

<b>Priority area</b>	Digital
<b>Policy lead within taskforce team</b>	Nicola Leadbeatter
<b>Action, as stated in “Our Valleys, Our Future”</b>	<p>JS5 Support the creation of more digital jobs in the Valleys and develop two entrepreneurship technology hubs to help new business start-ups in the sector.</p> <p>JS26 Work with businesses to understand current and future digital skills needs to ensure skills and apprenticeship schemes meet their needs.</p> <p>JS27 Establish a compelling vision for a future digital Valleys, taking into consideration existing work elsewhere.</p>

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<p><b>April 2018</b> - Use labour market intelligence produced in the Regional Skills Plans and work in conjunction with the recently-published regional skills partnerships plans to explore the creation of two new incubator hubs in the Valleys, which will focus on new start-ups, technology, quality jobs and digital exploitation.</p>	<p>The establishment of four additional Enterprise Incubator Hubs to compliment the first hub at Wrexham was approved. Discussions have included the merits of these hubs being within strategic hubs.</p> <p>Pan-Wales tender to issue early May, will include requirement for services delivered outside of working hours to address barriers to start-up and promote inclusion of URGs. The tender includes lots for South East Valleys and South West Wales including South West Valleys</p> <p>Exact locations of hubs in Wales will be dependent on proposals received, however, strategic links with existing infrastructure and alignment with the Valleys Strategic Hubs will be a key consideration.</p>
<p><b>March 2018</b> – Develop a number of apprenticeship frameworks, which include digital options.</p>	<p>A new suite of ICT frameworks for apprenticeships has now been developed.</p> <p>Digital Literacy Skills within the Essential Skills suite are still optional (as defined by Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for Wales) but we are continuing to encourage their inclusion - most frameworks have now opted to incorporate them.</p> <p>Recently there have been four new IT frameworks published and one framework updated. We are waiting for the IT Degree Apprenticeships Frameworks to be published - IT is one of our pilot degree apprenticeships which will be available from September 2018.</p>

<p><b>January to April 2018</b> – Develop a vision for the Valleys, through engagement with communities and key partners. Identify how technology can be used to deliver better outcomes and add value, for example, a community wifi scheme which also focuses on and supports school coding clubs.</p>	<p>Following extensive consultation with key stakeholders and having heard opinions from people in their communities through the engagement programme it was felt that a focus on delivery was most urgent. Following a presentation and debate at the April Ministerial Taskforce meeting it was agreed that three pilot schemes should be given the go-ahead for further exploration.</p> <p>These include a community wi-fi scheme, a community health transport scheme and additional resourcing for the mapping tool Lle.</p> <p>Good progress is being made on all of these items of work, with a Welsh Government owner assigned for each.</p> <p>A workshop has been held, hosted by the National Software Academy on the community transport scheme, which was also attended by representatives from City Deal, Community Transport Association and the Health Boards. This was an initial workshop to scope the pilot and to consider work that is ongoing in this area already.</p> <p>The Community Wi-Fi Scheme project description document has been drafted, and a workshop is shortly to be arranged to progress this piece of work which will allow members of the public to easily locate places where they can access free Wi-Fi. It is likely that the National Software Academy could be included on this project also, in the possible creation of an App.</p> <p>The additional resources for Lle have been discussed with the Leader of the House and the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services who have asked for a more detailed paper providing more information on the resources/funding required to progress this piece of work. Links have been made with City Deal who wish to use the Lle platform for their work on Open Data. They have suggested that they would be willing to help with resourcing and funding when the time is right to get the mapping tool to the standard that it needs to be.</p>
<b>Risks</b>	
<p>There is a need to ensure joined up thinking with city deals to avoid duplication and to maximise the impact from resources.</p> <p>Successful bids for the Enterprise Incubator Hubs may not be made from the taskforce strategic sites.</p>	
<b>Reported by:</b>	Nicola Leadbeatter – 20 June 2018