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West of England Plus LSIP – Project Outline

Executive Summary and Aims

The [Local Skills Improvement Plan](#) (LSIP) is a new engagement mechanism set up to understand more fully the business requirements in the skills landscape going forward, building on other regional research projects and initiatives to ensure better collaboration with employers and understanding of options going forward.

The West of England Plus LSIP focuses on an area that aligns with the WoE Institute of Technology, from Gloucester to Yeovil and will cover both Aerospace and Advanced Engineering and Health and Social Care.

The initial LSIP project runs from October 2021 until March 2022, but LSIP mechanisms going forwards are progressing through parliament with a proposed intention to make this a statutory function.

The four-fold aims from this project are to;

1. Ensure relevant businesses (including those traditionally harder to reach) feed into current and future planning for post 16 technical education and training delivery - in both content and mode - to ensure better alignment with the region's businesses specific needs and learners requirements for high value futureproofed employment
2. Ensure engaged businesses (and through this businesses as a whole) are better informed on how they can engage with and take advantage of the region's training and education providers
3. Ensure that a methodology for ongoing engagement has been iteratively improved and evaluated for the ongoing continuation of the LSIP across further geographies and sectors
4. Ensure that Business West, as a leading BRO incorporating a Chamber of Commerce, is best placed to continue this work once

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the structure, format and funding for future LSIP activity is announced by central government.

WoE+ LSIP Mission

Problem Statement:

"Employers currently do not have enough influence on the skills provision offered in their locality to address their current and future workforce requirements, nor the mechanisms to easily and succinctly input their requirements if they would like to"

The West of England Plus LSIP will help delineate post-16 technical training that employers need, with delivery in the most appropriate modes, and at the times and prices employers want, and which our economy and workforce needs, now and in the future.

The West of England plus Local Skills Improvement Plan pilot will attempt to address this challenge across two prioritised sectors that have faced greater than average recent upheaval and change. The LSIP pilot project will also provide exploration and evaluation of best practise methodologies to continue business engagement activities for alignment of post 16 technical training provision for this new collaborative business engagement and training provision mechanism.

Project Principles and Scope

We have prioritised two key sectors and two underlying cross-sectoral themes as the foci for our West of England Plus LSIP Trailblazer.

Aerospace and the wider **advanced engineering** sector is facing both threat and opportunity from the decarbonisation, 'Jet Zero' and digital agendas. With 14 out of the 15 Aerospace Primes in the region, this is the largest aerospace cluster in the UK and second largest in Europe. *We have both the opportunity and the facilities to lead the sector's development of activities aligned with net zero and digitalisation globally*

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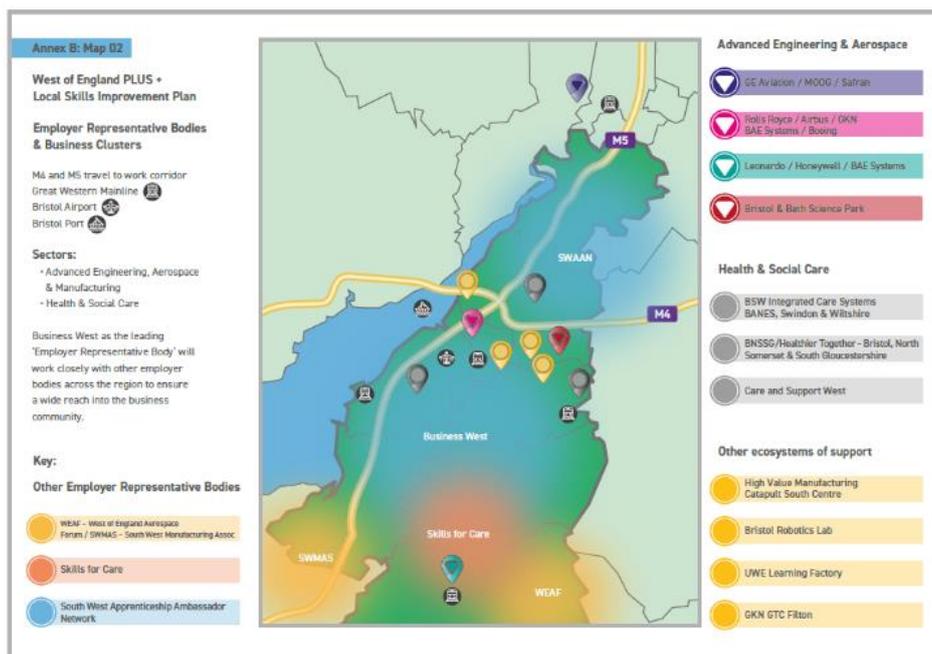


Department
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Social care - This industry is facing both increasing demand for new people, higher unfilled existing posts and the need for technical upskilling, in particular against the potential productivity and efficiency impacts of digitalisation. *We can become an exemplar region for challenging leadership principles and awareness of sectoral change, improving both the perception and the viability of social care as a long term rewarding career*

The cross-sectoral themes of **Digital Transformation** and **Decarbonisation** will give us insight into skills needs that will affect all sectors in the future, whilst also acknowledging the region's leading abilities in these areas and the proposed second phase of activity in creative & tech and the need to decarbonise infrastructure.



We will build upon existing work undertaken and the evidence base provided by WECA, GFirst LEP and Heart of the SW LEP and our other regional partners such as the [West of England Local Industrial Strategy](#) and [Employment and Skills Plan](#).