

**Summary line: The White Paper sets out the UK government’s long-term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK.**

On 27 Nov, the government published its Industrial Strategy White Paper, [Building a Britain for the Future](#), which sets out its plan for tackling the productivity gap by improving skills and infrastructure. It pledges to deliver a world-class technical education system, address the shortage in science, technical, engineering and maths (STEM) skills, support people to re-skill through the National Retraining Scheme, and tackle regional differences in skill and education attainment.

The White Paper outlines the UK government’s plans, in partnership with the devolved nations, to drive growth across the whole of the UK. It identifies four ‘Grand Challenges’ the UK must address to take advantage of changing trends, including an ageing society; the artificial intelligence and data revolution; the global shift to clean growth; and, the future of mobility. It announces the creation of the independent Industrial Strategy Council to monitor its progress.

Building on commitments set out in the Autumn Budget 2017, the paper identifies five ‘Foundations of Productivity’ supported by a wide range of policies. These frame the government’s vision to ‘transform the economy’. The five foundations are:

- Ideas – ‘the world’s most innovate economy’
- People – ‘good jobs and greater earning power for all’
- Infrastructure – ‘a major upgrade to the UK’s infrastructure’
- Business Environment – ‘the best place to start and grow a business’
- Places – ‘prosperous communities across the UK’.

The ‘People’ foundation relates to the development of skills. The government recognises that people and their skills are key drivers of productivity. It outlines four key policy areas in England:

- Establishing a technical education system to stand alongside the higher education system. New T Level will be backed by over £500m annually. This will ensure the number of training hours for 16-19 T level students will increase by over 50%.
- Investing an additional £406m in maths, digital and technical education, to help to address the shortage of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills.
- Creating a new National Retraining Scheme that supports people to re-skill, beginning with a £64m investment for digital and construction training.
- Tackling regional differences in skill and education attainment to boost earning powers across the country. The government plans to support this by developing Local Industrial Strategies which will be developed locally and agreed nationally. These strategies will help identify priorities to improve skills, increase innovation and enhance infrastructure and business growth.

The government also recognises innovation in skills in the devolved nations, including the development of Regional Skills Assessments in Scotland and the implementation of Regional Skills Partnerships in Wales. Given the crossborder nature of many employers, it will continue to work

with the Welsh, Scottish and Irish governments to consider how to tackle skills issues impacting businesses and communities.

The government also reiterates its commitment to launching the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** following the UK's departure from the European Union. It pledges to guarantee funding for any project signed before Brexit so long as it provides good value for money and aligns with domestic priorities.

### Grid of relevant policies – these all apply to England only

Objective	Policy
Delivering a world-class technical education system	Over £500m backing for new T levels. This should ensure training hours for 16-19-year-old T level students will increase by over 50%.
	Update school performance measures so students can make an informed choice between technical or academic education.
Driving up the study of Maths	Test new approaches to improve outcomes in basic maths for those aged 16 and over, through a £8.5m pilot.
	Invest £40m to establish Further Education Centres of Excellence across the country to build teaching capacity and spread best practice.
	Incentivise education institutions to offer maths and further maths at AS/A level by providing a £600 premium to existing per pupil funding.
	Invest £27m in the further expansion of Teaching for Mastery maths programme to reach 11,000 primary and secondary schools in total by 2023.
	Provide £350,000 annual funding for every maths school to deliver the specialist maths school model.
Driving up digital skills	Invest £84m over the next five years to deliver a comprehensive programme to improve the teaching of computing and drive up participation in computer science
Tackling regional differences in skill and education attainment	Developing Local Industrial Strategies to help identify priorities to improve skills, increase innovation and enhance infrastructure and business growth.
	Invest £42m to pilot a Teacher Development Premium.
	Devolve the adult education budget to mayoral areas in 2019.
Creating opportunities throughout life	Publish a comprehensive careers strategy shortly that will set out plans to improve the quality and coverage of careers advice for people of all ages.
	Supporting people to return to work after time out for caring, with £5m funding announced in

	the spring 2017 Budget.
	Creating a new National Retraining Scheme that supports people to re-skill, beginning with a £64m investment for digital and construction training.
	Develop an action plan to make flexible working a reality for all employees and to inform the evaluation of the Right to Request Flexible Working Regulations.