



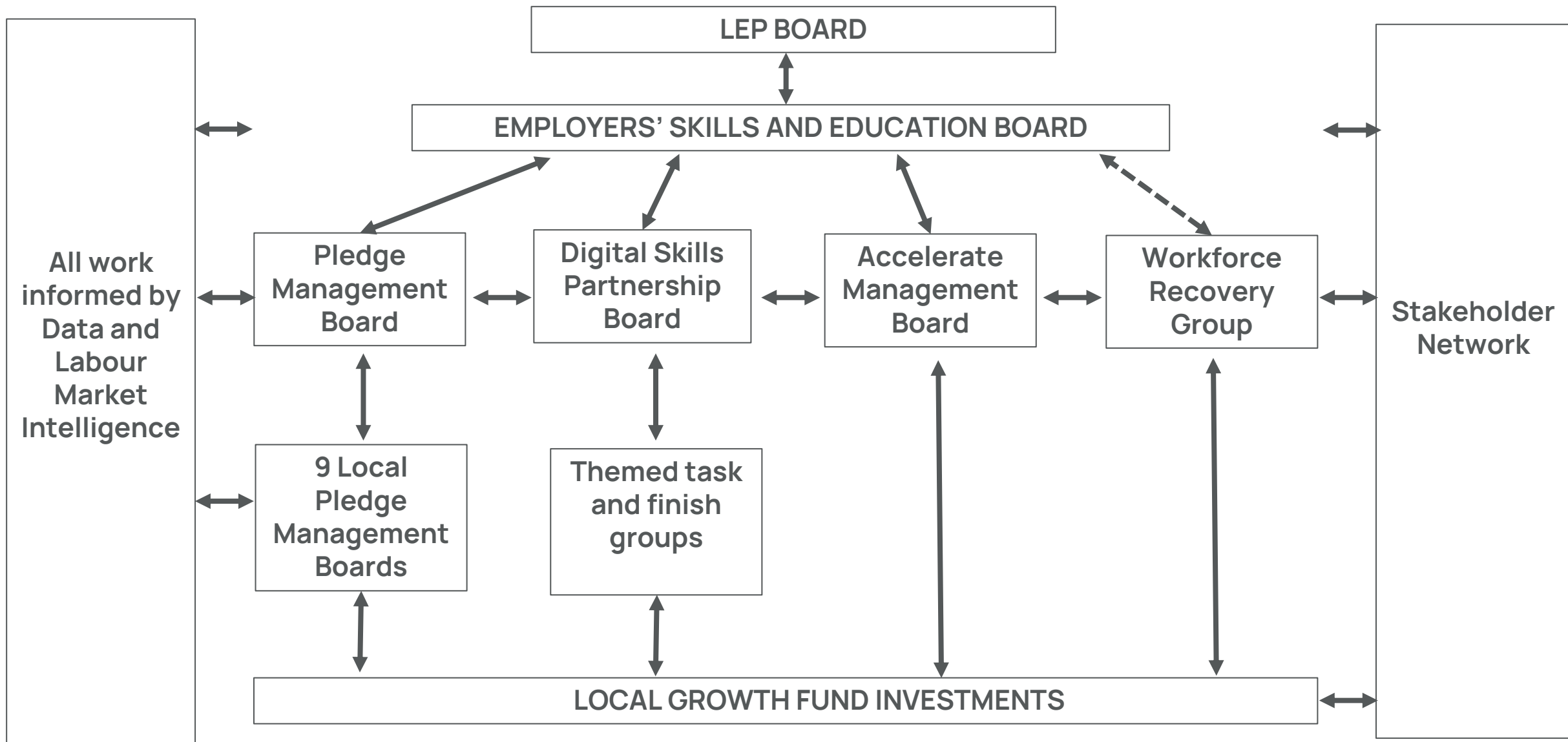
# Cheshire and Warrington Digital Skills Partnership

Sarah Williams

Digital Skills Partnership Coordinator



# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



## Skills Report and Action Plan

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Our work programme for the next 12 months – is set out in the Skills Report and Action Plan.

<https://cheshireandwarrington.com/what-we-do/skills-and-education/data-and-labour-market-information/>

Designed to support a healthy, sustainable, inclusive and growing economy – our golden thread.

All actions have been mapped against 'healthy, sustainable, inclusive fast growing' and are focused on:

- Young people
- Employees
- Unemployed people

**THE PLEDGE**  
**ACCELERATE**  
CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON

## Skills Action Plan

**2. Employees** - Employees will develop the skills and aptitudes that employers require to be able to grow, innovate and adopt digital. Highlighted skill gaps include amongst others Green tech, life sciences, logistics, digital and STEM skills to support our key sectors.

Action	Who will this affect	Delivery Partners	Key Issues to be addressed	Milestones and Targets	Metrics
<b>a) Inform and inspire</b> – produce high quality labour market information that underpins individuals' understanding of local skills gaps and career opportunities; supports skills providers in delivering an agile and responsive curriculum; and informs employers' workforce planning.	Residents (all age); Colleges, schools, and skills providers; employers; careers partners	Data and Labour Market Intelligence Group	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce reports on the impact of Covid-19 and deep dives into key issues e.g. sustainable clean growth skills needs, by end 2021.</li> <li>Develop 6 case studies by Dec 2021 on the use of new technologies in industry to inspire employers to adopt new technologies and develop employee skills.</li> <li>Increase the number of referrals for digital leader mentoring programmes such as Digital Boost by Dec 2021.</li> </ul>	
<b>b) Stimulate demand from employers and individuals</b> - develop the skills our economy needs, underpinned by curriculum pathways (Level 2 to Level 4+), developed in line with the White paper, that support an individual's progression in employment.	Employers, employees	Skills providers, careers partners	1, 2 and 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit a business case for an IoT by April 2022.</li> </ul>	Attainment levels, HTF vacancies, % of employees receiving training
<b>c) Increase the number of employees trained</b> - ensure that training providers are aware of the training needs and we make the most effective use of the training programmes available – for example, using Accelerate to deliver training to employees at all levels, as their roles develop.	Employees, employers	Skills providers	2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 1500 individuals trained by Accelerate by 2023.</li> <li>Increase the number of high-level digital skills courses offered in the Accelerate programme from 5 to 30 by Dec 2021.</li> <li>Using Accelerate, deliver bootcamps for 40 furloughed people.</li> </ul>	Attainment levels, HTF vacancies, % of employees receiving training
<b>d) Develop the capacity of our skills system</b> – invest (as resources allow) in the estate and equipment required to deliver digital and technical skills at the volumes required; and by supporting the creation of an Institute of Technology. We will also ensure that existing investment in digital and technical capacity over-delivers on outputs, and that good practice is shared	Skills providers, learners, employers	Skills providers, employers	2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11k people and 540 businesses benefitting in digital skills training through the Local Growth Fund Skills Projects by December 2022.</li> </ul>	2019/20 capital investment delivers the impact contracted for IoT bid successful. L3+ delivery volumes

Healthy	Sustainable	Inclusive	Growing	Milestones and Targets	Progress to 7 July 2021	Target Metric	Actual	RAG Rating
H	S	I	G	i) Engagement of over 500 employers by Dec 2022 in the successful delivery of the Pledge programme. (Trevor)	Working on a new marketing strategy to engage more employers, using strong referrals from existing partners. Running an event with Alderley Park and also strategy to support Hospitality and Torusim Sector	500 by Dec 22	458	
H	S	I	G	ii) Regular communication with a broad range of employers, using existing networks, about skills, with a focus on digital and the Pledge. (Abbie, Trevor and Sarah)	Putting together a plan for this now to launch in September.			
	S	I	G	iii) Publish 6 case studies by Dec 2021 on digital roles in different sectors with at least 3 of these featuring females. (Sarah)	Two case studies identified and currently being developed.	6 case studies by Dec 21	0	

# Roadmap

Skills to deliver Cheshire and Warrington's vision for growth, inclusion, sustainability and health

## The Cheshire and Warrington Landscape

- C&W's £30.9bn economy is one of the UK's success stories. It has the highest GVA per head of all northern LEPs.
- The population is old and ageing. The only age band under 60 that is forecast to grow over 10% is the 16-18-year-old population which will grow by 15% by 2028.
- Job density is much higher than the national average.
- There are over 43,000 businesses in C&W, employing 500k.
- The employment rate is falling
- Key sectors are Manufacturing; Life Sciences; Energy and clean growth; Finance and Business Services; and Logistics and Distribution. Digital and sustainability are cross-cutting priorities
- Most of the C&W growth sectors carry a wage premium, although more than 20% of all C&W employees earn less than the Real Living Wage
- Replacement demand to 2027 is expected to vary for different occupations, from 22% to 42%.
- C&W Strategic Priorities: Town centres; Science corridor; High speed growth corridor; Digital infrastructure; Hydrogen and next gen nuclear.
- There is good alignment of FE delivery with those that need it, in the places where many of those people live

## Key Issues and Opportunities

- △ C-19 is driving job losses, unemployment & economic inactivity, impacting the most vulnerable
- △ More employees need to be trained. To meet future employer demand for technical, Greentech, and digital skills, C&W needs 75k more adults qualified to L4+ by 2027.
- △ Employers in C&W are more likely to have skills shortage vacancies in high skill roles.
- △ The disadvantage gap for progression to education @16 is too big, as it is for attainment of L3 @19.
- △ Where young people live in C&W links to their level of attainment
- △ There are large gender disparities in apprenticeships, diplomas, and A Levels including in STEM and digital.

## Our Objective

- ▷ Young people - employers will be at the heart of inspiring and informing.
- ▷ Employees - employees will develop the skills and aptitudes that employers require.
- ▷ Economically inactive and unemployed - we will align national and local programmes, and local investment (where available), to secure maximum impact.

## Enablers

- ▷ A strong economic recovery
- ▷ A responsive Government policy framework
- ▷ Employers working together to inspire and inform.
- ▷ High quality LMI
- ▷ Employers working with skills providers to co-design the curriculum they need.
- ▷ Linking job opportunities from major capital investment to local people needing a job, including top slicing capital to support skills.
- ▷ Flexible investment of skills budgets responsive to local need including Adult Education Budget and Shared Prosperity Fund.
- ▷ Delivering world class facilities and kit to support skills.
- ▷ Govt investment in SAPs and Digital Skills Partnerships.

## Leadership and Co-ordination

Employers' Skills Board  
LEP Board  
Digital Skills Partnership

## Stakeholders

Employers  
Young people  
Workforce  
Unemployed  
Economically inactive  
Colleges and Schools  
Youth workers  
Parents and Carers  
Local authorities  
JCP  
Training providers  
National Career Service  
Voluntary sector  
Housing Associations

## Influencers

Business leaders  
Employer ambassadors  
Employer networks  
Members of Parliament  
Civic leaders  
Press/social media

## Skills Action Plan Programmes

Young people  
Employees  
Unemployed and economically inactive

## Impact and Metrics

### Increased Employment

- Employment rate & economic activity above 2019 by 2025
- DWP claimant metrics

### Inspired Young People

- Gatsby benchmarks and a more strategic approach in all our schools to inspiring young people about new technologies and career opportunities.
- % FSM young people progressing to education @16
- L3 attainment gap @19

### Skilled, Productive Workforce

- Increase % @ L3+ & % of employees trained.
- Eliminate in work poverty by 2030 and halve the number earning below the living wage by 2025.

### Business Growth

- Double size of the economy by 2040

### Digital Inclusion

- Decrease residents digitally excluded

### Skills Inclusion

- Increase the % of workers and residents engaged in learning

## DCMS and Local Digital Skills Partnerships

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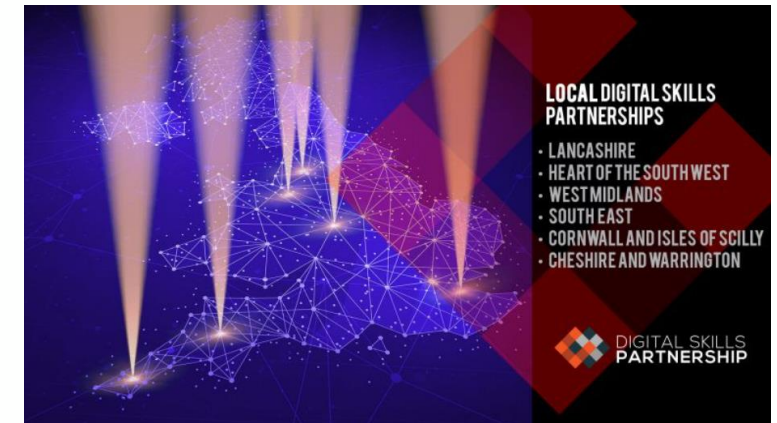
The aim of the Digital Skills Partnership is to **improve digital capability** across the whole skills spectrum - from the **essential skills** that help **reduce digital exclusion**, to the **skills workers need** in an **increasingly digital economy**, and through to the **advanced skills** required for **specialist roles**.

<https://cheshireandwarrington.com/growth-and-skills/digital-skills-partnership/>

£75k dedicated resource per year for 3 Years



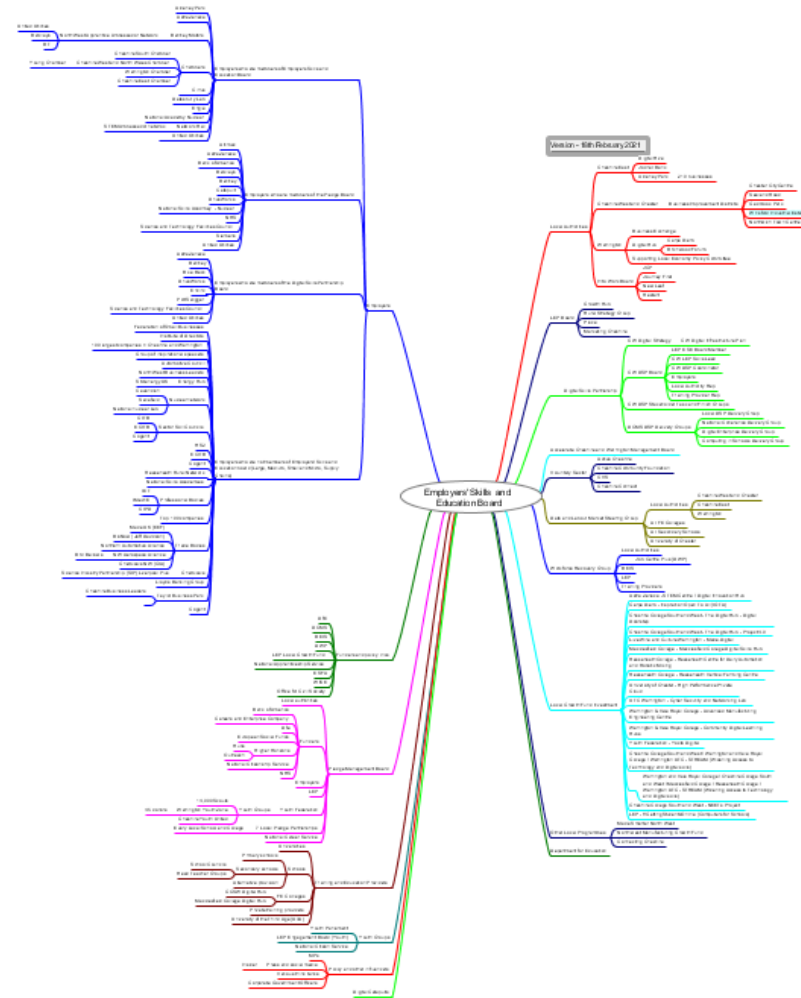
Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport



# The Digital Skills Partnership

The Digital Skills Partnership in Cheshire and Warrington is a group of employers and other organisations who recognise the growing importance of digital skills to all the businesses and residents of Cheshire and Warrington.

The network of stakeholders is mapped here and we try to utilise these where we can.





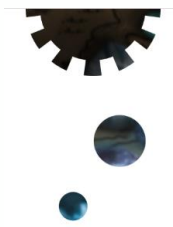
# Cheshire and Warrington Digital Skills Partnership Board

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Our DSP Board is actively engaged in the work of the Cheshire and Warrington DSP and is fully integrated with the work of the LEP.

The DSP Board reports to the LEP's Employers' Skills and Education Board and the deputy chair of this Board is also the chair of the DSP Board, the Digital Connectivity Board and a member of the main LEP Board.

The work of the Digital Skills Partnership is led by a Board of key businesses as well as one representative for the Local Authorities and one for the Training Providers.



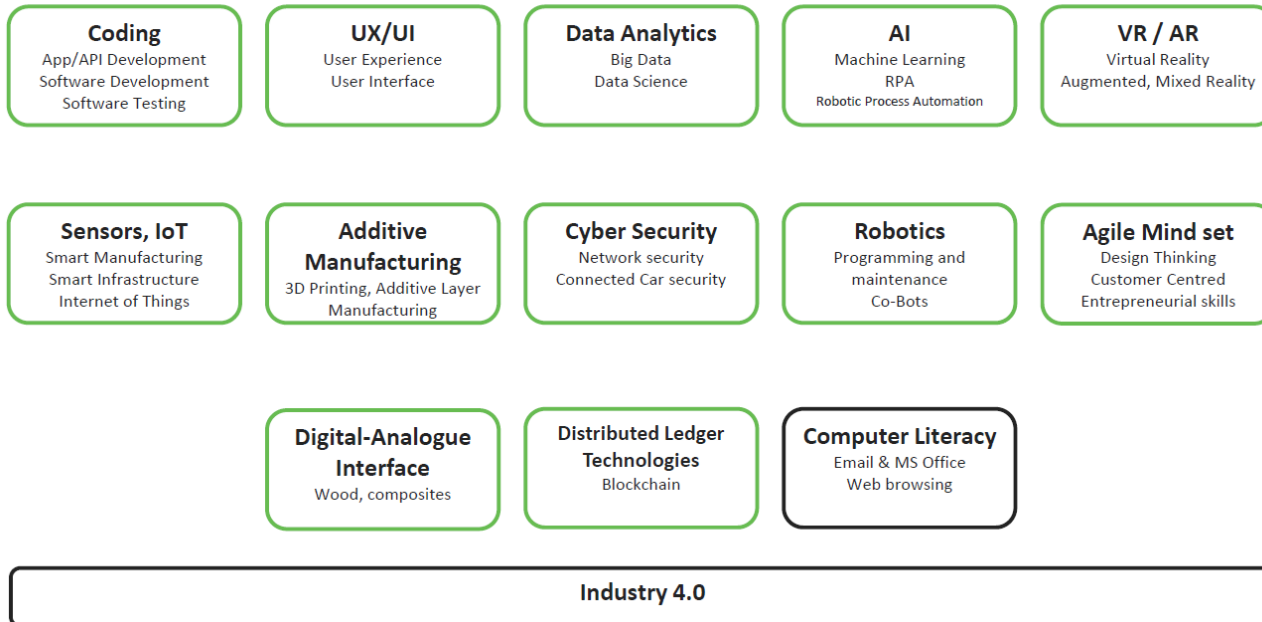
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# Digital Skills Work

## 1. Digital Skills Audit



£5million investment  
in digital and STEM

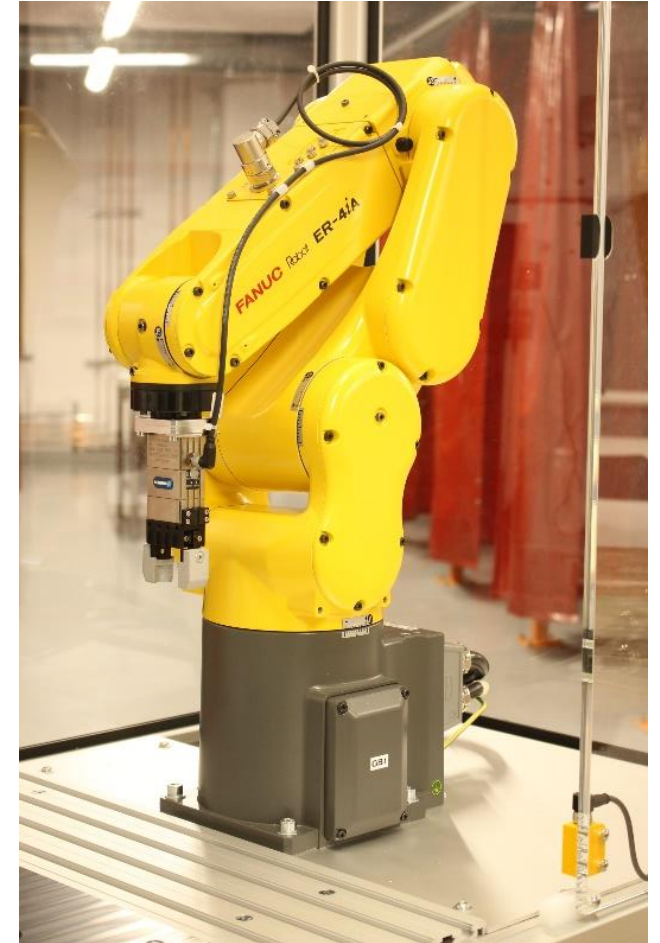
## Specialist Equipment Supporting the Use of New Technologies and Development Digital and Technical Skills

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£5 million of Local Growth Fund investment in specialist equipment needed to provide access to new technologies and deliver digital and technical training to people living and working in Cheshire and Warrington.

The seventeen projects approved are contracted to support 3,681 businesses and provide 84,287 learning opportunities. The projects include:

- STEM and digital innovation and skills hubs
- Mobile equipment to support digital careers development and digital creative skills
- Specialist cutting-edge equipment to support the transformation and acceleration of digital and advanced manufacturing and engineering skills
- Advanced construction training centres
- A dairy automation and robotic milking centre
- Cyber security centres





# Questions?

If you require more information on anything covered in this presentation, please contact  
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