



-  **Future Skills Sussex Intelligence** – developing innovative web solutions providing skills information and undertaking regular, sectoral research to update the intelligence on skills needs in Sussex.
  -  **Future Skills Sussex Conversation** – quarterly conversations with Sussex businesses to understand their skills needs and encourage collaborations with education providers to solve these.
  -  **Future Skills Sussex Innovation** – providing the testbed for collaborative and innovative skills solutions to develop including modular delivery models, coordinated employability and psychometric testing and sector skills development.
  -  **Future Skills Sussex Offer** – encouraging and enabling co-development and delivery of skills solutions with businesses to address skills needs across Sussex.
  -  **Future Skills Sussex Talent** – improving careers resources and providing innovative area based and online matching services to harness the talent of Sussex residents.
  -  **Future Skills Sussex Evaluation** – effective governance arrangements assure the Sussex LSIP is successful, including the commissioning of additional evaluation or research to support implementation.

## LSIP rollout

Department for Education (DfE) have now announced their plans for the rollout of Local Skills Improvement Plans across the country and are inviting Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs) to submit an Express of Interest by 6 June 2022.

Designated ERBs will receive funding from September 2022 to March 2025 to:

- Develop a plan for a specified geographical area
- draw on the views of employers operating within the specified area, and any other evidence, to summarise the skills, capabilities or expertise that are, or may in the future be, required in the specified area; and
- identify actions that relevant providers can take regarding any English-funded post-16 technical education or training that they provide to address the requirements mentioned above.
- In addition to producing and submitting the LSIP to the Secretary of State for approval and publication, the plan will need to be kept under review.

This will provide the Sussex LSIP with the opportunity to further the work that started with the LSIP Trailblazer project and further develop an evidence base, priorities and actions working in collaboration with employers, education providers and partners across the area.

In addition, the LSIP guidance announces that a Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) will be made available to education providers from financial year 2023/24. This fund will give providers the opportunity to submit bids where there is a need for upfront investment to deliver changes and undertake actions from LSIP.

The guidance for ERBs can be found [here](#).

The LSIP team and Board will be working to submit out EOI during May and further information will be sent to all partners and stakeholders shortly.

## Sussex LSIP Next Steps

Whilst we await DfE decision on the next steps for LSIP funding over the summer months, we want to maintain our relationships with local businesses and partners by keeping up the momentum we've built. Therefore, we'll be undertaking initial Future Sussex Skills Improvement Framework activities, including:

- Building on research and findings from LSIP - working with partners to undertake **key sector Deep Dives**, commencing with Digital sector, followed by Creative & Cultural sector
- Initial discussions with NESTA to identify next steps for the **Sussex Skills Taxonomy & Open Jobs Observatory**
- Initial discussion regarding the **skills assessments and psychometric tools pilot project** ideas – awareness raising session with education providers and networks to be arranged for May/June.
- Feeding into the **Sussex Strategic Development Fund (SDF) round 2**

### Key sector Deep Dives

Over the next few months, the LSIP Project Team will be commencing **Deep Dive activities into the Digital sector and Creative & Cultural sector** as part of the Intelligence strand of the LSIP's Future Skills Sussex Improvement Plan.

We're kicking off with a Deep Dive into the Digital sector in Sussex and are seeking employers, education providers and local stakeholders who would like to support the project.

The Deep Dive will create a research report and toolkit full of useful and relevant information to support local stakeholders take action, and work towards solving the challenges and priorities for change identified within the Sussex Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), and resultant Future Skills Sussex Improvement Framework (FSSIF)

The Deep Dive report will provide links to existing research, initiatives and good practice that can be used as exemplars for future Sussex projects. We aim to empower existing projects, providing an evidence base and strategic direction to support their growth and development, deepen their impact and meet the need of individuals and businesses in wider geographical areas in Sussex.

We will signpost to the rich amount of local market information, employment and skills data that is available, both publicly online and through partner data sources. Providing examples of other projects, either locally or nationally, that have taken an innovative approach to solving the problems, challenges and priorities for change identified in our own Sussex LSIP.

The report will identify where the businesses or skills providers have begun to solve some of the challenges we face, from training programmes and staff development, to diversity, inclusion or sustainability initiatives the report will offer a resource to enable education, support agencies and business alike to plan ahead for the future needs of the sector in Sussex.

**Please get in touch if you are an employer, education and skills provider, support organisation or strategic body that would like to support the Deep Dive project.** Please email [skills@sussexchamberofcommerce.co.uk](mailto:skills@sussexchamberofcommerce.co.uk) or [dan@danwallman.co.uk](mailto:dan@danwallman.co.uk) to find out more and get involved.

### Sussex Chamber Events

At the Chamber we hold many events for our members and also non-members. They are a great opportunity to hear about business and sectorial topics and network with others.

During May we will be holding the following events that are available to book on our [Events Gallery](#) on the Sussex Chamber website:

## Outlook for the UK Economy

08:00AM - 10:00AM

CROWNE PLAZA GATWICK – CRAWLEY



Join us for an update **by Florence Hubert – Bank of England - Deputy Agent for Central Southern England** to be held at The Crowne - Plaza London - Gatwick Airport Hotel.

Florence will discuss recent economic and financial developments and the Bank of England's outlook for UK growth and CPI inflation over the next few years. She will answer any questions people may have on this and the Bank of England more widely.

Main reasons to attend:

- Find out what is happening in the UK economy
- Find out what the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee expect to happen over the next 2 to 3 years
- Have a chance to ask questions about the economy to the Bank of England

Please book your place online or call the office on 01444 259259.

## Sustainability in Construction

08:00AM - 11:00 AM

DEVONSHIRE PARK LAWN TENNIS CLUB



We are delighted to announce our next Construction Forum event will be taking place on Thursday 12th May at The Hardwick Suite, Devonshire Park Tennis Club, Eastbourne.

The theme for this event is Green Tech, Net Zero and Sustainability in the construction sector.

### Our Guest Speakers:

#### Abigail Dombey - Chair - Hydrogen Sussex

Hydrogen Sussex supports and facilitates the low carbon hydrogen economy across Sussex. They bring together key players across the public and private sectors to promote hydrogen technology, support local supply chains, and to make Sussex a leader in a clean hydrogen economy.

#### Neil Madgwick – Head of Connections Service Delivery – UK Power Networks

UK Power Networks is the country's biggest electricity distributor, making sure the lights stay on for more than eight million homes and businesses across London, the South East and the East of England.

#### Nicholas Backstrom – Project Support – East Sussex College Group

East Sussex College or East Sussex College Group is the largest higher education college in East Sussex, providing education and training from foundation to degree level.

Please book your place online or call the office on 01444 259259.