Request for intel and update via Governance	Not Started
		Review digital infrastructure in rural areas	Local Authority		Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Review and identify areas of improvement	Request for intel and update via Governance	Not Started
Strengthen digital and AI capability across the workforce	**Baseline Digital Skills Development**	Develop baseline digital skills threshold/needs matrix	Local Authority	Business West, FE Colleges	Developed by June 2027 (TBC)	Digital skills matrix developed	Adoption by FE colleges in the region	Not Started
		Strengthen fundamental digital skills provision	Business West	Business West	Ongoing between June 2027 – June 2028 (TBC)	Relevant, up to date and industry aligned provision	College baseline metrics	Not Started

	AI Awareness, Safety & Prompt Literacy	Digital and Cyber Skills Online Event	Business West	Stakeholders, Employers	Delivered by June 2028 (TBC)	Improved digital skills knowledge.	Sign up for Cyber Security Training & Digital Bootcamp/ new module training	Not Started
		Digital and Cyber Skills Breakfast	Business West	Stakeholders, Employers	Delivered by June 2028 (TBC)	Improved digital skills knowledge.	Sign up for Cyber Security Training & Digital Bootcamp/ new module training	Not Started
	Short, Practical Digital Training	Development of skills bootcamps/modular/flexible short course training	Local Authority	FE Colleges, Independent Training Providers	Developed between January 2028 – June 2028 (TBC)	Development of modular provision	Reviews at Governance meetings	Ongoing
	Support for Digital Adoption	Develop AI, Digitalisation and Automation upskilling provision and support mechanism	Local Authority	FE Colleges, Independent Training Providers	Developed by June 2028 (TBC)	Increased engagement with digital training.	Provision developed. Amount of employers engaged with provision.	Not Started
Improve work-readiness of young people and new entrants to the workforce	**Embedding Employability Skills in Curriculum**	NextGen Networking - Careers insights event for 16-17 year olds to meet with local employers, build relationships and explore career pathways	Somerset Chamber of Commerce	FE Colleges, Business West	Delivered by April - May 2026	Increased engagement between employers and FE College. Placement opportunities developed. Increased industry knowledge.	Amount of employers and learners in attendance. Placement opportunities/meaningful engagements offered. Relationships between Employers and Education established.	Completed
		Embed Employability Skills, CV skills and	FE Colleges		Ongoing between August 2026	Increased employability	Review destination data and work placement uptake.	Not Started

		interview preparation into the curriculum			– June 2028 (TBC)	skills in emerging workforce.		
	Improved CEIAG Delivery	Benefits of Employer/Education Engagement webinar to promote further integration of employers into education	Local Authority	FE Colleges, Business West	Delivered by June 2027 (TBC)	Awareness raised of Employer/Education Engagement opportunities. Increased employer engagement with FE Colleges.	Amount of webinar attendees	Ongoing
		Raising awareness on industries and job roles through Sector Spotlights	Business West	Employers, FE Colleges	Delivered by June 2027 (TBC)	Development of a bank of resources.	5 sector spotlight outputs created and hosted on the Business West LSIP Resources Page.	Not Started
	Workplace Exposure & Career Pathways	Determine priorities of Gen Z (platforms used, considerations) via survey and share this intel with local businesses through infographics and webinars	Business West	FE Colleges	Completed between March 2027 – June 2027 (TBC)	Report to share with employers and stakeholders highlighting recommendations for Gen Z outreach and engagement methods	Amount of survey responses	Not Started
		Development of robust and flexible Industry Insights programme - guest lecturing, sample progression pathways	Local Authority	FE Colleges, Business West	Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Report highlighting Industry Insights offering in the region.	Increased employer engagement. Wider range of engagement opportunities available.	Not Started

	Flexible Work Placement Models	Development of robust and flexible Industry Placements adaptable for all sectors	Local Authority	FE Colleges, Business West	Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Report highlighting Industry Insights offering in the region.	Increased employer engagement. Wider range of engagement opportunities available.	Not Started
Address ongoing recruitment and retention challenges	**Career Pathways Insights & Interview Preparation**	Recruitment/Retention info website resources	FE Colleges		Delivered by May 2028 – June 2028 (TBC)	Downloadable resources available	Resources available on LSIP Resource Page	Not Started
		Building an Early Careers Talent Pipeline | Recruitment-Led Employability Training Pilot	FE Colleges	Business West		FE students, delivered by a live recruiter, designed to: · improve student job-readiness · Support curriculum outcomes · Create candidate pipeline · Generate external revenue · Build college/university partnerships/LSIP	Placements made, Repeat college bookings, Interviews generated for live jobs, Candidates registered, CVs completed, Mock interviews completed, Number of attendees and satisfaction scores	Not Started

		Recruitment Entry/Apprenticeships – Marketing campaign/modules/incentives/Day in the Life videos	Employers	Business West	Delivered by May 2028 – June 2028 (TBC)	Development of a bank of career insights resources	20 careers insights outputs created and hosted on the Business West LSIP Resources Page	Not Started
	Curriculum Alignment to Technical Skills Needs	Represent employer interests at FE/HE employer boards to ensure the voice of the employer is fed into curriculum design	Business West		Delivered by May 2028 – June 2028 (TBC)	Developing employer skills needs intel. Review and amendment of provision to ensure industry alignment	Attend Employer Boards held in the region	Ongoing
	Addressing Infrastructure Barriers (Transport & Connectivity)	Review transport infrastructure in rural areas	Local Authority		Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Review and identify areas of improvement	Reviews at Governance meetings	Not Started
		Review digital infrastructure in rural areas	Local Authority		Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Review and identify areas of improvement	Reviews at Governance meetings	Not Started
Improve employer understanding and navigation	**Improved Clarity of Training Provision**	Cross-stakeholder working group to develop and implement cohesive messaging and promotion of local skills landscape	Local Authority	Business West	Developed by June 2027 (TBC)	Develop and maintain working group - cohesive messaging and marketing	Reviews at Governance meetings	Not Started

of the skills system	**"One Front Door" Skills System Navigation**	Showcasing employer skills growth journeys and success stories through marketing (case study)	Business West	Employers, Local Authority	Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Development of a bank of case studies. Increased engagement with skills landscape.	5 careers insights outputs created and hosted on the Business West LSIP Resources Page.	Ongoing
		Work in collaboration with Dorset and Somerset Training Provider Network to amplify localised provision	Dorset and Somerset Training Provider Network	Business West	Ongoing until June 2028	Increased awareness and engagement with provision.	Dorset and Somerset Training Provider Network baselines	Ongoing
		Increased LSIP presence in community to expand engagement	Business West		Ongoing until June 2028	Increased event attendance, Skills Clinic attendance and 121s	Hours of engagement. Amount of employer engagements. Amount of events delivered.	Ongoing
		Develop skills priorities for Wessex Partnership area to support devolution discussions in partnership with the Dorset and Swindon and Wiltshire LSIPs	BCP Council, Dorset Council, Somerset Council and Wiltshire Council	Dorset Chamber, Business West	October 2026 (TBC)	Understanding of the Wessex shared skills needs	Dorset Skills and Workforce Board	Ongoing

		Development of Adult Social Care Working Group	Business West	Care and Support West	Established by September 2026	Cohesive regional approach to identifying opportunities and strengthening support network	Continued growth and identification of opportunities. LSIP representation at meetings to ensure alignment and identify further areas for research.	Completed
		Cross-stakeholder working group to strengthen One Front Door approach to skills system and governance	Local Authority	Business West	Ongoing until June 2027	Develop and maintain working group - cohesive messaging and marketing	Reviews at Governance meetings	Not Started
	Curriculum Codesign with Employers	Employer boards to review curriculum and ensure industry alignment, development of curriculum codesign relationship	FE Colleges	Business West, Employers	Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Developing employer skills needs intel. Review and amendment of provision to ensure industry alignment	Attend of Employer Boards held in the region	Ongoing
	Workforce Development Support	Deliver skills clinics that support workforce development and help businesses navigate the skills system	Business West	Employers	Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Bespoke workforce development planning. Signposting to provision and resources.	Support businesses across Somerset	Ongoing
		Sector Events - Delivery/Talks/Workshops	Business West		Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Sector specific insight events - topics based on demand from intel	Attendees and engagement	Ongoing

Address persistent gaps in critical and enabling skills	**Embedding Employability Skills in Curriculum**	Embed Employability Skills, CV skills and interview preparation into the curriculum	FE Colleges		Ongoing until June 2028	Increased employability skills in emerging workforce.	Review destination data and work placement uptake.	Not Started
	Industry-Specific Application of Transferable Skills	Identify key critical skills required by each sector, and explore opportunities for application	Business West	Employers, FE Colleges	Delivered by June 2027 (TBC)	Report/infographic highlighting sector specific critical skills needs	10 x report/infographic	Not Started
	Increased Awareness of Skills Importance	Highlight the importance of critical skills to the emerging workforce	FE Colleges		Ongoing until June 2028 (TBC)	Increased understanding	Amount of learners advised	Not Started
Improve understanding and practical application of net zero and sustainability	**Green Skills Clarity & Definitions**	Develop regional green skills definition	Business West	Local Authority, Stakeholders	Developed by January 2027 – June 2027 (TBC)	Clear and accessible green skills definition	Green skills definition developed and rolled out.	Not Started
		Develop and implement clear green skills messaging for the region	Business West	Local Authorities	Developed by January 2027 – June 2027 (TBC)	Clear and accessible green skills messaging	Green skills messaging developed and rolled out.	Not Started
	"One Front Door" Access to Training	Develop One Front Door approach to training support	Business West	Local Authority, FE Colleges	Ongoing between August 2026 – June 2028 (TBC)	Develop and maintain working group - cohesive messaging and marketing	Reviews at Governance meetings	Not Started
	Business-focussed climate crisis support	Utilise the National Emergency Briefing to support businesses to understand the climate crisis and how they can respond	Business West		Complete by October 2026	Awareness raised and working groups established for continued action	30+ attendees, across a range of sectors and outside of sustainability roles	Completed

	Sector-Specific Green Skills Development	Embed Green Skills into Construction delivery	CTEC	FE Colleges	Ongoing until June 2028 (TBC)	Increased understanding of sector specific green needs	Attendance of Employer Boards to support curriculum review and update	Ongoing
		Identify sector specific green skills gaps	Business West	Employers	Completed by January 2027 – June 2027 (TBC)	Increased understanding of sector specific green needs	Report outlining sector specific needs and additional actions identified	Not Started
	Practical Business Guidance & ROI Awareness	Support businesses to procure locally and achieve their social value commitments	Business West	Local Authority	Completed by January 2027 – June 2027 (TBC)	Awareness raised on Sustainability ROI	Amount of employers engaged	Not Started