



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Telford & Wrekin Council Skills for Growth

Cllr Shirley Reynolds

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment and Skills

Skills Telford – a learning borough for all

- Telford and Wrekin is a **vibrant, successful borough** which has grown rapidly in recent years, creating jobs and raising aspirations in the process
- The Skills Strategy has been developed in **partnership** with skills providers, school, colleges, and employers who all have an important role to play to ensure Telford and Wrekin has a workforce with the skills to meet current and future employer needs
- The strategy will also build on existing council programmes which support schools and engage with employers and education providers such as Harper Adams University and Telford College

Skills Strategy – 5 Objectives

1. **Improve** skills
2. **Nurture** and support
3. **Develop** progression pathways
4. **Inclusivity**
5. **Economic growth**



Get Marches Working Plan

- Align **employer-led initiatives** to strengthen school–business links
- Co-developed with **partners**
- **Priority groups** identified
- **Key challenges:** economic inactivity and skills gaps
- **Vision:** create an inclusive, dynamic labour market
- **Impact:** flexible labour market, supporting communities amid economic change

Stay Near, Go Far Campaign

- **Promotes** local skills, learning and employment opportunities to invest in prevention
- Reinforces **you don't need to move away to succeed**
- Highlights a wide range of **local options**
- Developed with key partners, supports the Council's wider **Skills Strategy and Vision 2032**



Employment Support: Job Box

The **Job Box** offers free, personalised support, including:

- **Careers Advice**
- **Application Assistance**
- **Interview Preparation**
- **Training & Upskilling**
- **Employer Connections**



Employment Support: Connect to Work

Connect to Work support as Job Box plus:

- **Intensive support** from an Employment Specialist
- **Access support** with interviews, applications and CVs
- **Help** to understand the financial implications of transitioning into work
- **Support** in the workplace
- **Rapid response** to any concerns or difficulties

CONNECT TO WORK

Funded by **UK Government**

Telford Skills Show

- **Annual event** bringing together major local and regional employers and training providers
- **Supports** the Council's wider strategy to ensure residents can access high-quality employment and training locally
- Provides hands-on activities and direct employer engagement to **inspire** the future workforce



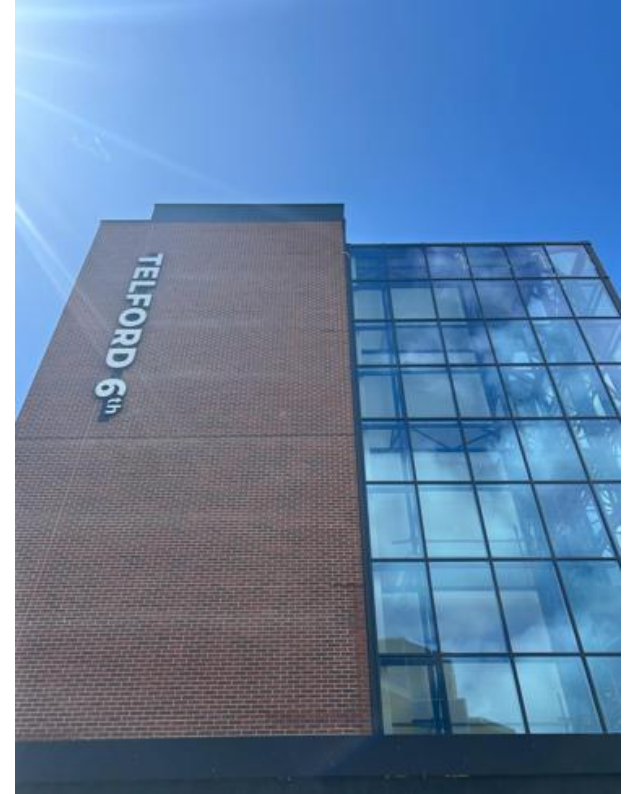
School Engagement – Telford Together

- Launched in **2025**
- Formed in direct collaboration with **local businesses**
- **Telford Together** sees businesses set up activities and challenges – to help learners better understand industry



Telford 6th, Station Quarter

- Part of Telford & Wrekin Council's multi-million-pound **Station Quarter** redevelopment
- **Partnership** with Telford College to develop a dedicated town centre sixth form
- Unlocks **expansion** at the College's main site
- Easily accessible for students **across the borough**



The Quad, Station Quarter

- Part of Telford & Wrekin Council's multi-million-pound **Station Quarter** redevelopment
- Supports the **triple helix model** of bringing together academia, industry and local government
- Home to Telford & Wrekin Council's Business Support team, **Invest Telford**



Summary

- **Relationships matter**
- **Close the gap** in outcomes for residents especially in relation to education, health and care and becoming economically independent
- **Flexibility** in reacting to the needs of local industry
- Ongoing **responsibility** for the implementation and monitoring of our strategy will take place at relevant education and employment boards including the Telford Education Strategic Partnership and Invest Telford Partnership



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Thank you

Any questions?