

1. LSIF Aims

The £2.5m LSIF fund is designed to support a local response to the skill priorities set out in the Cumbria Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). This includes new facilities and equipment, the development and delivery of new courses, and upskilling teaching staff.

The fund will support 3 projects:

- Low Carbon and Green Skills in Engineering, Construction, Logistics and Land Based sectors.
- Catering and Hospitality.
- Digital Skills.

2. Partners

Lakes College is the Lead Provider with collaborating partners including Carlisle College, Furness College, GEN2, Kendal College, Newton Rigg, SP Training and the University of Cumbria.

3. Project Timeline

The project commenced in November 2023 and ends on 31 March 2025.

4. Project Deliverables

4.1 Low Carbon

To establish:

- An Environmental Land Management Centre which will provide green skills training for Cumbria's workforce
- A Regional Hub and Accredited Centre for the training and certification of Electric Vehicle Charging Point Installers/maintainers.
- Low carbon and green energy training hubs and centres across Cumbria offering modular, accredited training and apprenticeships from level 3 to 5, and :
- Design and develop a level 3 standard for Driving Instructors.
- Co-ordinate and collaborate an approach to promote the opportunity of low carbon and green skills as a high technical career to encourage young people to pursue careers in the region.

4.2 Hospitality and Catering

- Refurbish hospitality facilities and suites to provide skills training for the catering and hospitality sectors across Cumbria.
- Create a virtual restaurant providing training and education across Cumbria.
- Develop Cumbria wide new curriculum development in hospitality and catering from level 3 to 5.
- Continue to engage with Cumbria Tourism, supporting and promoting the Talent Hub to recruit opportunities to young people, adults and existing learners.
- Co-ordinate a collaborative approach to promote the opportunity of catering and hospitality as a high technical career to encourage young people to pursue careers in the region.

4.3 Digital Skills

- Establish a digital innovation and 'maker' space and enhanced business hubs to include experiential training on the use of new technologies.
- Upgrade existing IT facilities and study spaces. Enhanced infrastructure will enable delivery of courses together with progression pathways to higher and degree apprenticeships in Cumbria.
- Build on the success of previous digital programmes, by conducting further development of new modular programmes as well as extending our reach to new content including marketing and management.
- Provide training and education at level 3 to 5 and include pathways in coding, data and analysis, cyber security and networking
- Develop content to explore and demonstrate the use of digital twins using Mixed Reality in manufacturing.
- Further develop the Cumbrian Framework for Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships by developing a foundation degree Level 4 and 5.
- Provide robust information, advice and guidance for young people in regards to emerging digital business needs.

5. Cross Cutting Themes

- **Employability Skills** – a framework and training programme for education and training providers developed and designed by employers and providers to ensure young people have work ready behaviours and skills.
- **Leadership and Management** – bespoke and modular training for the hospitality industry.
- **Information, Advice and Guidance** – robust information and guidance for employers and learners across all workstreams.

6. Update @ 20/5/24

The project is on track in relation to KPIs, spend and project progress. The project has moved to the capital only phase in relation to spend which will support further training, employer engagement, collaboration and completion of capital projects.

6.1 Increased employer engagement to inform design and development of programmes

- 47 employers have been involved in curriculum design and development so far.
- Over 200 training needs analyses have been completed in relation to low carbon to inform knowledge, skills gaps and next steps in relation to training.
- Employer and Stakeholder engagement – continued partnership working with Cumbria Tourism, Cumbria County Council, National Career Service and the Chamber of Commerce as well as working with over 250 employers on the project so far.
- Employers have benefited from revenue and capital spend to allow partners to improve and enhance delivery models with innovation and flexibility.
- Targeted Curriculum design and development with sector employers including but not limited to new Apprenticeships in Low Carbon, Advanced Manufacturing Level 5,

- Foundation Degree and level 5 Apprenticeship in Low Carbon, HNC and HND in Digital, Level 4 & 5 Digital Modular Courses, Development of a bolt-on low carbon instructor module to the Level 3 LGV Instructor Course, Hospitality Courses, and leadership and management courses
- University of Cumbria, Furness, Carlisle, Kendal, GEN2 and Lakes College have collaborated in relation to the Level 5 Advanced Manufacturing qualification
- 80 learners are currently undertaking level 3 or above courses.
- 2 partners are sharing facilities.

6.2 Improved workforce skills by ensuring curriculum is modern and aligned with the needs of industry.

- Curriculum mapping has been undertaken across the partnership. The maps have been aligned to future job trends, LSIP and LEP priorities. Skills needs and duplication has been identified with further work on this planned for year 2.
- Working with the National Careers Service in order to support employability skills framework as per LSIP recommendations and LSIF cross cutting theme to improve work readiness and interpersonal skills for sectoral entry.

6.3 Robust IAG and promotion of opportunities to employers and learners to increase sectoral entry.

- Countywide career fairs, school events and job fairs have been attended to promote opportunities in all 3 sectors. It is apparent in relation to low carbon, that IAG sessions are needed to inform employers and learners of opportunities in this key sector.
- Further learner and employer engagement events will take place in year 2 with promotion of new courses funded under LSIF.

6.4 Improved workforce skills to support energy and low carbon transition in Cumbria and increases the capability and capacity of providers to support this key sector of the economy

- 30 staff have been trained or received cascade training in low carbon and/ or retrofit in preparation for year 2 of the project where hubs and green energy skills centres will open and delivery to learners can commence.
- Green Energy Skills Centres/ hubs to open in September 2024 across Cumbria.

6.5 Improve access to learning and training for land based sectors.

- The new LANNS is established with the Chamber of Commerce as the Accountable Body. The University of Cumbria has produced training resources under the LSIF project which will support the improved access to learning and training for the land based sector.
- Kendal College and Newton Rigg are also developing curriculum and resources in relation to land based skills.