

# Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee

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Living our values every day  




Accountable



Integrity



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# Our recovery

Ambition for Gloucestershire – as set out in our strategy [Looking to the Future](#)

**Vision** “To make the most of all that Gloucestershire has to offer, help improve the quality of life for every community, support businesses to be successful and make sure the county is a place where people want to live, work and visit”.

The ambitions are mirrored through the recovery plan.



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# Our recovery cont.

## Core priorities:

1. People, place and connectivity – resetting how our communities interact with business and education



2. Employment and skills – encouraging resilience through skills and employment



3. Infrastructure, economy and growth – accelerating infrastructure to promote sustainable development and growth



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# Employment and skills

The Employment and Skills Hub is a core part of priority 2.

This includes a “single front door” offer, working in a more coordinated way with GFirst LEP, schools, colleges, universities, independent training providers, DWP/Jobcentre Plus, etc.)

It will also:

- \* Promote innovation and joined up initiatives enabling us to learn from and support one another to provide even better support.
- \* Give extra capacity to this key priority by providing a focus on the data, local business intelligence, relationships with partners and a “go to” for internal service areas.
- \* Provide a central source of advice and capacity across E&S to deliver GCC’s role as an anchor organisation through the generation of social value in GCC contracts.
- \* Establish a blueprint for future funding mechanisms and alignment, in particular UK Community Renewal Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

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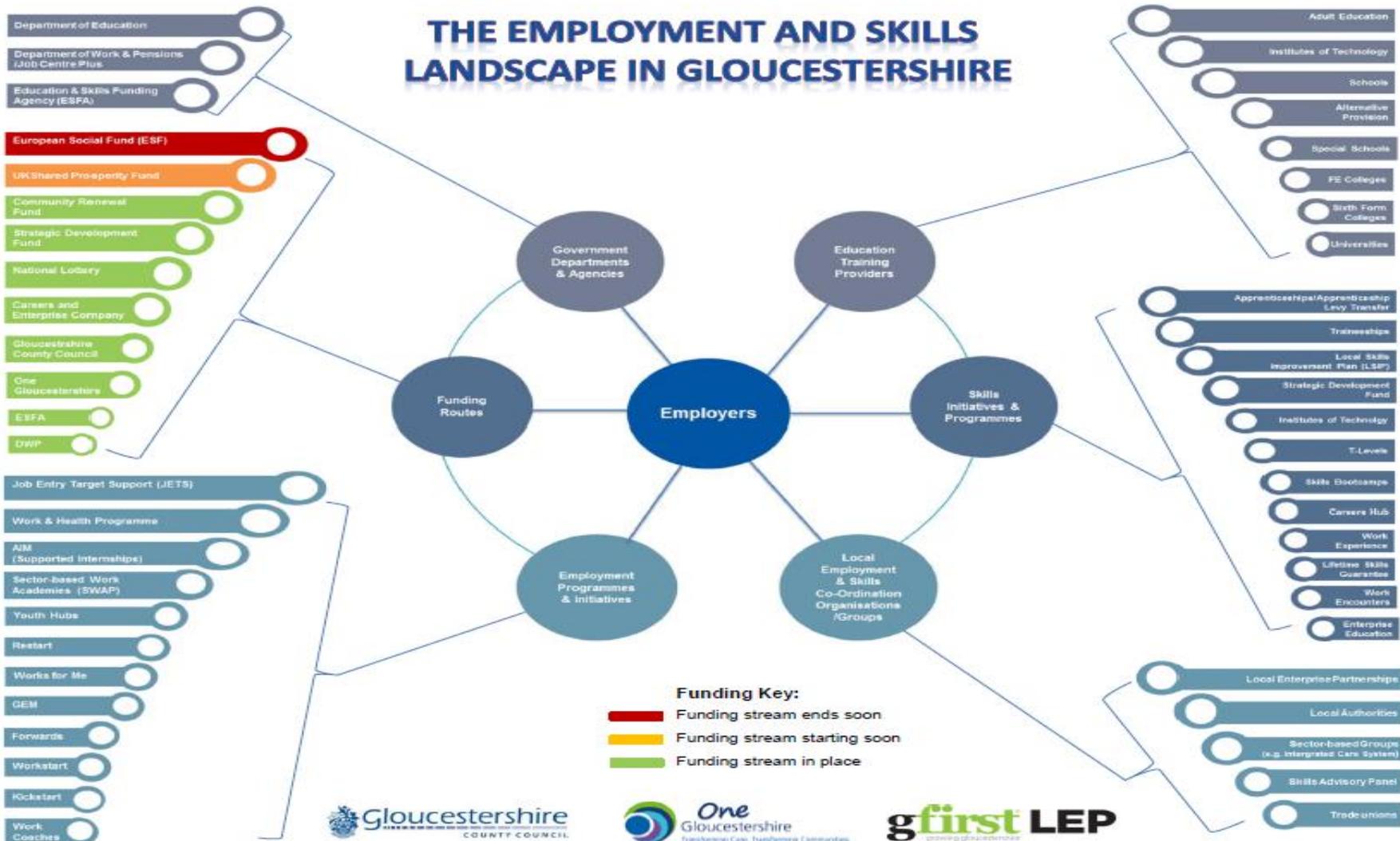
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# THE EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS LANDSCAPE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE



# Factors contributing to need

## September closure of job retention schemes

- 30,300 employments were furloughed equating to 1.8 in 10 resident employments (end April)
- A spike in redundancies is expected once furlough ends

## Socio-economic impact - target groups

- Vulnerability in labour market likely to worsen
  - Long-term impact on deprived communities and GCC target groups
- Risk of increase in temporary housing need and homelessness

## Risk of increased demand and health inequalities

- Increased JSA cost to the tax payer
- Increased pressure on health and social care services both immediate and in the longer term and an increase for support across mental health needs
  - Longer-term increase in benefit claimants

## September closure of SEISS

- 14,900 Self-Employment Income Support Scheme claims were made against (May)
  - This is over 40% of the eligible population
  - Residents unable to sustain their business will likely become unemployed (even if temporarily)

## The lost generation

- An additional increase in NEETS is expected in September due to disrupted education and a lack of work experience due to 15-months of lockdown
  - Increase in workless households
  - Unemployment can lead to poorer health and wellbeing

## Job postings are up but so are levels of redundancies

- Vacancies are higher than previous quarters signifying growing demand but “lack of relevant skills” are reported as barriers to job security.
- loss of consumer confidence in the labour market

# Employment and Skills Hub benefits

## Manage and meet increasing demand

Anticipating surge in demand when furlough and SEISS end in September 2021

## Co-ordinated employer engagement

Create more economy of scale in employer engagement resource – work better with them and keep them engaged

## Seek and deliver “upstream solutions”

e.g. by aligning funding from DWP programmes; better co-ord with DCs and VCS; and use of social value

## Ensure existing target groups not given lower priority

e.g. apprenticeships and cost avoidance in social care

## Improved experience for customers

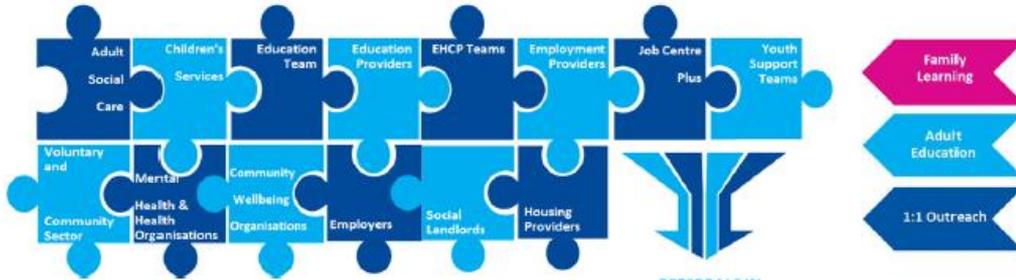
Provide a seamless journey that raises expectations, improves resilience and encourages ambitions

## Secure and make best use of limited resources

e.g. in anticipation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (launching 2022)

## Improve employment, skills and training liaison with schools

Co-ordinate to address variation in schools career resources



REFERRALS IN

