



STEM Skills in D2N2

This call seeks to promote and increase STEM skills in the D2N2 LEP area. The activity will allow more targeted activity that is tailored towards encouraging female, and other under-represented groups, to participate in STEM subjects. In addition, activity should look to boost the take up of high-level skills in STEM subjects and alternative higher-level vocational pathways with increased SME participation.

As such this programme will support Key Action 3 of the revised D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan Vision 2030 (<http://www.d2n2lep.org/SEP>) Innovation Led Productivity Growth by collaborating with universities, businesses and sector bodies to develop and implement productivity and growth plans in our science and innovation core sectors.

Local Economic Context

D2N2 has been in the vanguard of scientific and industrial innovation for more than two centuries. From Richard Arkwright's water powered Cotton Mill at Cromford in 1771 to market-leading aero-engines in the present day, D2N2 has become synonymous with globally-significant technological advances and manufacturing excellence, founded on long-standing trading relationships across the world. Our specialist know-how means that we are well-positioned to take advantage of advances in digitalisation, mobility and medical & low-carbon technologies.

Our vision is that by 2030 we will be a world class innovation-led, highly productive economy with a global reputation for manufacturing excellence. At the forefront of technological and business innovation, businesses of all sizes adopt innovative technologies and ways of working.

We will deliver the vision and hit our targets through a programme of transformation, built around the three high level themes of

- 1: Driving long term business competitiveness and growth through improved productivity
- 2: Building an adaptable workforce with the skills and knowledge that businesses need to be productive and competitive
- 3: Ensuring that our connectivity, infrastructure and place-making enable our growth aspirations

Underpinning this is the fundamental need to ensure that people and communities across D2N2 can participate in the transition to the higher-value economy and to benefit from its growth

Around one in five jobs are in 'science and technology' sectors, supported by our 'anchor' corporates and in our impressive – and growing – network of innovation

centres and incubation facilities across the area. We need to increase the proportion of businesses that are 'innovation active'; enabling businesses to implement process or 'new to the firm' innovations will continue to be as important as the development of new products. This includes adopting new management practices and new methods of work organisation

Our revised SEP 2019-2030 identifies core science and innovation sectors where we need to exploit D2N2's competitive edge and build on those parts of the economy that offer global opportunities for growth.

- Transport Equipment Manufacturing
- Food and Drink Manufacturing
- Life Sciences

D2N2 will work with partners on developing Productivity and Growth Plans for each sector that will strengthen supply chain programmes focused on increasing productivity, link clusters to world class research facilities and support the provision of skills which deepen links to science and innovation expertise.

Developing a skilled and productive workforce is a key priority within the revised SEP which will enable businesses to find the talent they need, equip their workforce with the skills of the future and take advantage of the core specialist capabilities in the knowledge base

Local Priorities

The D2N2 programme will support activities on:

- Increasing interest in STEM subjects to create a world-class skilled labour pool (including the promotion of female take-up).
- Meeting specific skills gaps through close collaboration between employers and learning providers.
- Boosting the take up of Higher/Degree Apprenticeships, particularly in STEM subjects.
- Addressing wider participation issues by increasing the number of employed women gaining higher level skills in the STEM subjects which will help them to progress in employment and increase their earnings.

Examples of activities that may be supported include:

- Identifying STEM skills shortages with businesses, in particular SMEs and micros, to develop a business led STEM skills programme
- a responsive skills programme focused on providing higher level STEM skills to employed individuals
- supporting individuals through quality information, advice and guidance to retrain in STEM related subjects

- supporting individuals in STEM related subjects to improve performance and productivity at work
- Leadership and management training to support SMEs within the STEM sector
- targeting activity to encouraging women and other under-represented groups to participate in STEM subjects
- Support the development and delivery of training provision that will help to increase the number of graduates entering the STEM sector and will ensure graduate retention in the area.
- Increase programmes that promote participation by women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) provision.

Contracting and funding allocation

The programme will be procured through the ESF Managing Authority (DWP) open call process.

The ESF funding allocation to support the programme is £1,000,000. Applicants will need to have eligible match funding at 50% which must be from a source other than the European Union.

Proposals should: deliver activities eligible for ESF; cover the whole D2N2 area; and be in line with the D2N2 LEP Core Delivery Principles. The Managing Authority may award more than one contract should applications of sufficient quality and scale be received that in combination provide for LEP wide coverage without duplication of activities or geography. There is a requirement for all contracts to clearly evidence how they will interact with each other to ensure they complement existing and future planned provision.

This document provides the strategic intent for this programme. Full details of the bidding, contracting and confirmed criteria will be provided within the published specifications.

The table below provides an indicative breakdown of the funding allocation and targets.

Investment Priority	2.1
	STEM Skills in D2N2
ESF	£1,000,000
Match Funding	£1,000,000
Outputs	Volumes TBC
Priority Groups	Participants
	50+
	Inactive
	Ethnic Minorities
	Disabilities
	Basic skills
	Single adult household with dependent children

