

PRESENT

Rod Chambers	Hull & East Yorkshire LSIP
Hannah Crookes	Hull & East Yorkshire LSIP
John Cook	Groupe Atlantic
Sharon Hodgson	JCP/DWP
Wendy Macadam	Wilberforce Sixth Form College

OVERVIEW

The meeting focused on the development of LSIP 2.0, with a draft due to be submitted to Skills England by 31st March 2026. Key sectors identified by the Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) included agri-food, life sciences/biomedical, energy, manufacturing and marine, ports, & logistics. The LSIP Team provided an update on their engagement activities to support the development of LSIP 2.0, including survey work, roundtable activity in late January at Bishop Burton College to gather feedback and Forums. The survey to be launched at the HEY LSIP Forum on 17th November aimed to gather data on current and future skills gaps, digital and net zero impacts, as well as employer relationships with training providers.

LSIP 2.0

Hannah Crookes provided an update on the current position of ownership of the LSIP model, where the legal responsibility still lied with the Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce (as the designated employer representative body) but there was a requirement to work towards joint ownership with HEYCA. The primary role of HEYCA currently would be to confirm the priority sectors which they wanted the LSIP to focus on, with supporting data. The Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce would be responsible for gathering employer feedback, developing the LSIP and ensuring submission of a substantive draft by 31st March 2026 with support of HEYCA.

It was noted that HEYCA had included Manufacturing as a priority sector for LSIP 2.0. Links with Marine, Ports and Logistics were also noted.

In terms of engagement activity, a survey would be launched for all sectors at the next HEY LSIP Forum, taking place on Monday 17th November 2025 at the University of Hull. Members were asked to provide support in distributing the survey to maximise employer feedback. Feedback from this would guide the in-person roundtable discussions for January 2026, which all working group members would be invited to noting that it would replace the normal bi-monthly zoom call. The HEY LSIP team would also be utilising external events to gain feedback, as well as 1-2-1 meetings. Any sector representative data or research would also be welcomed to support the development of LSIP 2.0.

A discussion took place regarding current skills and recruitment challenges beyond digital and Net Zero, including:

- Challenges in finding design engineers for renewable technology installation.
- The need for AI and machine learning to design specific systems for UK housing stock.
- Finding product and installation engineers was proving challenging.
- The challenges around being unable to fill roles have resulted in needing to train and upskill staff themselves.
- The perception of manufacturing as a career and the need to promote it differently, and how utilising national recognition days such as National Manufacturing Day could support this.
- Promoting manufacturing on a business-to-business basis rather than as a sector was suggested.
- Students were more interested in specific companies within the manufacturing sector rather than the industry as a whole.

- More methods were required to enable employers to engage with students.
- The use of augmented reality within the construction sector (as seen at Sewell Group's Digital Construction Academy), could be transferred to other sectors such as manufacturing to support employers in engaging with young people in particular.
- Soft/Employability skills continue to be a challenge.
- All secondary schools would benefit from a full-time careers advisor.
- The focus should be more about promoting specific roles rather than sectors.

LSIP 2.0 – DIGITAL SKILLS

- Utilisation of AI in renewable technology design and the challenges in finding skilled engineers were noted.

LSIP 2.0 – NET ZERO

- John Cook discussed how Groupe Atlantic had built a strategy relating to Net Zero, which was transferrable across other sites.
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Future HEY LSIP Forum dates were confirmed as being on 17th November 2025, 9th February 2026 and 23rd March 2026.
- An education piece may be needed between academia and employers regarding acronyms.
- Wilberforce College reported on changes to their career days to incorporate twilight sessions in a bid to attract more parents to the events.
- Members were waiting for the budget to hear about paid work experience for 16 to 24-year-olds.
- The importance of leveraging industry bodies and technology to promote apprenticeships and skills development was reiterated.
- It was suggested that Make UK and Siemens should be invited to the roundtable discussions in January. John Cook agreed to support in engaging with relevant contacts.