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Addressing the digital skills gap: Drive regional recovery and achieve your sustainability goals.

The ongoing impact of COVID continues to present wider challenges for the region as a whole.

Since the first lockdown:

£10 billion funding gap predicted for 2021/22[1]

11.5 million jobs furloughed[2]

673,000 less UK payroll employees[3]

4% or fewer pupils physically attending school[4]

71% of teachers working from home[5]

17% of the UK population at risk of poverty[6]

To help regions adapt to these challenges, we are seeing more and more local authorities working with both public, private and not-for-profit organisations to…

Continue providing vital citizen services

Ensure the most vulnerable are supported

Help get people back to work

This means supporting organisations and education providers to **provide the skills that people need** to operate in a more digital world.

80% of leaders believe digital skills investment will be key to the country's economic recovery[7]

52% of adults don't have the digital skills needed for the workplace[8]

59% of employees say developing digital skills will help employability post-pandemic[9]

32% C-level executives agree upskilling employees is a top priority[10]

"If we work together, we can do more to advance the future that is for everyone."
Lee Jones, Public Sector Digital Skills Lead, Microsoft

Putting digital skills at the heart of recovery has the power to create immediate positive impact, both on a citizen and regional level, across:

- Employment
- Poverty
- Economic, physical and mental health
- Social and health care
- Accessibility and inclusion
- Citizen engagement with new digital processes

In addition, prioritising the adoption of technologies with **built-in features for sustainability** will help reduce your council's environmental impact.

For example, **environmentally friendly Microsoft products and services** can help you achieve…

98% less carbon emissions vs on-premise data centre operations[11]

95% reduction in MTCO2e Azure emissions[12]

Backed by a promise that **Microsoft's cloud data centres will be powered by 100% renewable energy** sources by 2025[12]

Putting sustainability at the heart of your tech strategy also empowers people to work remotely. With **Microsoft Teams** people can **stay connected**, **reduce carbon emissions** and **cut costs**:

£8.21 cost of a face-to-face meeting

vs

9p cost of a web interaction[13]

All of this equates to **increased sustainability impact + greater agility to evolve and adapt + money retained by citizens,** to be put back into the local economy.

Looking ahead with Phoenix

We're dedicated to supporting regional recovery, by delivering digital skills where they're needed the most and helping you meet your sustainability goals. **Book your Recovery Workshop now** and discover how the right technology along with any available funding can help you accelerate your recovery.

www.phoenixs.co.uk/regional-recovery

Contact a member of the Phoenix Team today on **01904 562200** or email **hello@phoenixs.co.uk.**

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1. Grant Thornton - https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/insights/how-local-authorities-can-prepare-for-coming-challenges/
2. Statista - https://www.statista.com/statistics/1119636/uk-number-of-people-on-furlough/
3. Ons.gov - https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronavirusandtherestrictionsoninfectionsandthepandemic/2020-07-03
4. Edge - https://www.edge.co.uk/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19_report_final_-_web.pdf
5. Edge - https://www.edge.co.uk/sites/default/files/documents/covid-19_report_final_-_web.pdf
6. https://www.ons.org.uk/getattachment/news-and-insight/policy/covid-19-and-the-uk-sustainability-challenges/covid-19-uk-sustainability-challenges-new-normal.pdf.aspx
7. AR Magazine - https://www.hrmagazine.co.uk/content/news/uk-s-persistent-digital-skills-gap-poses-risk-to-economic-recovery
8. Digi Leaders - https://digileaders.com/supporting-digital-skills-will-be-central-to-our-economic-recovery/
9. Microsoft - https://news.microsoft.com/en-gb/2020/11/23/skc-digital-skills-gap-poses-risk-to-economic-recovery-research-reveals/
10. HR Magazine - https://www.hrmagazine.co.uk/content/news/uk-s-persistent-digital-skills-gap-poses-risk-to-economic-recovery
11. Carbon footprint reductions will vary depending on your specific server usage, renewable energy purchases you make, and other factors. For details please refer to The carbon benefits of cloud computing published by Microsoft in 2018
12. Azure Microsoft - https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/blog/microsoft-sustainability-calculator-helps-enterprises-analyze-the-carbon-emissions-of-their-it-infrastructure/
13. Local Gov - https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/download-briefing-3-3user-f02.pdf