

# A REGIONAL SKILLS CONCORDAT: A FIRST FOR THE UK

**Since the publication of the Growth Commission report in 2016, the Consortium has built a strong coalition of local authorities, employers, education providers and others. Discussions have helped to distil the critical areas where the Concordat will support significant progress in regard to skills and productivity.**

Concordat signatories will come together to work on a number of activities which respond directly to identified challenges. Among these challenges are the following:

1. Many employers would like it to be easier to engage with the skills system and benefit from more thorough analysis of their current and future skills needs
2. Many skills initiatives are limited in scope, either in terms of geography or time, and their benefits could be spread more widely
3. The skills system could be more responsive in developing programmes for emerging sectors or engaging with sector-led skills initiatives
4. It is difficult to ensure that the skills of teachers remain up-to-date in the face of swift technological change
5. Levels of investment in skills development could be higher, especially if coordinated at a regional level.

These activities will evolve with time, and with the engagement of different participants, but an initial 'menu of opportunities' will include the following:

1. The development of a clear vision for skills development in the Corridor, along with a prospectus of opportunities and the clear description of pathways into high-skilled employment which will be used to make it easier for employers and for local people to engage with the system as a whole and to

facilitate more wide-ranging programmes of support for employers seeking to upskill their existing workforce<sup>12</sup>

2. A project to identify emerging sectors, such as advanced housebuilding, agritech or technician work in life sciences, or opportunities to re-skill or upskill adults already in the workforce, such as those with broad advanced manufacturing skills which are much in demand within life sciences. A collaborative approach will be taken to 'mapping' and 'building' programmes which respond to current and future need and this would include an approach to aggregating demand and supply across the region and engaging proactively with developing sector skills strategies, such as the life sciences work being led by SIP Cambridge<sup>13</sup>
3. A comprehensive strategy for the recruitment and upskilling of teachers within the regional skills system, building on initiatives being delivered within individual LEP areas<sup>14</sup> and ensuring that there are incentives for skilled professionals to also become skilled teachers
4. The development of a regional framework for educational delivery outcomes that: reflects both employment and societal benefit; and demonstrates the returns that can be secured from increased public and employer investment in skills development; and can be used to influence policy development for the long-term.

<sup>12</sup> Similar work has been undertaken in Scotland - see [https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/44684/skills-40\\_a-skills-model.pdf](https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/44684/skills-40_a-skills-model.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-sciences-sector-deal/life-sciences-sector-deal-2-2018>

<sup>14</sup> See for example SELEP's approach to teacher bursaries at <https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/2018/12/Delivering-Skills-for-the-Future-SSF-Application.pdf>



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## Please complete this form

A commitment to work together to overcome sectoral boundaries or traditional attitudes, and to pioneer skills innovation along a significant global Corridor is demonstrated by signing up to the **UKIC's Regional Skills Concordat**.

Please complete this form and return it with a high resolution logo to:  
John McGill via [John.McGill@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:John.McGill@haringey.gov.uk)

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