

# MIND THE GAP: HOW CAN WE TACKLE THE SKILLS GAP?

Nationally commissioned employment and skills systems are failing to address local differences, meet employers needs and in some cases are holding back economic growth.

Join a high profile panel, including senior national and local politicians, the Learning and Work Institute and Prospect Magazine, as we discuss how the skills and employment support can be transformed to build the local economies of the future.

Speakers include:

**Cllr David Simmonds**

**CBE**

LGA Conservative Group  
Leader

**Stephen Evans**

Chief Executive, Learning  
and Work Institute

**Steve Bloomfield**

Prospect Magazine (Chair)

Other speakers to  
be confirmed



# Should councils have greater control over skills and training?

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## How can local areas best develop skills and create jobs for residents?

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## Could devolving employment support and technical education boost local economies?

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All local areas want to build strong and resilient economies where residents contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth. But the nationally commissioned employment and skills systems are failing to address local differences and in some cases holding back economic growth. Worse still, the skills system is not geared up to employers' future needs. By 2024 a growing skills mismatch will mean there is a shortage of four million highly skilled people to fulfil employment demand.

Our expert panel will be exploring how the skills and employment support system can be transformed to build the local economies of the future.

This debate is an opportunity to discuss how we move to a post-Brexit Industrial Strategy that ensures people have the skills they need so that every area across the country and every resident can find their place. The Local Government Association (LGA) will also put forward our positive vision for a devolved, integrated system to ensure the UK remains a leading economy in the 21st century.

**Monday 2 October**  
**7.30pm-9pm**  
**Exchange 10,**  
**Manchester Central**

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