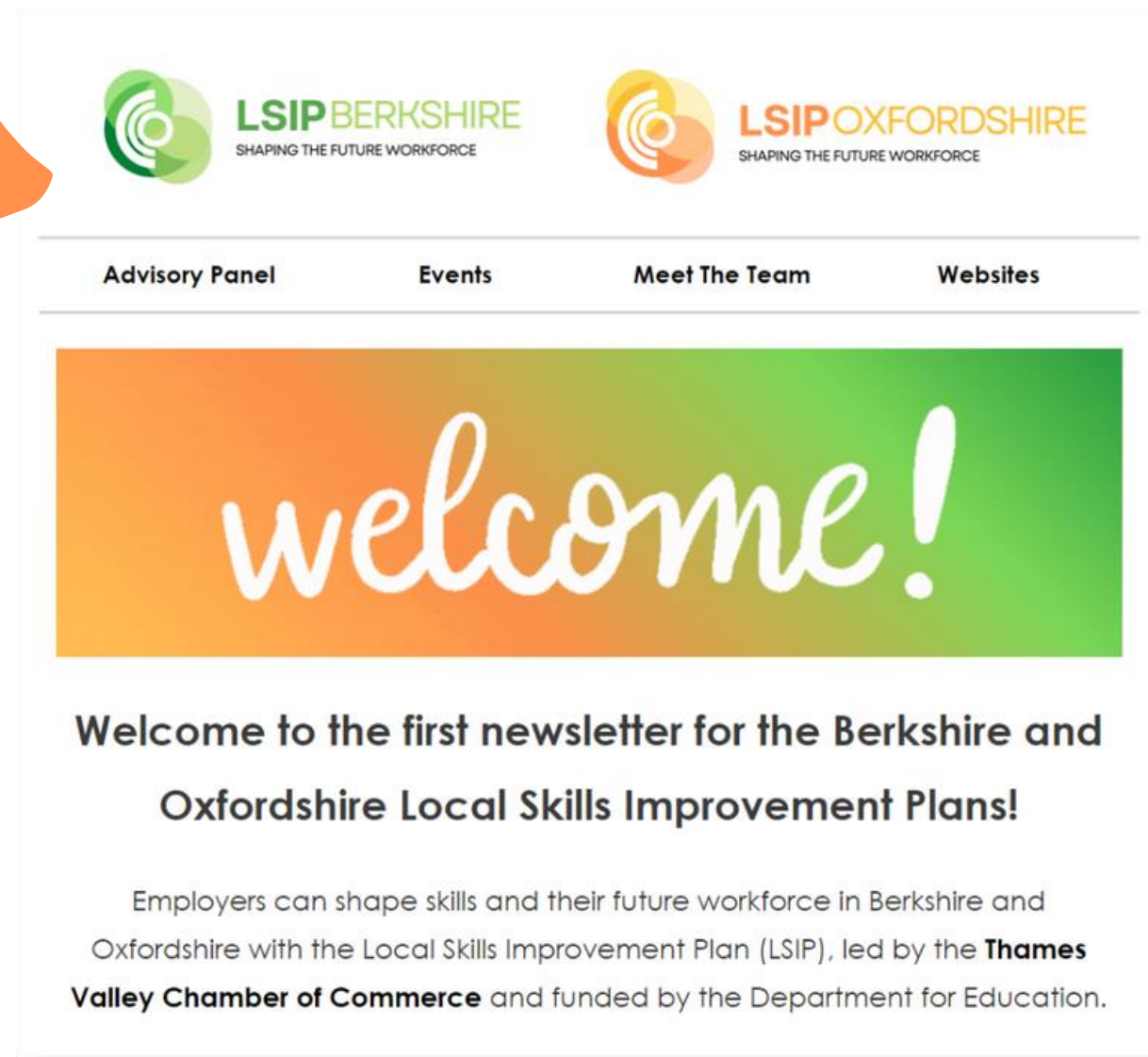


CHECK OUT OUR NEWSLETTERS TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENT PLAN!



If our Workforce Development Partnerships are something you'd like to get involved with, please don't hesitate to contact us;



TVBerksLSIP@tvchamber.co.uk



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Berkshire LSIP



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Oxfordshire LSIP



LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Construction
Workforce
Development
Partnership

8th May 2025

AGENDA

9.00 onwards	Tea/Coffee/Pastries on arrival/Networking	All
9.40	Introduction and Welcome	Lawrence Wright, LSIP Employer Champion, Helix
9.50	LSIP and Chamber Update and Progress to Date	Simon Barrable, LSIP Engagement Officer, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Skills Unit
10.00	Ongoing skills and recruitment challenges and how we might tackle and fund new approaches Roundtable discussion and actions	All
10.40	New 'Construction Mission' from government on growing the construction workforce Discussion on a Thames Valley approach to capitalising on this	Simon Barrable All
11.10	South Central Prison Service Open Day Update	Simon Barrable
11.20	Actions we want to achieve this quarter AoB/Date and location of next meeting/Networking	All

We are the largest and most influential business membership organisation in the Thames Valley.

Thousands of businesses across the region are members of the Chamber because they know more can be achieved together.

Through sector forums, regional meetings, business surveys and consultations, we work to understand what's important to our members.

Accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) to provide representation to Government on what matters most to business.





DIVISIONS & TEAMS

- THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM
- INTERNATIONAL TRADE
- POLICY & INWARD INVESTMENT
- MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
- SKILLS & TRAINING



WHERE WE CAN HELP

- RAISE YOUR COMPANY PROFILE
- BUSINESS REPRESENTATION
- INTERNATIONAL TRADE SERVICES
- INDUSTRY EVENTS/WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING
- PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS AND DISCOUNTS



OPPORTUNITIES

- NETWORKING EVENTS
- TOPICAL ROUND TABLES
- INDUSTRY FORUMS
- INDUSTRY WORKING GROUPS
- REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
- SEASONAL SOCIAL EVENTS
- ANNUAL AWARDS
- SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
- POLICY ENGAGEMENTS
- INTERNATIONAL TRADE EVENTS



ENGAGE WITH US



PURPOSE/AIMS OF LSIPS

- Create employer focused solutions on skills and recruitment
- Promote collaboration & shared ownership in shaping the future workforce in priority sectors
- Develop long term relationships between local businesses & education/training providers
- Co-develop solutions to address the skills gaps & local workforce development requirements
- Seeking pragmatic, tangible solutions to make a positive impact on industry and the local economy

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

May 2025

Funded by

Department
for Education

 THAMES VALLEY
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
GROUP

 LSIP BERKSHIRE
SHAPING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

 LSIP OXFORDSHIRE
SHAPING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

POLICY LANDSCAPE

Labour's Focus

- Boost Economic Growth
- Strengthen Local Authority Powers
- Tackle Skills Shortages

Devolution in Action

- Devolution White Paper published in December 2024
- Sets out the Government's vision for a more decentralised England
- Introduces a new structure for devolution with 3 tiers of Strategic Authorities
- Local Authorities gain control over jobs, housing and strategic planning
- Mayoral and Foundation Strategic Authorities coordinate local governance
- The framework includes significant changes to the management of skills funding

Industrial Strategy

- Industrial Strategy White Paper published in December 2024
- Outlines Labour's vision for sustainable economic growth and industrial innovation
- Investments in green energy, technology and regional development to drive resilience

SKILLS & TRAINING EVOLUTION

Skills England

A national body uniting education and industry to meet workforce needs

Key Objectives and Strategies

- To develop a comprehensive picture of national and local skills needs
- Collaborate with industry, the Migration Advisory Committee, Unions, and Industrial Strategy Council
- Identify and consult on levy-eligible training
- Ensure training aligns with skills needs and provides value for money
- Convene LSIPS, MCAs and stakeholders to identify system issues and to advise the government

Latest developments

- New qualifications available from 2025 for key sectors like health and technology
- Improved study options at Level 3 to fit career goals

LSIPS ARE HERE TO STAY

Local Skills Improvement Plans Update

- LSIPs are central to national plans for economic growth and skills development
- They will align with regional and national priorities
- Businesses will play a key role in shaping skills strategies for sustainable growth
- Future change will be the joint ownership of the Local Skills Improvement Plans by Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs) and Strategic Authorities.
- They will align with local growth strategies while remaining responsive to employer needs
- ERBs will continue to play a leading role in gathering intelligence directly from employers
- LSIPs will need to recognise national plans such as the Industrial Strategy and Skills England's Assessments of Skills Needs.

RECRUITMENT AND SKILLS CHALLENGES

Roundtable discussion:

What are these now that we're 2 years into LSIPs?

What ideas do we have as to possible solutions/new ideas/new approaches?

Are there some regional, Thames Valley approaches we could take to help drive solutions?

Are there some funding opportunities we could draw upon?

A REGIONAL CITB INDUSTRY IMPACT FUND BID?

What is the Industry Impact Fund?

The Industry Impact Fund is designed for construction employers who want to tackle the biggest challenges facing the workforce across the UK. If you have a new and innovative idea to improve skills and training in the industry, this fund can help make it a reality.

What makes this fund different?

Launched in April 2023, this is CITB's first fund of its kind. It gives employers the power to design and develop training solutions that don't already exist - ensuring they are scalable, sustainable and make a lasting impact. Plus, if your idea is successful, CITB can support it with **up to £500,000** per proposal, to turn your idea into reality.



A REGIONAL CITB INDUSTRY IMPACT FUND BID?

What can this fund support?

Solutions proposed by industry, for industry

The Industry Impact Fund supports forward-thinking projects that address key workforce challenges in construction. Eligible proposals must focus on the topics below

- **Skills and training programmes** to upskill the workforce
- **Innovative technology adoption** to enhance efficiency
- **Collaborative industry projects** that drive shared progress
- **Sustainable solutions** to workforce challenges

Remember, activity must focus on a **skills and training solution** that **doesn't already exist**. The idea must be new, not previously supported by CITB and it must be **scalable and sustainable**.

The fund is open to big picture ideas that enable shared knowledge and resources across the industry and are **sustainable past the period of funding**.

A REGIONAL CITB INDUSTRY IMPACT FUND BID?

If your project supports any of these areas, you could be eligible for funding

[Productivity](#)

[Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#)

[Net Zero](#)

[Trainers & Assessors](#)

[Digital skills](#)

[Retention](#)

A REGIONAL CITB INDUSTRY IMPACT FUND BID?

Catherine Hawkett, Berkeley Homes Plc: "This project not only tackles the skills gap in net zero, but the understanding of the importance of acting on that skills gap. Those across education need to be able to deliver training in net zero, however those out in industry need to see the value in embracing net zero and upskilling in order for that training to actually take place and change to happen. This project will bring together different organisations across industry to contribute to resources and training, and ensure that a varied group of organisations across the UK can benefit. The Industry Impact Fund has given us the opportunity to bring our collaborative ideas to life."

OHOB Training Department: "Change Your Script is our campaign to challenge traditional thinking and open the mindset of how the Construction Industry is thought to be. With Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity at its core, lifetime Skills development of the younger generation is achieved through Training and Mentorship. Furthermore, through collaborative relationships with shareholders, we can overcome the challenges faced by the industry and young people Not in Education, Employment and Training, thus embracing the art of the possible."

A REGIONAL CITB INDUSTRY IMPACT FUND BID?

Ian Hogg, Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd: "The Low Carbon Passport Programme brings together a unique collaboration that includes BE-ST, and a number of main contractor and education partners, all focused on the development and delivery of a programme of accredited low carbon skills training for the construction industry. The programme directly addresses the need to equip Scotland with the skills necessary to decarbonise and achieve our Net Zero targets and has been made possible by the CITB Industry Impact Fund."

Sara Barnes, Interclass Plc: "The Industry Impact Fund is an incredible opportunity for employers to take an idea that has the potential to make a difference in the industry and turn it into reality. Off the back of the findings from the National Federation of Builders Neurodiversity survey, we knew we needed to bring neurodiversity training into the industry and make it accessible for everyone to help increase awareness and understanding."

Thanks to the funding, we've been able to work with neurodiversity experts and trainers, combining their knowledge and expertise with our hands-on experience as a main contractor to create something truly valuable and unique for the industry. So far, the response has been fantastic – over 800 people have completed at least one of our eLearning modules which is amazing, and we've also had some great feedback from our training sessions which is exactly the kind of impact we were hoping for.



'CONSTRUCTION MISSION'

To meet the target of building 1.5 million homes by 2029 and to support major infrastructure projects, the UK government has launched a comprehensive £625 million construction skills package. This initiative aims to train up to 60,000 skilled workers, including bricklayers, electricians, and engineers, addressing the current shortage in the construction sector.

Technical Excellence Colleges: £100 million is allocated to establish 10 new Technical Excellence Colleges specialising in construction across every region in England.

Construction Courses Expansion: An additional £165 million will fund more construction courses for 16-19-year-olds and adults, enhancing training opportunities in the sector.

Skills Bootcamps: £100 million is dedicated to expanding construction-focused Skills Bootcamps, providing 35,000 additional training places for new entrants, returners, and existing employees.



'CONSTRUCTION MISSION'

Foundation Apprenticeships: A £40 million investment will support up to 10,000 new construction Foundation Apprenticeships, offering young people a high-quality entry route into the industry.

Employers will receive £2,000 for every foundation apprentice they take on and retain in the construction industry. Additionally, training costs will be fully funded through the new Growth and Skills Levy, encouraging businesses to invest in workforce development.

Industry Placements: In partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), over 40,000 industry placements will be funded annually, ensuring learners gain practical, site-ready experience.

'CONSTRUCTION MISSION'

Is there a regional approach we can take in any of these areas? For Example:

A Thames Valley Technical Excellence college?

New Skills Bootcamps?

Foundation Apprenticeships?

Industry Placements?

For more details on these initiatives, including application processes and eligibility criteria, please visit the [Department for Education's official announcements](#) and the [Spring Statement 2025](#).

HMP Bullingdon Employer Open Day

Thursday 3rd July 2025

CALLING EMPLOYERS IN OXFORDSHIRE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, BERKSHIRE, SWINDON & BRISTOL.....

ARE YOU LOOKING TO RECRUIT?

DO YOU WANT TO INCREASE DIVERSITY WITHIN YOUR TEAM AND HIRE PEOPLE FROM A RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS?

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING PEOPLE AND PROVIDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES?

IF YES, THINK ABOUT REGISTERING FOR OUR HMP BULLINGDON OPEN DAY.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HOW PRISON LEAVERS ARE BEING SUPPORTED TO BECOME JOB READY, LOOK AT OUR WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATION OFFER, MEET WITH PRISONERS AND THE PRISON EMPLOYMENT TEAM WHO CAN SUPPORT YOU WITH YOUR RECRUITMENT NEEDS.

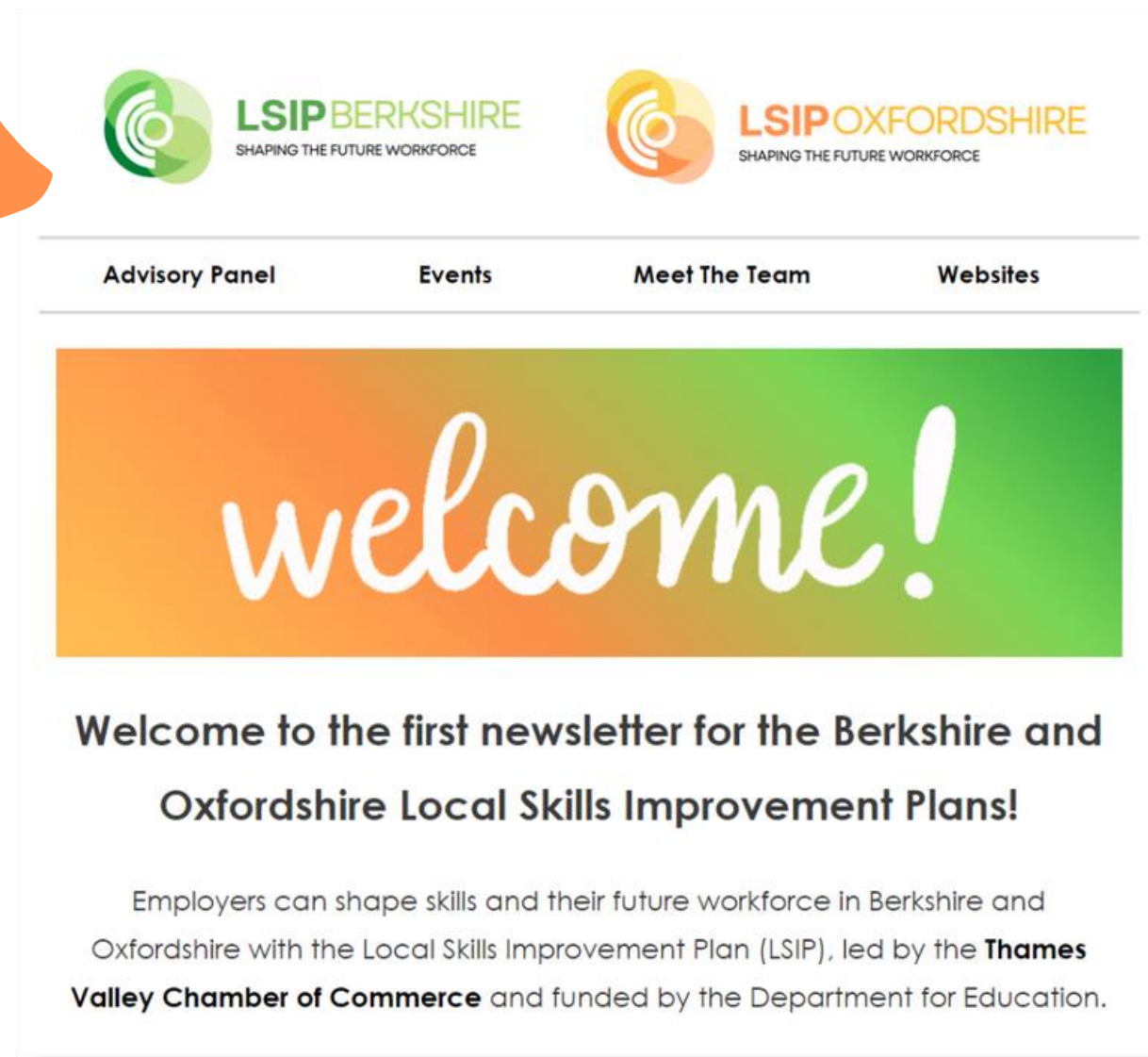
Sarah.Brinkworth@justice.gov.uk

SUMMARY

- Priority Themes/Areas of Focus this Quarter
- Summary of Actions
- AoB
- Date & Venue next meeting

Thank you for your participation

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