

Summary of cross theme links

People and Skills – Community and Place

Support for skills training has to include addressing health needs so people can focus on work and training
Multiple different causes of economic inactivity, including health. Need to better understand the causes of economic inactivity. Improving health outcomes also important for those in work
Reducing economic inactivity can bring more wealth into communities, support regeneration and increase local pride
Opportunity to provide wrap-around support for individuals – housing, health, wellbeing, and skills training. Holistic, person-based approach
Potential to use housing providers to advise/refer individuals to skills training opportunities
Digital skills and access to broadband vital for accessing training, looking for work, wellbeing and health support. Disadvantage of lacking access to broadband and digital skills exacerbated by increasing cost of living
Improving energy efficiency and to help address cost of living – link to green skills required for housing providers to deliver retrofit programmes
Engagement with cultural, recreational and leisure activities linked to health outcomes – building confidence, improving mental health
Enrichment and volunteering opportunities could be linked to social prescribing – UKSPF to support provision locally

People and Skills – Local Business

Role of employers in addressing unstable employment and in-work poverty - Good Work agenda
Need employer collaboration to design training programmes, and inform skills needs
Align skills supply with needs of growing sectors – could be informed by scale-up businesses
Opportunity to integrate business support with advice on workforce planning for skills and training – flexible and tailored packages of support
Regional approach required – distribution of economically inactive people and people with low skill levels may not align with areas with fastest growing sectors/most vacancies
Supply chains for key sectors are regional. Build capacity through regional training programmes, align FE/HE provision with sector skills needs
Retaining skills in the region vital to support innovative businesses
Careers guidance vital to support transition from school to employment – needs input from businesses on their future skills needs
Enrichment and volunteering opportunities could be linked to social prescribing – UKSPF to support provision locally

Local Business – Community and Place

Support for business start-ups important for growing the business base and regenerating communities
Business support schemes for key sectors could be focused around commuter belts/travel to work areas. Ensure housing and transport infrastructure is in place
Training hubs, incubators and accelerators – new/improved physical space for businesses provides a visible sign of regeneration
Innovation in delivery of social programmes could be linked to strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems – local delivery within a regional framework
Growing the local social economy – support people who deliver successful community programmes to establish businesses
Opportunity to increase knowledge sharing and evaluation of what works between VCS and business support ecosystem
Retaining skills in the region vital to support innovative businesses
Careers guidance vital to support transition from school to employment – needs input from businesses on their future skills needs

Cross-cuttings

Understanding and addressing individual needs
Maximise funding by linking with other funding streams
Need to take a combined approach across all 3 themes to dealing with economic shocks
Support for in-work training benefits growing businesses (upskilling employees to become more productive, take on more work) and important for wellbeing outcomes (career progression increases pay/reduces poverty)
How to make better use of social value and corporate social responsibility – training/mentoring people to gain skills/find employment; volunteering and community projects to support regeneration of places
Build on existing delivery infrastructure and evaluate existing provision to learn from what works
Consider economies of scale and efficiencies where appropriate
Use local anchor institutions (Universities, large employers) to provide insight to needs of different communities, delivery of skills training
Short-term interventions needed to address pressing issues around digital exclusion, health, economic inactivity; longer-term planning needed to identify skills of the future, career progression, support for changing working patterns