

Greater Essex Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) Progress Report

(Essex, Southend and Thurrock)

June 2025



Funded by
UK Government

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1. Purpose of the Report

Welcome to this report to share the progress of the Essex LSIP. This updates the information shared in our [last progress report](#), published in June 2024. You can view the original LSIP (which these progress reports update on) [here](#).

“It’s a pleasure to introduce this report which sets out the progress we continue to make with the Essex LSIP for employers and stakeholders. Once again, our business led approach and focus on delivery is clear. It’s exciting to be able to showcase the wide range of work underway and delivering locally.

Throughout our Progress Report we’ll set out key aspects of work to date and the accompanying action plan will provide additional information on what we plan for the future. Some of the highlights include our amazing Festival of Skills in November, our Employer Guide simplifying the skills landscape for employers, and our Sector Insights which include data dashboards. It has also been great to see the newly created college facilities through the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) which help us to ensure that state of the art training facilities are available to the residents of Greater Essex – look out for photos later in the report. What an amazing legacy for the LSIP which will last well into the future.

Our regular [LSIP bulletin](#) is always packed full of news, information and activity which regularly brings to life the work we’re doing.

The work truly continues to go from strength to strength, and it wouldn’t be possible without the support of a range of stakeholders and most importantly the county’s employers. We’re very proud to be working with you all and to make a positive difference. A big thank you to everyone involved – together we’re having a significant impact”.

Denise Rossiter, Chief Executive,
Essex Chambers of Commerce



**“Together
we’re having a
significant impact”**

— Denise Rossiter

2. Summary of the LSIP

The [original LSIP](#) was published in 2023, further to Essex Chambers of Commerce being chosen by the Department for Education (DfE) as lead for the LSIP in Essex. Following extensive engagement with employers and stakeholders, as well as evidence gathering, the report captured the skills and skills system priorities, as well as key sectors for focus. As per the Skills for Jobs White Paper and current reforms to post-16 technical education and training, 38 LSIP plans are now in place across England with the Further Education Sector legally required to respond to them.

The LSIP covers Essex, Southend and Thurrock and is one of the largest LSIPs nationally. All references to Essex in the report cover this whole area, also known as 'Greater Essex'. The geography has a population of nearly 1.9 million (1,863,314) and is home to nearly 81,000 businesses (80,800). Skills and recruitment needs remain a key priority for businesses locally and are a key focus of the Essex LSIP.

The LSIP is overseen by the [LSIP Employment and Skills Board](#) and with key contributions from [sector groups](#) undertaking a range of activity to drive delivery. You can also get involved in the work and [learn more here](#).

The [original LSIP](#) identified priorities, as set out below and which it continues to deliver against. The [last progress report](#) captured work in developments such as employer and Apprenticeship Toolkits, Sector Insights and sector groups. Aspects such as the LSIP webpages, newsletter and events were also still in development at the time of the last Progress Report and are now fully up and running (and continue to expand). The Annual Progress Report Action Plan (Annex A) covers these in detail and this report will also explore these further with the progress being made against the LSIP priorities:



Skills System Priorities

- Skills planning system for Essex
- System access and flexibility
- Information, Careers Advice & Guidance
- Tutor shortages & capacity of providers to respond
- Inclusive employment
- Barriers to engagement

Skills Priorities

- Soft skills and behaviours
- Basic English, Maths and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)
- Digital skills and 'Digitech'
- Green skills
- Leadership and Management skills

Essex Sectors & Technical Skills

- Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering & Aviation
- AgriTech & Food Tech
- Community & Voluntary
- Construction & the Built Environment
- Creative & Cultural
- DigiTech
- Education
- Health, Social Care & Med Tech
- Professional Services
- Transport & Logistics

3. Strategic and Economic Context Update

The previous [LSIP progress](#) report included headline information on the local economy, with updated information included here to provide a snapshot of the current picture. As was set out in 2024, Essex is one of the largest areas in England, with a population of 1,863,314 of which 62.2% are of working age. It is diverse, with one of the longest coastlines, rural and urban areas and some of the wealthiest and the most deprived parts of the country. Proximity to London is significant to the labour market, with high levels of commuting into the capital and other areas. There are significant numbers of large infrastructure projects and housing developments taking place across the area, which will have a big impact on the skills needed. Proximity to neighbouring counties such as Suffolk also means that large developments such as Sizewell C will impact locally. See the [labour market dashboard](#) and [sector insights](#) for more detailed and latest information.



At a glance – key facts and figures – updated

	Essex	Southend	Thurrock	UK
Skills Level 4+ (2024)*	40.6%	42.7%	36.7%	47.6%
Skills Level 3+ (2024)*	65.1%	59.5%	56.2%	67.9%
Skills Level 2+ (2024)*	90.8%	86.2%	82%	86.7%
Skills Level 1+ (2024)*	92.5%	89.1%	85.2%	89.1%
No qualifications (2024)*	4.6%	5.9%	9.7%	6.7%
Weekly earnings (residence based) (2024)	£784.2	£828.90	£798.8	£729.8
Weekly earnings (workplace based) (2024)	£728.3	£663.60	£699.4	£729.6
Out of work benefit claimants (2025)	30,175	5,215	5,305	NA
Total employee jobs (2023)	601,000	63,000	76,000	NA
Number of businesses (2024)	66,880	6,915	7,005	NA
Proportion of businesses which are SMEs (2024)	99.7%	99.7%	99.7%	NA

* % is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16–64

Since publication of the last progress report and original LSIP, the strategic landscape has also changed significantly:

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) has now closed. Further to a government review of LEPs nationally and agreement of the LEP Board a swift and effective transition of work to local authorities has taken place. SELEP covered Essex, Southend, Thurrock, Kent, Medway and East Sussex and therefore work has moved to the relevant local authorities in those areas.

Some work continues to happen across the broader geography, such as the **Major Projects Skills Group**, now led by the Construction and Industry Training Board (CITB) and with involvement of Essex LSIP to help ensure effective join up across the region. This group brings together large infrastructure and housing projects across the south and including the Lower Thames Crossing, Longfield Solar Farm and Thames Freeport. **Significantly, in March 2025, the Lower Thames Crossing plans were approved by the government.** This will be a 14.5-mile (23km) road linking Essex and Kent



3. Strategic and Economic Context Update (continued)

by two tunnels running underneath the River Thames. It will be the largest road tunnel in the UK when constructed at a cost of up to £10 billion. Work is due to begin in 2026 and be completed by 2032. There is already strong engagement through the LSIP with the Lower Thames Crossing team to deliver against significant skills needs.

Greater Essex Business Board (GEBB) – the previous report set out that as part of the transition of work to local authorities it was expected that a board for Greater Essex would be developed and that it would link to the LSIP Board. GEBB is now established as a strategic advisory board. Further information is provided about GEBB on [Essex County Council's website](#) which outlines that 'GEBB exists to influence economic growth policies at the local and national level. This includes providing strategic advice to political decision-makers. It will have the freedom and autonomy to set its own agenda, using evidence to develop its own positions on key issues. The board's advice will help in setting the strategic direction for local economic policy. This includes producing and updating an Economic Strategy for Greater Essex'. Responsibilities for GEBB are set out as the following on the website and with a clear reference to Essex Chambers of Commerce and its role as the ERB in the third bullet point:

- informing economic strategy and shaping economic development priorities
- making Greater Essex stand out, compete and attract investment
- shaping the Essex skills programme, collaborating with the Essex Chambers of Commerce
- convening stakeholders from key growth sectors to influence investment and support job growth
- shaping and overseeing the provision of future Government programmes

The Board is chaired by Julia Gregory who has held various executive, chairperson, and non-executive director roles. Other board members include DP World, Teledyne, MAG / Stansted Airport, Freeport East, Leonardo and Industrial Chemicals. Essex Chambers of Commerce Chief Executive, Denise Rossiter is a member. This also helps to ensure strong links to the LSIP Employment and Skills Board. Further information on members is [available here](#).

Groups have been established to lead on different areas of work. To ensure alignment and input to the LSIP, the Essex LSIP Executive Director, Jo Giles is leading on the skills area and aligning to the work of the [LSIP board](#). This maximises the work already underway as well as leveraging new input from businesses on LSIP priorities.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – the previous report set out that devolution had been paused until after the general election by the then Minister for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Following the general election in July 2024, the Labour government continued plans for devolution in 2025, alongside Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Devolution is the transfer of powers and funding from UK government to local government. LGR is about how local government powers and funding are organised between councils. The government invited local authorities to put in proposals to be part of the devolution priority programme. Essex County Council alongside Thurrock and Southend Councils wrote to the government to request inclusion. This was confirmed in February 2025 and the government also confirmed that elections originally scheduled for May 2025 for Essex County Council and Thurrock Council would be suspended.

Responses have now been submitted to the government's proposals, following a consultation period (in April 2025). This includes the proposed creation of a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Greater Essex which would bring decisions closer to local people, including a more skilled workforce and improved infrastructure and more joined-up transport



3. Strategic and Economic Context Update (continued)

systems. The Devolution Priority Programme aims to see a new wave of Mayors elected in May 2026.

Alongside this, the government commenced Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in areas that still have a two-tier system of local government. This means that a county council operates as well as district, borough and city councils. In Greater Essex, there are currently twelve districts, two unitaries and a county council. The Government have set out plans to move away from the two-tier system, with all fifteen councils in Essex being replaced with a number of unitary councils. The white paper has stipulated that the government thinks the optimum size for new unitary councils to be at least 500,000 people. However, there may be some flexibility on this, and each case will be considered on its own merits. Greater Essex has a population of around 1.9 million, meaning three or four unitary councils is the most likely outcome of the reorganisation.

As Essex is on the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) proposals will be submitted by 26 September 2025, then working towards mayoral elections in 2026 for DPP areas alongside other scheduled local elections. There will be shadow unitary elections in May 2027 and new unitary councils going live in 2028. After LGR has taken place, the new unitary

councils will work with the new mayoral combined authority to use the powers and funding they received from devolution. Further information is available from [Essex](#), [Southend](#) and [Thurrock](#) Councils.

The Essex LSIP also continues to align strategically with government priorities such as **Skills England's 10 priority sectors** (made up of the 8 growth driving sectors

in the [industrial strategy](#) plus construction, and health and social care). A wealth of work is underway through sector groups and through colleges aligning their provision to priority sectors and the [LSIP sector insights](#) enable a more detailed look at sectors. Further information is included in Annex A supporting this report, with an overview of work here:

Skills England Priority Sector	Essex LSIP Alignment - Headlines
Advanced manufacturing	Sector insights produced , Isip sector group, engagement with sector, alignment in local curriculum
Clean energy industries	Work underway with companies such as Longfield Solar Farm. Range of new courses delivering against green and clean energy
Creative industries	Sector insights produced , IsIP Sector group, engagement with sector, alignment in local curriculum
Defence	Some links to advanced manufacturing sector in Essex – some prominent companies locally including Raytheon, Leonardo and BAE Systems.
Digital and technologies	Sector insights produced , LSIP Sector group, engagement with sector, alignment in local curriculum
Financial services	Not a priority sector for the Essex LSIP but some links to professional services and delivery of financial services locally
Life sciences	Med-tech sector insight alongside health and care, potential plans for UK Health Security Agency labs in Harlow (under review by government)
Professional and business services	Sector insights produced , continued engagement with the sector to inform delivery
Construction	Sector insights produced , essex Construction Alliance continuing to grow, key link with major projects work and CITB
Health and social care	Sector insights produced, engagement with sector and alignment of curriculum to skills needs



4. What has been achieved so far?

The Essex LSIP has continued to have a galvanising effect on local partners, including the key role played by employers, local authorities, providers and key stakeholders such as DWP and the Careers Hub, and sector bodies continue to be central to the work. More detail of this work is contained within the accompanying Annex A to this report.

Some key headlines (explored further below with information on alignment to LSIP priorities) include:

- ✓ New buildings and facilities completed
- ✓ Employer Toolkit published
- ✓ Sector Insights developed and sector groups established
- ✓ 'Essex Connector' development and procurement imminent
- ✓ Range of courses delivering against the LSIP priorities
- ✓ LSIP newsletter developed and circulation increasing
- ✓ LSIP web pages revamped with high visit numbers
- ✓ Successful Essex Festival of Skills
- ✓ Joined-up approach in place with new Greater Essex Business Board

Further Education Colleges are required to respond to the LSIP and its recommendations. **Colleges across Essex have continued to work collaboratively to ensure a joined-up approach** and have reaffirmed their commitment statement:

Federation of Essex Colleges (FEDEC) Local Skills Improvement Plan Commitment Statement:

FEDEC is a well-established group of education and training providers in Essex. We work collectively for the benefit of our Essex geography to support high quality education, training and skills provision that meet the needs of our economy. Our mission is to support the region's economy and drive up the prosperity of all people in Greater Essex through the transformational power of learning and skills development. Our partnership approach delivers relevant post-16 learning and skills for individuals and businesses. The Local Skills Improvement Fund has allowed the FEDEC members to take a systems approach through:

- Speaking as one voice to promote and raise the profile of further education and skills, including apprenticeships, adult education and higher education, to influence change for the benefit of our learners, communities, region and members.
- Collaborative planning and delivery of a cohesive regional skills offer, building on our successful models from the Strategic Development Fund and the current Local Skills Improvement Fund.
- Collaboration and sharing of experience, expertise and resources at all levels within providers, as well as growth and efficiency opportunities.
- Strategic partnerships with key stakeholders in business and government.
- Working collaboratively with the Essex Provider Network (EPN) towards these common goals

David Warnes, Chair, Federation of Essex Colleges (FEDEC)



4. What has been achieved so far? (continued)

Both FEDEC and EPN also reaffirmed their commitment to the LSIP at an event on Thursday 8th May, bringing together Principals, Governors and EPN. This event included an update from the Essex LSIP Team.

Essex Provider Network Statement:

The Essex Provider Network (EPN) is representative of the majority of local and national Independent Training Providers (ITP's) operating in Essex, all Essex FE/Adult learning colleges, Higher Education Institutes (HEI's), plus a variety of awarding bodies and influential associate organisations, all of which contribute to a collaborative approach towards the development of a cohesive skills delivery objective for Greater Essex.

The EPN is fortunate to have in place strong strategic partnerships pan Essex, allowing its members to capitalise on the uniquely progressive collaborative approach across the skills delivery sector. Strong trusted working relationships, built between the Federation of Essex Colleges (FEDEC) the Local Skills Improvement planning team led by the Essex Chamber of Commerce and the three local authorities within Greater Essex, has over the past few years ensured that the Independent Training Sector are fully immersed in skills delivery planning. The Independent Training Sector interests are represented at Essex Skills & Business Board (ESBB) level, as well as LSIP sector skills groups, each one of these sector specific groups report directly into the (ESBB) and contribute towards intelligence submitted to Skills England.

Work undertaken alongside LSIP leads, has facilitated introduction to teams working towards the various large infrastructure projects planned for the county. The EPN has facilitated member inclusion in a series of Education & Provider roundtables – the key purpose, to share high-level skills demand data, key supply chain roles, and indicative dates supportive of skills delivery planning towards peak demand. At a regional level EPN represent our membership on the East of England Skills Delivery Group, tasked with reporting to the Skills All Political Party Group (APPG), towards a strategic framework for levelling up skills in the East of England. Meetings take place termly, offering insight into employers' requirements across neighbouring counties.

The EPN membership is fully committed to the anticipated advent of a Greater Essex Mayoral Combined Authority, with the ability to make local strategic decisions, further joining the public and private sectors together around a unified vision for skills and economic growth. Building on existing collaborative working across skills delivery partnerships, the EPN in representing our wider membership is committed to fully engage in decisions of strategic significance reflective of the needs of Essex businesses now and for the future, with the ultimate objective of maximising the growth potential of the Essex economy and that of the wider East of England.

4. What has been achieved so far? (continued)

New buildings and facilities funded by the Local Skills Improvement Fund

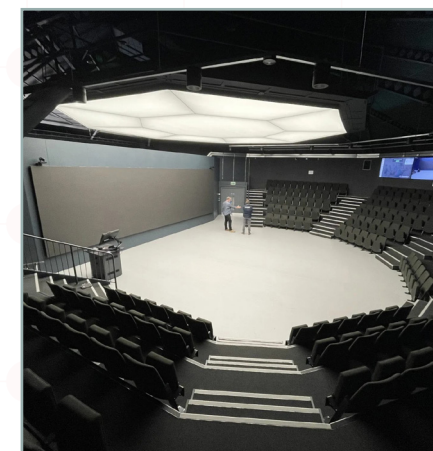
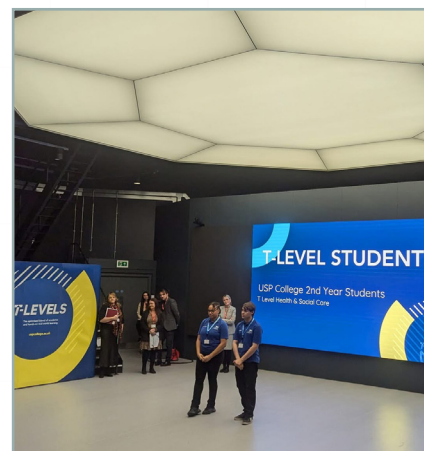
In the previous report, it was outlined that there were a range of facilities to be created by March 2025 and supported by the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF). These are delivering against the priorities set out to improve the Essex Skills System and the focus on key sectors. They will provide students with up to date, relevant skills and tutors with state-of-the-art facilities to do so. These are helping to ensure that employers get the skills they need. Facilities are now in place across Essex as follows:



▼ **Chelmsford College Repurposed their Learning & Resource Centre into a Digital & Employability Hub** aligned to the sector and skills priorities. This provides new student facilities to deliver the wider essential skills sought after by employers in one dedicated space with new equipment. This also included the relocation of the Careers Advice Centre.

USP College – completed its LSIF funded project in October 2024 and launched in November. **A theatre has been repurposed creating a multi-use, adaptive digital learning and immersive technology space** with multimedia content and high-tech lecture style learning. The repurposing of the theatre has been well received by students, staff and external visitors. The aim is to utilise this space to help address staffing challenges and has been successful along with the aim to expand the reach of

digital experts across a broad range of learner groups. The Immersive Theatre seamlessly blends physical and virtual experiences, accommodating over 200 in-person attendees while connecting with unlimited virtual participants—all enjoying equal opportunities to engage, collaborate and interact in real-time. This adaptability addresses staffing challenges by extending the reach of digital experts across diverse learner groups while maintaining educational quality.



4. What has been achieved so far? (continued)



▼ **Colchester Institute** – launched its **state-of-the-art Net Zero Centre** in September 2024.

Comprising 12 bays supporting various renewable technologies including Heat Pumps, Hybrid Systems, Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Battery Storage and EV Charging following a partnership investment from Samsung UK and Worcester Bosch. The Centre also features outdoor working units as well as demonstration models. A classroom adjacent to the centre is in use for commercial delegates as well as supporting college learners including apprentices.

▶ **New City College (Epping)** has completed the conversion of 120 sqm of existing storage space within the College's campus buildings into a low carbon laboratory space. This development enables the introduction of low carbon technologies and practices at the New City College Epping Forest Campus. The project's aim to provide a high-quality teaching environment aligned with industry standards has been achieved. In line with LSIP priorities, the college has enhanced the quality of provision, strengthened employer engagement, and supported the continuous professional development of teaching staff across the partnership.



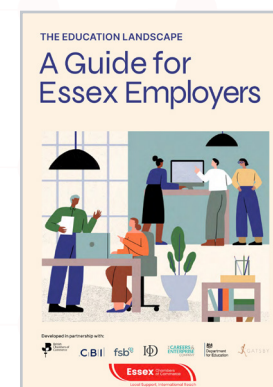
▶ **Harlow College** has used their LSIF funding to **repurpose teaching spaces into state-of-the-art digital learning areas to deliver for the digital, creative and health science sectors**, including an immersive operating theatre.

South Essex College – repurposed space for new music technology provision – this is linked electronically to the Backstage Centre, High House Production Park and new Purfleet Studios. It includes practice rooms, a live room, control room suite and post-production facility.

4. What has been achieved so far? (continued)

In addition to these capital projects that were funded through the LSIF, there was a range of other activity across colleges delivering against the LSIF through LSIF funding. This included CPD for teachers to support retention and the creation of an interactive virtual environment for young people and adults across Greater Essex to better understand the pathways to careers in the LSIP priority sectors. Some headlines are captured below and this illustrates that many of the targets have been exceeded.

	Target	Actual
Number of new Level 3 courses aligned to LSIP priorities	12	13
Number of new Level 4 courses aligned to LSIP priorities	6	8
Forecast learner starts on new Level 3 courses	120	128
Forecast learner starts on new Level 4 courses	60	84
Number of learners forecast to undertake learning using new facilities/ equipment created under the LSIF.	200	2,213
Number of employers releasing / loaning staff to help develop or teach new provision	24	26
Number of employers reporting that training is giving learners the skills needed	50	64
Number of employers providing industry placements to FE teaching staff.	35	40
Training and support to improve capability of teaching staff: Number of teaching staff undertaking industry placements.	50	61
Number of teaching staff undertaking CPD or benefitting from cascade training	500	500
College leadership: Number of college leaders / governors supported through training or other support to build leadership and management capability	0	28
Number of new teaching facilities created (e.g. number of workshops / classrooms refurbished / fitted out with new industry standard equipment)	9	100



Employer Toolkit for Essex

The Employer Guide was produced in February 2025 in response to business feedback that the skills landscape can be difficult to navigate. This directly responds to the LSIP priority around improving the skills system and having a more coordinated approach. This utilised an existing national guide produced by Gatsby and partners and localised the information for Essex, including case studies of Essex employers engaging in aspects such as T Levels, apprenticeships and being a Governor. The guide also links to further information and resources and has been published on the LSIP web pages. The guide has been well received and is a valuable resource for the area. Gatsby fed back that **'This is truly excellent – and one of the best examples of adaptations we have seen.'** The guide will be updated as and when there are any changes to the skills landscape.

4. What has been achieved so far? (continued)



Festival of Business and Business Time Essex Supplement

The Festival of Business was held in November 2025 at Chelmsford City Racecourse with over 700 attendees and 100 exhibitors. The event also included a showcase of talent and skills in the county and was attended by Mel Collins of the national LSIP team. As part of the event, an Essex Skills brochure was also produced and funded by Essex County Council. This showcases the skills provision in Essex, featuring facilities and courses delivered as well as related work such as the Essex Careers magazine. As well as being distributed at the event, this was circulated to 8,000 employers and the digital version is available as a resource on the LSIP web pages. On the day, there was also a skills roundtable, attended by Mel and colleagues from local

colleges, providers and Essex County Council. This enabled feedback and discussion on issues such as the defunding of Level 7 qualifications. Both the event and publication responded to LSIP priorities around skills system planning for Essex and ensured a joined-up approach. It also responded to sector priorities in showcasing the support available to employers across the key sectors.



4. What has been achieved so far? (continued)



Sector Insights and Dashboard

To ensure that up to date and detailed information is available and accessible, Sector Insights were produced in January 2025. This helps to ensure that information is available to the provider landscape and local stakeholders also. They include information such as key facts and figures, employer feedback, skills supply and provider information. The dashboard has been produced in collaboration with Lightcast and provides labour market and vacancy

information, sourced from a variety of government databases. This is interactive and users are able to see key labour market trends, employment counts, top employers and specialised skills. It can also be filtered by area and sector. This directly responds to the LSIP priorities around strengthening skills in priority sectors.

Tackling Essential Skills – Deep Dive with Colleges

To respond to the LSIP priority regarding essential skills and including soft skills and behaviours, Essex colleges commissioned a report in December 2024 to explore what is already being done and areas of best practice as well as tools being utilised. This has highlighted the range of terminology used and approaches as well as good practice. This will help to inform a shared approach across colleges as part of the next phase and also links to related areas of work such as Aspirational Essex (see below).

Stakeholder Contributions – Essex County Council

Essex County Council has a range of work which is aligning to the LSIP and delivering against it. The LSIP has been helping to drive the focus for this work. This also illustrates the wider reach and impact it is having on the skills landscape. These include:

- The [Essex Careers magazine](#), showcasing key sectors and the provider landscape to individuals and employers – responding to LSIP sector priorities
- The development of Skills Bootcamps for Essex, aligning to LSIP sector priorities
- The development of the 'Essex Connector' tool which enables further join up of skills work and helps to address the LSIP skills system priorities
- The launch of [Aspirational Essex](#), offering accreditation to providers, employers and residents – supporting the LSIP essential and sector skills priorities
- The launch of the [Lasting Legacy programme](#) to support the construction sector – supporting the LSIP priority focus on construction as a key sector
- The launch of an [Apprenticeship toolkit](#) to complement the Essex Employer Guide, supporting the LSIP priority to improve the skills system and have a more coordinated approach
- A [Green Workforce event](#) with Chelmsford College and stakeholders responding to the LSIP priority regarding essential skills and including green skills to support sustainability
- [The Bridge](#) project connecting employers to inclusive talent and which has already provided over 1500 careers and workplace opportunities, responding to the LSIP priority to support inclusive employment and remove barriers to learning



5. What still needs to be achieved?

This report has set out a wide range of work that is underway and delivering against the LSIP priorities. This also illustrates that the LSIP is firmly established in the local landscape and well positioned for future developments such as local government reorganisation and devolution. It is vital to maintain the momentum and continue with what is working well as well as focus on new areas of development. This will also help to inform the next round of LSIP development which is due to commence in Autumn 2025. The Action Plan (Annex A) accompanying this report goes into further detail on ongoing and future work, with key areas including:

- **Launching the Essex Connector Tool** – this is an ambitious project being led by Essex County Council in collaboration with Essex Chambers of Commerce to directly respond to the LSIP priority around improving the skills system and achieving greater join up. This will use AI to utilise trusted sources and information to help employers and individuals to navigate the local skills system and find the right support for them. It will also be a tool for careers advisors and tutors. This will deliver against the LSIP priorities for essential skills and sector skills in helping to join everything up. It will also evolve and update as information online updates so will not be static. This will be commissioned in Autumn 2025.
- **Next phase of 'Essential Skills' project** developing a shared approach across

Essex and responding to the LSIP priority on Essential Skills – this will provide a joined-up approach across Essex to ensure consistent terminology and understanding for employers and individuals. It is likely to include shared resources and tools such as case studies to bring the topic to life and explore aspects such as mental health and resilience. Next steps will be agreed in the Summer with the first phase to be underway by Autumn 2025.

- **Informing the roll out of Skills Bootcamps in Essex** – directly responding to the LSIP priority sectors and helping to ensure that employers and individuals are benefiting from Bootcamps which are flexible courses of up to 16 weeks to build up sector specific skills and fast tracking to an interview with a local employer. These are currently rolling out so we will continue working with Essex County Council to ensure Bootcamps are responding to LSIP priority sectors.
- **Continuing to drive forward the work of the Sector Groups and related work (such as curriculum alignment to sectors)** – a lot of curriculum alignment has already been achieved to respond to LSIP sector priorities. We will continue to work with sectors to respond to their needs and will also take this into account for developing the next LSIP later in the year.
- **Continuing to collaborate on system barriers**, such as tutor shortages and assessing the effectiveness of the approach

to date in terms of aspects such as utilising digital technology to reach greater numbers.

- **Mapping of existing provision through ILR** (Individualised Learner Record) data and working with colleges and local authorities to review current and future funding to ensure alignment – preliminary data is being analysed and we will work with partners to ensure a consistent understanding and overview of delivery, to be provided on an annual basis.
- **Working with major projects such as the Lower Thames Crossing** to ensure a joined-up approach to addressing skills needs and that employers and individuals are benefitting from this.
- **Continuing to engage employers** through events, sector groups and digital engagement.
- **Continuing to share progress** through the LSIP Bulletin, events and web pages.
- **Commencing preparation** for the new Essex LSIP later this year.

You can still get involved! We hope this report has once again showcased the wealth of work underway and the impact the LSIP is already having. We'd like to thank everyone involved and highlight that none of this would be possible without everyone working together. If you're not already, there are a range of ways to get involved and make a difference to the local skills landscape. This could include working with schools and colleges, sharing your expertise, offering an apprenticeship or feeding back to us via events and sector conversations. [Contact us](#) if you'd like to know more.



01702 560 100



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