

HEYCA

Accountability Statement



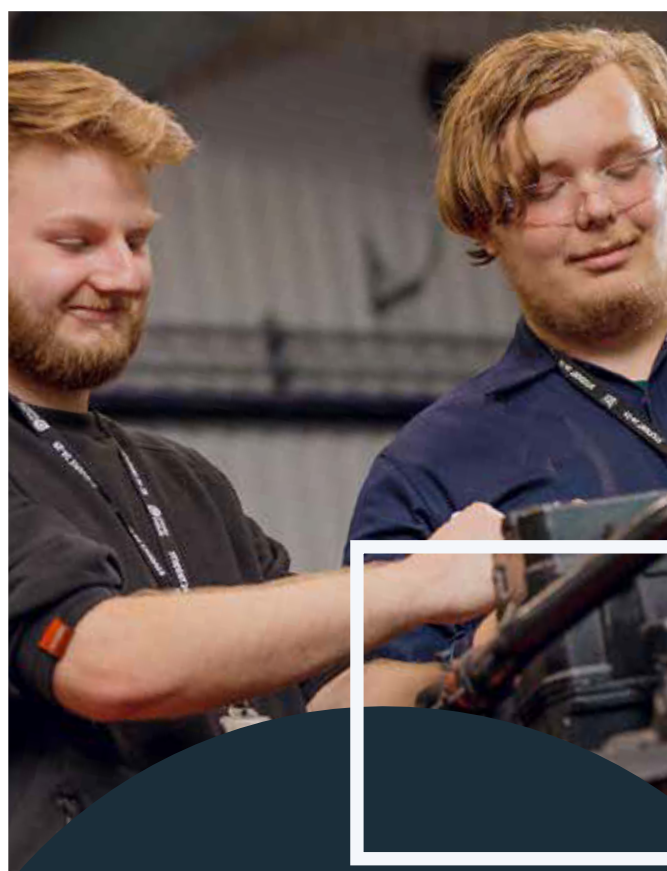
Regional Collaboration Addresses Employment and Skills Needs

Colleges and independent training providers within the Hull and East Yorkshire area and wider Humber region have collaborated for many years on projects designed to meet the needs of local people and industry. The importance of collaborative working has long been recognised as a means of leveraging capital and revenue funding to develop the learning resources required to meet the skills needs of the regional economy.

The region is home to a total population of 631,285, with a core working-age group (16–64) of 381,436. While Kingston upon Hull maintains a younger demographic profile with 64.4% of its residents within the working-age bracket, the East Riding of Yorkshire faces a rapidly aging population, with over 27% of residents at retirement.

2025/26 employment rate in Hull and East Yorkshire is 71.8%, this is broadly the same as the wider Yorkshire and Humber area (73.2%) and 2% less than England.

Over the past five years, the region's overall employment rate has dipped slightly by 0.4%, contrasting with a modest 0.2% increase across the wider Yorkshire and the Humber area. However, this minor shift masks a stark economic difference between our two local authorities. While the East Riding successfully increased its employment rate by 1.4%, Hull faced tougher headwinds, suffering a significant 2.4% drop.



Long-term
collaborations leverage
funding to build learning
resources and meet
local skills needs.

Because employment across both England and the wider Yorkshire and Humber region has remained largely flat—fluctuating by less than 1%—East Riding's growth underscores that Hull's decline is not part of a broader macro-trend.

The regional business base has grown slightly to approximately 20,360 enterprises, with the proportional split and sector dominance remaining relatively consistent, however, Hull has gained 160 new enterprises over the last five years whereas East Riding has lost 80.

Hull now accounts for 31.9% of businesses (down from 32.5%), while the East Riding of accounts for 68.1% (up from 67.5%).

The area has a strong micro-business base (0-9 employees) these very small firms represent 87.7% of the entire regional economy (17,870 out of 20,365 enterprises).

Hull has seen the most aggressive growth in micro-businesses, with a 6.5% increase (330 new small firms) since 2020. Hull lost a small number of medium and large firms in the same period.

East Riding remains the volume leader but has been more stagnant in terms of new micro-business growth (only a 0.2% increase). However, it did see a 16.7% increase (+5) in large firms (250+ employees).

There are three dominant employment sectors with the regional economy:

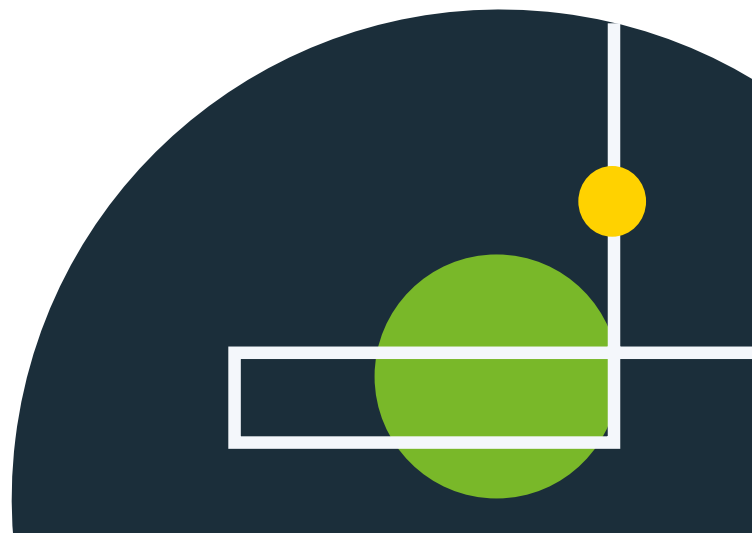
- With 21,000 jobs in Hull and 18,000 in the East Riding, the region employs 39,000 people in manufacturing (15.4%). This is significantly higher than the Great Britain average of 7.3%.



- Human Health & Social Work (14.6%) is a significant sector with 37,000 jobs reflecting the major hospitals and care infrastructure across the two authorities.
- Wholesale & Retail accounts for 38,000 jobs (15%).

Hull has a much higher proportion of Manufacturing (16.7% vs 14.1%) and Administrative Support (11.1% vs 4.7%). It is key for the region's processing and business support.

East Riding has a higher share of Professional, Scientific & Technical jobs (7.0% vs 4.8%) and Accommodation/Food Services (8.6% vs 5.6%), reflecting its stronger tourism and professional services base.



The combined region of Kingston upon Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire supports a robust labour market of 254,000 employee jobs. The economy is characterised by a significant over-representation in Manufacturing, which accounts for 15.4% of all jobs—more than double the national average.

The region also boasts a strong public sector and retail backbone, with Health and Social Work and Wholesale/Retail providing a combined 75,000 roles. Employment is predominantly full-time (68.5%), though the East Riding maintains a slightly higher reliance on part-time roles (32.8%) compared to Hull (29.4%).

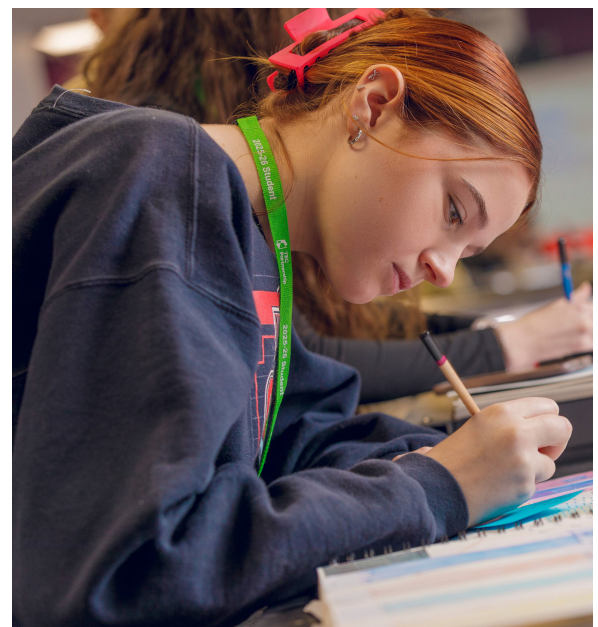
Educational attainment remains a key challenge for Hull; only 29.7% of Hull's working-age residents hold an NVQ4+ qualification, compared to 39.7% in the East Riding. Furthermore, 10% of Hull's population currently holds no formal qualifications, a figure that sits above both the regional and national averages.

At Level 3, only half of Hull's young people reach this standard by age 19, compared to nearly two-thirds in the East Riding and nationally.



The partners serving this region are:

- TEC Partnership
- Bishop Burton College
- CATCH
- DN Colleges Group
- Franklin Sixth Form College
- HETA
- Hull College
- John Leggott College
- Wilberforce Sixth Form College
- Wyke Sixth Form College



Collaborative Projects

Foundations Live - one day event promoting the range of careers within the construction industry, hosted by Bishop Burton College and supported by employers and colleges and independent training providers in the region.

Hull and East Riding Apprenticeships Expo hosted by Hull Training and Adult Education – an event demonstrating the scope and value of apprenticeships within the region, supported by colleges and independent training providers.

Curriculum Development

Collaborative project working across the provider network has accelerated the development of a range of new provision designed to strengthen careers pathways and meet skills needs including Apprenticeships, T-Levels, Skills Bootcamps and Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs). Much of this work is took place in partnership with the Hull & East Yorkshire Business, Growth & Skills Hub.

Local Skills Improvement Plan

The Local Skills Improvement Plan is being updated to align with the new Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) and national changes in skills policy.

The new focus is on three central themes designed to bridge the gap between education and the local economy:

- Focusing on high-growth sectors like green energy, digital, and advanced manufacturing.
- Improving "soft skills" such as communication, teamwork, and resilience, which 75% of local employers currently report as a struggle to find.
- Ensuring teachers and trainers have the industry-standard knowledge to teach modern skills.

There are four areas for specific skills shortages that the LSIP will address:

- Building a workforce for the region's decarbonisation and "Net Zero" targets.
- Bridging the gap for the 68% of local employers who do not yet have a formal digital strategy.
- Addressing the needs of an aging regional population.
- Leveraging Hull's port infrastructure and transport links.

Yorkshire and Humber Institute of Technology (YHloT)

Founded in 2019, the YHloT has provided funding to deliver higher technical qualifications in STEM- based occupations including Agri-tech, Engineering, Construction and Computing. Strategically aligned with colleges' universities and employers, the aim of the YHloT is to empower the region's businesses through the provision of higher-level skills training.

Humber Principals Group

Currently chaired by Hull College, this group brings together all of the colleges in the Humber region to enhance and coordinate its approach to skills.

Log On Move On (regional prospectus)

This is an ongoing collaborative project which publishes a shared digital prospectus for Hull and East Riding.

It is managed by East Riding of Yorkshire Council but utilised by all regional colleges and training providers. In the 2025/26 cycle, it has been updated to include a common application process, allowing students to apply to multiple providers across the region through a single portal, reducing the administrative burden on the learners.