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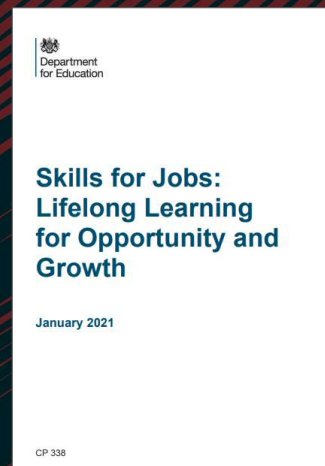
FE WHITE PAPER | IN-DEPTH

The FE White Paper in numbers

- 6 chapters including summary
- 32 sections within the chapters
- 34 policy 'decisions'
- 80 pages
- 156 paragraphs
- 25,143 words
- 140,806 characters (no spaces)
- 166,107 characters (with spaces)

Very wide ranging!

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Education secretary big theme...

"This White Paper aims to **strengthen links between employers and further education providers**. We will place employers at the heart of defining local skills needs and explore a new role for Chambers of Commerce and other business representative organisations working with local colleges and employers."

And it's a white paper as government plans to introduce legislation (an FE Bill) to make sure colleges comply...
watch the last webcast for more on that



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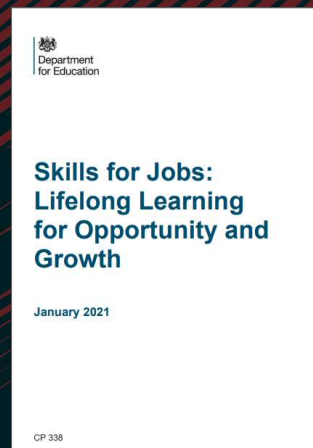
The FE White chapters

1. Putting employers at the heart of post-16 skills
2. **Providing advanced technical and higher technical skills**
3. A flexible Lifetime Skills Guarantee
4. More responsive and accountable providers
5. Supporting 'outstanding' teaching

We'll be covering each chapter in-depth at this time every Tuesday for the next 3 weeks

Today is an opportunity to consider chapter 2

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Providing the skills “the nation needs”

“I am setting a new target to supercharge further education over the next decade; our aim is to overtake Germany in the opportunities we offer to those studying technical routes by 2029.” Conservative Party Conference. Gavin Williamson. Sept 2019, just 2 months into the job.



White paper: “We need to support the improvement of skills at the right level if we are to close the gap with international competitors” - focus on Level 3 and 4-5

Ongoing obsession with comparing UK to Germany. White Paper: “only 10% of all adults aged 20-45 hold a level 4-5 qualification as their highest compared to around 20% of adults in Germany”

So what is the target or definition of success? Why so keen to beat Germany? We’ve asked the DfE...

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The National Skills Fund will boost adult learning at advanced technical and higher technical levels

Table 1: Resource Spending

This table sets out the resource spending commitments made since the election was called, and in our manifesto today.

| £ million | Footnotes | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| National Skills Fund | | 0 | 600 | 612 | 624 |

2021-22 now £375m (not £600m)

But DfE says it remains committed to spending the full £2.5 billion

Adult level 3 offer (£95m) - starts next month

Bootcamps (£43m) - pilots already taking place

Traineeships etc (£127m) - response to Covid (joined-up)

NSF consultation ‘in the spring’

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FE WHITE PAPER | IN-DEPTH**Adult level 3 offer (£95m) - starts next month**

Fully-funded course for those without a full level 3 (equivalent to 2 full A levels)

Currently just 387 quals eligible - majority (207) not even on level 3 entitlement list

Both 19-23 and 24+ will be funded with the £150 or £600 uplift

Funded for now via Adult Education Budget but 24+ is ringfenced

Policy has been rushed via the AEB (with ongoing tendering) and is a hot mess

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FE WHITE PAPER | IN-DEPTH**Skills bootcamps**

Free to learner 12-16-week level 3+ course with 'up to' £43 million in 2021/22

For unemployed and employed.

Tender (£18m x 2 lots) closed 12 Feb, results due anytime now

Totally new funding formula with 30% for start, 60% for achievement and 10% for eligible progression.

Also 30% employer cash fee, no ILR (!), limited number of male dominated sectors (!!)

and so far no sign of Ofsted (!!!).

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Institutes of Technology increasing higher level STEM skills through collaboration

“The first wave of 12 IoTs is currently being established across the country and we will expand this model further.

“The Wave Two Competition is expected to conclude in summer 2021 with eight IoTs selected.

We will begin to roll out Wave Two IoTs as early as the 2021/22 academic year. By the end of this Parliament, there will be 20 IoTs covering every area of England, making them the ‘go-to’ providers for higher technical STEM education and training.”

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T Levels: a prestigious technical programme

“In September 2020, students across England started on the first ever T Levels. The first three T Levels are in Construction, Digital, and Education & Childcare, and a further seven will be introduced in 2021. We are proud of this programme, which is based on employer-led standards and offers a prestigious technical alternative to A Levels. From 2023, we expect that 24 T Levels covering 11 technical education routes will be available to students”

“We want as many people as possible to benefit from T Levels. We are consulting on adaptations that could be introduced to make them more appropriate for learners with **prior experience** and flexible delivery needs as part of the Review of Post-16 qualifications”

“prior experience”?? Does the DfE mean adults??

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Reformed higher technical education (levels 4 and 5)

“We have already started to reform higher technical education to make it a more popular and prestigious choice” - really? Consultation = starting reform...

“We plan to have a phased, multi-year roll-out of IfATE approved Higher Technical Qualifications, with different occupational routes coming on stream over a four year period. This will begin with the Digital route in 2022, followed by the Construction route and Health and Science route in 2023. The future roll-out pattern will continue to broadly align with Government priorities and early T Level waves.”

Long term quality assurance role from 2023 (OfS or Ofsted) still unclear

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Clear progression routes for students, with more attaining the higher-level skills that employers need

“We will raise the profile and understanding of the best higher technical courses with a government-backed brand and communications campaign so people have confidence in the qualifications and know what opportunities they offer”

“We will ensure that performance metrics more clearly demonstrate how well individual providers are helping students to progress and achieve at advanced technical (level 3) and higher technical levels (level 4-5). This will be done through changes to 16-18 published performance tables (once reintroduced following the coronavirus pandemic), National Achievement Rate Tables (Qualification Achievement Rates), and our further education outcomes-based success measures publication”

Promises promises...

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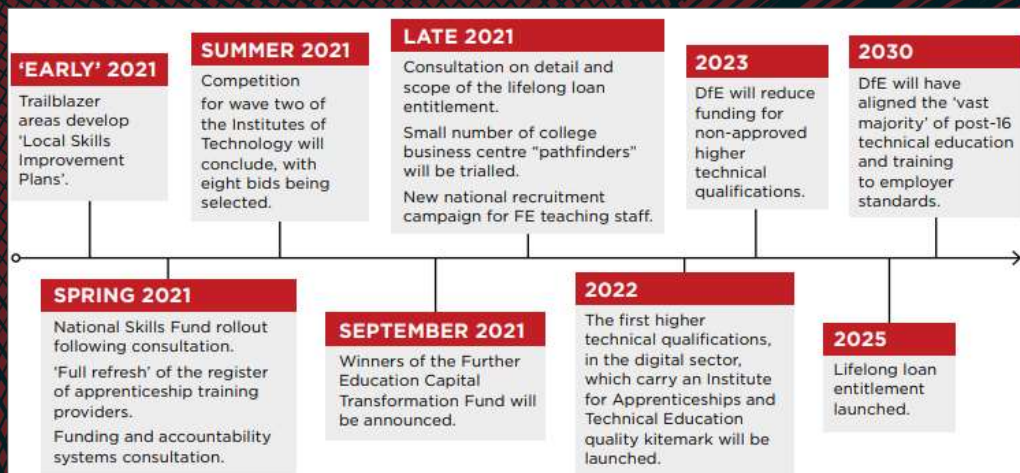
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Future reforms - the timetable



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Analysis by FE Week

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