

# Strategic Development Fund Pilot 2021/22

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*“The pilot will explore how education providers can work together more effectively, alongside employers and other partners, to respond to local skills and innovation priorities including those identified by LSIPs.”*  
*DfE – Skills Accelerator Prospectus*

# Core Government Objectives

- To drive a change in the pattern of provision and build capacity and expertise where it is needed.
- To begin building the local collaborations that will create a stronger and more efficient overall delivery infrastructure and support a more co-ordinated offer across the local area.
- To strengthen the interface between colleges and employers in support of sector focused growth strategies and technology adoption, including through a more sophisticated approach to skills development as an integral part of local business growth and innovation.
- To learn from the funded projects about what works well and in what contexts.

# Critical Success Factors

- To have successfully achieved a stronger working relationship between all colleges within the pilot area, with other providers also actively engaged in the collaboration.
- To demonstrate stronger and more effective relationships with employers, resulting in better intelligence about skill needs which is reflected in curriculum development and planning.
- To demonstrate evidence of a shift in focus amongst partners in the collaboration towards key strategic priorities for change related to the specific challenges and future opportunities within the area.

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# Critical Success Factors ct'd

- To have started to put the key building blocks in place to support a shift in the pattern of provision to meet the needs across the local area, with evidence that the collaborative approach is helping to build capacity for a reformed approach to skills delivery, and evidence that these changes will lead to positive outcomes for learners.
- To have identified the barriers and disincentives within the existing system that collaborative action can help address.
- To have addressed the priorities set out in the EOI, and delivered the projects and initiatives associated with them, as agreed at the detailed negotiation stage .



**Myerscough  
College**



**tlc** THE LANCASHIRE COLLEGES  
Supporting Further and Higher Education in Lancashire's Colleges



**Blackburn  
College**



BLACKPOOL AND THE FYLDE COLLEGE



BLACKPOOL SIXTH



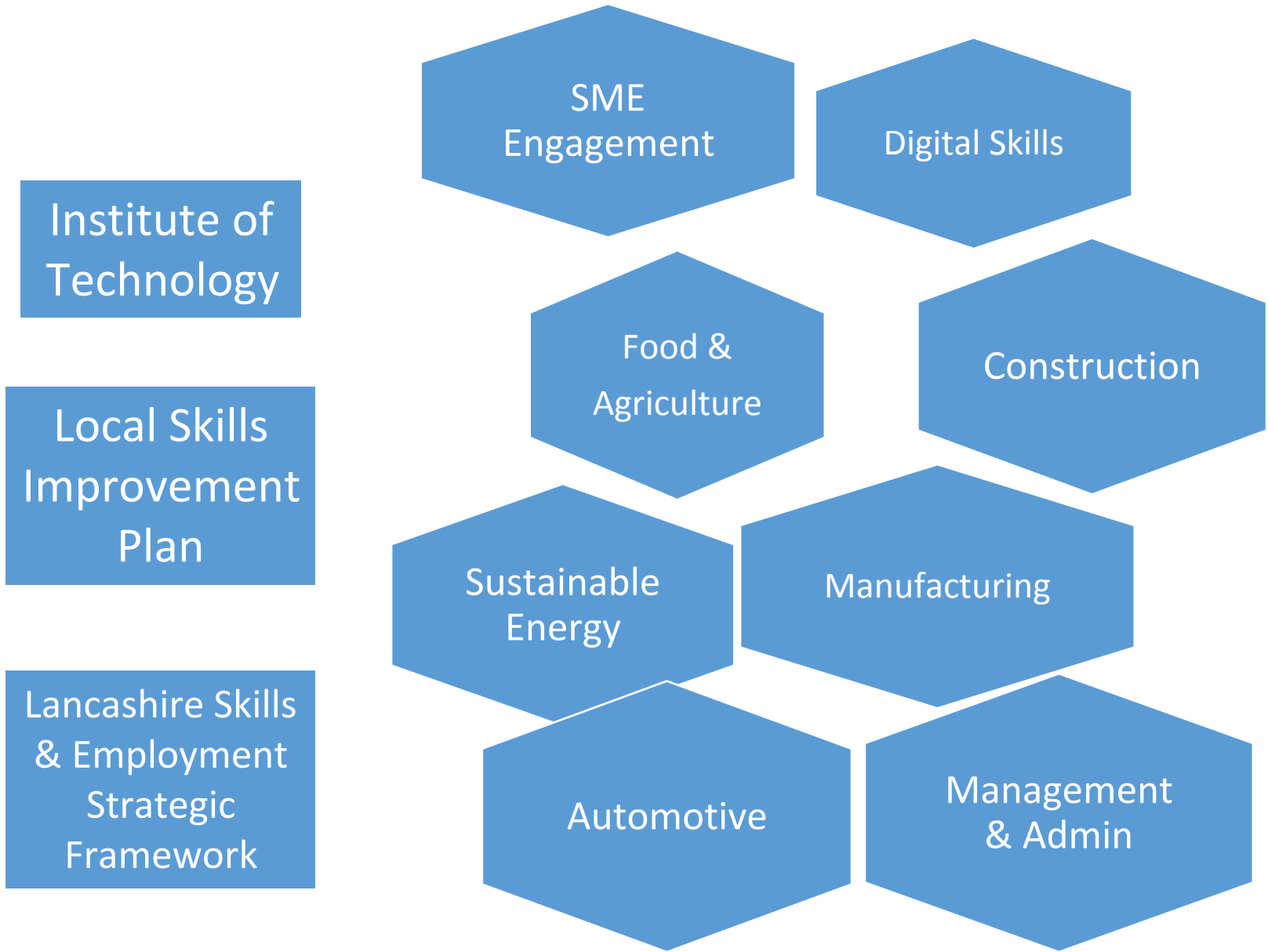
Lancaster &  
Morecambe  
College



**PRESTON**  
COLLEGE



# Supporting Lancashire's businesses to respond to the low/net zero carbon challenge



# 1. Supporting Lancashire's SMEs to identify and engage with the low/net zero carbon challenge – led by Burnley College

- Helping SMEs to understand the low carbon agenda and implications for their business.
- Develop individualised, bespoke strategies with measurable and achievable carbon reduction targets.
- Design a flexible, accessible and realistic curriculum with SMEs to meet their training needs including recruitment pipeline.
- Resource colleges to collaboratively deliver that curriculum (CPD, recruitment, capital investment).
- Help SMEs to collaborate with each other to share innovation and ideas, projects that might focus on a particular sector, geography, low carbon challenge/solution.

## 2. Establishing a Centre of Digital Excellence (CODE) for Lancashire – led by Runshaw College

- Co-ordinated employer engagement to help employers identify where digital solutions can help them meet / benefit from the low / net zero carbon challenge.
- Design a flexible and innovative curriculum with SMEs to meet their training needs including recruitment pipeline, delivered through traditional, remote and blended learning.
- Develop a network of digital teaching specialist and resource colleges to collaboratively deliver the curriculum (CPD, employer placements, recruitment, capital investment).
- Establish an employer forum, help SMEs to collaborate with each other and with the colleges to share innovation, ideas and resources.
- Development of a web-enabled directory of curriculum resources and packages available across Lancashire's colleges and from external sources.



### 3. Supporting food and agricultural businesses to rise to the net Zero Challenge – led by Myerscough College

- To support businesses to understand the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, to measure their emissions and demonstrate the opportunities to reduce them by adopting new technologies.
- Establish and train a specialist team in carbon reduction who will identify and work with businesses to support the delivery of carbon audits, soil testing, knowledge sharing and further skills.
- Deliver roadshows to demonstrate carbon reduction and mapping technologies to farmers, sharing DEFRA guidance and using a new mobile classroom to support wider engagement with businesses and provide remote training at events.
- Establish a 'Demonstration Farm' for agricultural techniques and technologies to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change.
- Establish a Lancashire Farmer's Network to share results, provide knowledge transfer and skills at a local level and ensure that the carbon agenda continues to be implemented across Lancashire.

## 4. Construction – led by Preston College

- Supporting the sector to rapidly upskill in low carbon construction, modern methods of construction and retrofitting techniques.
- Engagement and onsite liaison with businesses, skills and TNAs to develop individualised training plans.
- Development of new, modular training programmes and curriculum to meet local business needs.
- Establishment of a network of new specialist training and demonstrator facilities across Lancashire to meet business needs, expected to focus on:
  - Introduction to zero carbon buildings;
  - Zero-carbon homes;
  - Air source heat pumps;
  - Conservation of fuel and power in existing dwellings;
  - Renewables and offsets for zero carbon buildings.

## 5. Creation of a Sustainable Energy Hub – led by Lancaster and Morecambe College

- To ensure the education and skills sector proactively supports the future knowledge, skills and behaviours required for sustainable energy production across the region.
- To upskill the college workforce in future sustainable energy production, technologies and skills requirements e.g. Bay Fusion Initiative, Hydrogen Waste to Energy.
- To develop a sustainable network and collaborative approach between colleges, universities, employers, stakeholders to address skill-gaps and ensure the workforce of the future.
- To co-create new highly skilled employment opportunities to support the transition of the energy workforce over the next decade following defueling and decommissioning of Heysham 1 and 2 Nuclear Power Stations.

## 6. Low Carbon Manufacturing Skills Demonstrator – led by Nelson & Colne College Group

- Develop a state of the art low carbon manufacturing innovation demonstration facility developed in partnership with significant employers
- Explore, catalogue and communicate widely the specialist facilities and expertise in colleges, universities, other organisations and manufacturing businesses across the region in developing low carbon manufacturing skills.
- Develop an online platform to enable remote access to resources developed jointly, including through VR, offering effective and stimulating content and low cost/low risk experience of high risk/costly manufacturing and engineering processes
- Promote innovation, training, networking and collaboration supported by an employer partnership which will provide additional resources and engage supply chain stakeholders to stimulate engagement and maintain currency
- Provide CPD opportunities to a range of stakeholders including FE leaders and teachers, schools and employers.

## 7. Lancashire Automotive Skills Accelerator – led by Blackburn College

- Create industry standard facilities at Low-Carbon Skills Centres across Lancashire including a Regional Automotive Technology Hub, a Motorsport Centre and a Plant Operator Training Centre. These will ensure that employers and students have access to industry standard equipment that is relevant and keeps pace with technological change.
- Create a Lancashire Independent Garage Network to engage with SMEs facilitating their input into curriculum development and developing partnerships to investigate new techniques/approaches to carbon neutrality.
- Create a range of new short courses that support businesses to up-skill and re-skill their existing workforce.
- Establish a shared leadership/delivery and CPD model that supports skills development and upskills teachers to deliver new and emerging curriculum in Low-Carbon skills, auditing existing skills and knowledge, reviewing curriculum needs and harnessing the expertise of the Motor Vehicle sector to deliver Masterclasses for teaching staff.

# Next Steps

- Finalise contract negotiation with DfE to secure Grant Agreements
- Establish governance structure
  - SDF Board
  - Project Steering Groups
  - Project Employer Forums / Networks / Focus Groups
- Project delivery by end of March 2022
  - Feeding employer intelligence into / learning from LSIP
  - Developing pathways to higher technical provision including through IoT (subject to approval)
- Evaluation