



Staffordshire
Chambers of
Commerce.

**FOR BUSINESS.
FOR GROWTH.
FOR YOU.**

LSIP – RURAL FORUM.



LSIP.

- Led by Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce with partners, training provider and businesses.
- Identifies challenges and opportunities through labour market analysis and employer engagement.
- Sets evidence-based actions to improve regional skills and align post-16 education with employer needs.
- Aims to raise skills levels and support local economic growth, productivity and innovation.



LSIP TIMELINE.

2023

First Publication – live on Chambers and Gov.uk



DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION APPROVED



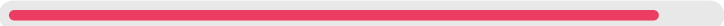
3-year duration

2024
/25

Progress Report published



ROADMAP OF ACTIVITIES UPDATED

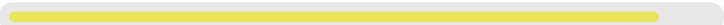


2026

Second Publication



NEW LMI/PRIORITIES

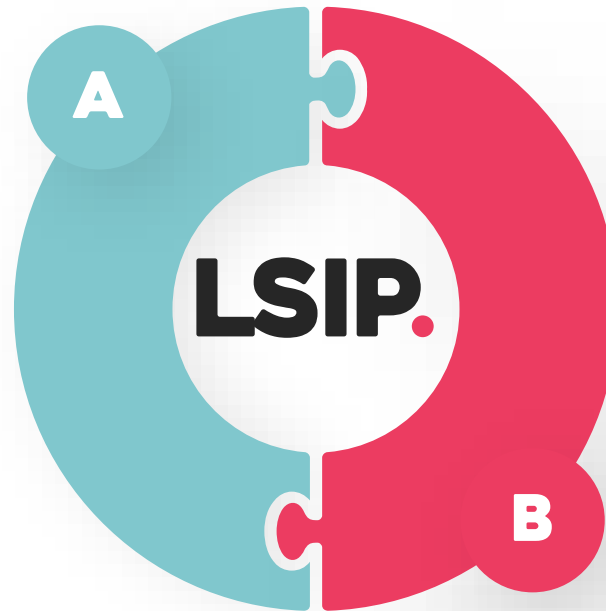


Expected publication
July 2026



LABOUR MARKET SKILLS.

1. Resident employment by occupation data (Census 2021)
2. Job vacancy advertising data
3. Skills England's list of top 20 growth occupations (national, 2025-30)
4. Priority occupations from the last Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LSIP (2023)
5. Migration Advisory Committee longlist of level 3-5 occupations for potential inclusion for Temporary Skilled Worker Visas (national, based on data)
6. Whether the occupation requires a training-led response (rather than occupations where competence can be achieved after a few days on the job)



EMPLOYER LED RESEARCH

1. Sector round table discussions
2. Skills Big Breakfast
3. Provider led employer events
4. Skills survey

AGRICULTURE/AGRITECH & DIGITAL

2023- a cross-cutting theme. 2026 a priority as a sector, but still a cross-cutting theme.

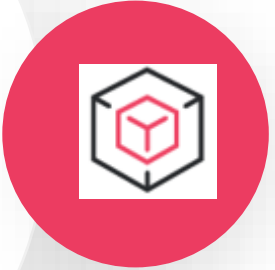


ENGINEERING & ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, INCLUDING CERAMICS

DECARBONISATION AND ENERGY DISTRIBUTION



PRIORITY AREAS.



ADVANCED LOGISTICS

CONSTRUCTION INCLUDING MODERN METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

SKILLS NEEDS.



ROADMAP FOR CHANGE.

9 areas of priorities listed in the plan

Improved Collaboration

- Established the Staffordshire Partnership Network to coordinate delivery, share resources and provide a single voice for the sector.

Simplified Skills

- Developed modular courses aligned to LSIP priority skills.
- Created the Skills Hub model to give businesses impartial advice and link them to local provision and funding.
- Secured UKSPF funding to support non-accredited training for businesses.

Addressing Recruitment Challenges in Education

- Encouraged employers to deliver skills sessions in colleges and universities; supported campaigns promoting teaching as a career.
- Colleges have invested in targeted staff training to build multi-disciplinary capability and cover gaps.



LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENTS FUND.

October 2023 – March 2025

- **£3.2m Capital and Revenue funding for providers to undertake activities related to the LSIP.**
- **It was a collaboration of the 6 colleges across Staffordshire, Chambers of Commerce and Independent Training Providers.**
- **Activities include reviewing and improving current arrangements for provider/employer collaboration in Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire.**
- **Strengthen specialist provision for engineering and advanced manufacturing through investment in new specialist equipment, staff training and the realignment of provision to address current and future needs.**

- Strengthening the Staffordshire Providers Network of local independent training providers.
- Increasing the number of employer engagement events between providers and businesses.
- Capital investment programme:
 - **Burton and South Derbyshire College** – Hydrogen and electric vehicle / battery technology
 - **Leek Campus** – Computer aided manufacturing, process control, robotics, fluid power
 - **Newcastle and Stafford College** – Additive manufacturing, robotics and automation
 - **Stoke-on-Trent College** – Advanced manufacturing equipment, automation, electric vehicles
 - **South Staffordshire College** – Computer aided manufacturing, robotics and automation



POSITIVES

Growth & Skills Levy – New short courses via the apprenticeship system will give employers flexible ways to upskill staff in priority areas such as digital, advanced AI and engineering. Further details expected April 2026.

Lifelong Learning Entitlement – Adults will have access to short, modular training or longer courses, supported by a new loan entitlement to help with upskilling throughout their careers.

Foundation Apprenticeships – Creates paid entry-level roles (Level 2) with structured training for young people starting out.

English & Maths Requirements – Adult apprentices (19+) no longer need to achieve English and maths qualifications to pass their apprenticeship.



NEGATIVES

Level 7 Apprenticeships – Defunding most Level 7 options is disappointing. Local businesses highlighted higher-level skills gaps, particularly in leadership, which remain unaddressed.

Rising Employment Costs – Increases in NLW and NI continue to impact recruitment, investment in skills, and the ability of businesses to take on young people and apprentices.

Investment in Education Infrastructure – Continued funding is needed for universities, colleges and training providers so they can meet capacity demands and support business needs.



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2026 LSIP SURVEY.





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THANKS!

CONTACT ME

✉ info@staffordshirechambers.co.uk

🌐 staffordshirechambers.co.uk

🏠 Commerce House, ST1 5BE



ANY QUESTIONS?

Suzanne Quinn
Project Manager

Suzanne.quinn@staffordshirechambers.co.uk

