



LOTI guide to digital, data, technology and innovation apprenticeships

Updated March 2026

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About LOTI

1 Introduction

Unless boroughs have access to people with the right skills and experiences, none of the incredible opportunities concerning digital transformation and innovation will follow.

Apprenticeships can be an excellent way to address skills and talent gaps and adapt to the changing needs of your organisation.

They are suitable for people at any level, including school leavers, graduates and experienced staff, so you can either recruit someone new or upskill one of your current employees. Government funding is available to help pay for the training.

Apprenticeships bring many benefits, for both the employee and the employer. According to the [UK Government Apprenticeships](#) website:

92% of employers that have taken on apprentices believe this leads to a more motivated and satisfied workforce.

86% said apprenticeships helped them develop skills relevant to their organisation.

80% have seen a significant increase in employee retention.

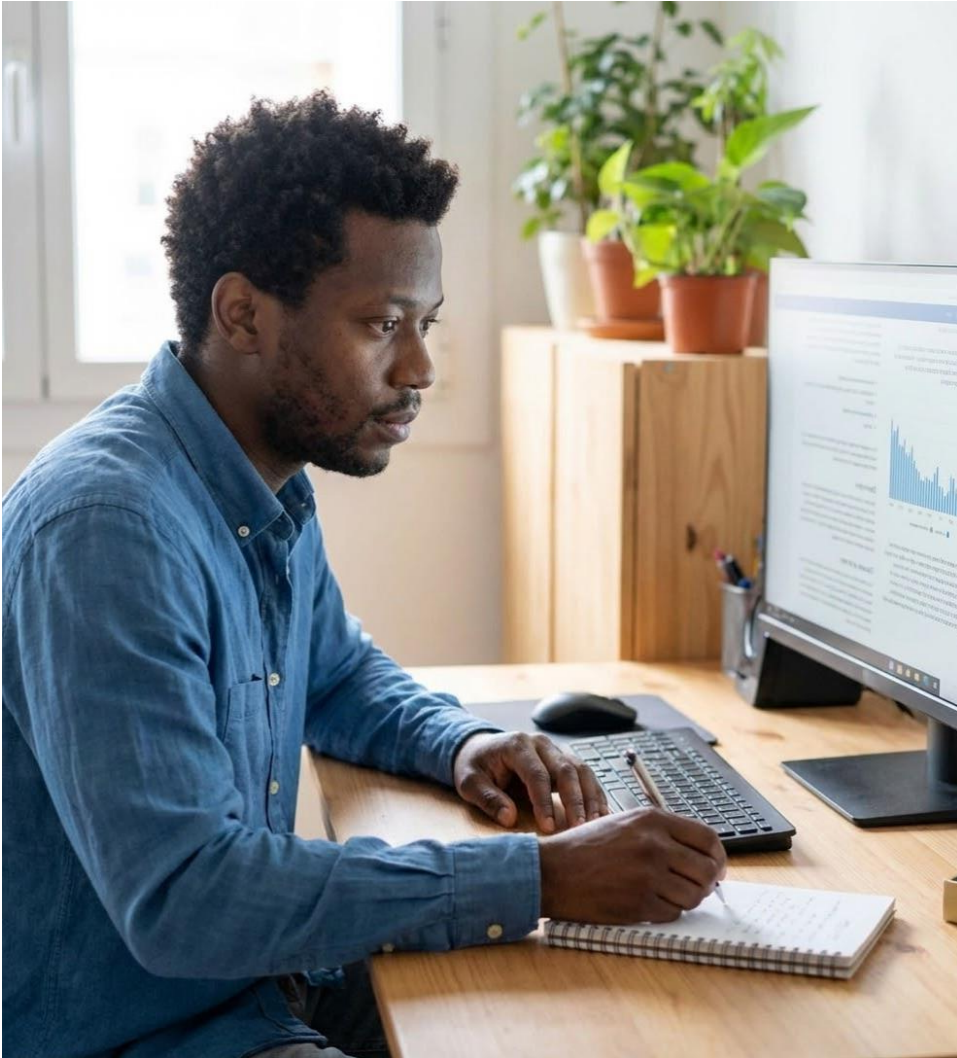
This guide outlines the apprenticeship standards in data, digital, technology, and innovation currently available in England, covering levels 2 through 6.

We also glance at level 7 (master's degree level), whilst noting that level 7 apprenticeships are now only government-funded for young people aged 16-21, or care leavers under 25. or have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) at the start of their apprenticeship.

We summarise each standard, provide links to further information., along with links to registered training providers.



This is an updated version of a guide originally published in August 2022. It was rewritten in March 2026 to include over 20 additional apprenticeships relating to digital, data, technology and innovation.



2.1 Key points and outputs

There are currently nearly 50 digital, data, technology and innovation apprenticeship standards available for delivery in the UK. Full details can be found on the government-approved [Skills England](#) website.

Key points about apprenticeship standards:

- Employers set standards to define the occupational competence for specific occupations.
- Apprenticeship standards define:
 - what a fully competent person in that occupation should be able to do by the end of the apprenticeship.
 - the minimum requirement for an apprentice to be assessed as being fully competent in that occupation.
 - the outputs, in terms of duties, skills, knowledge and behaviours, that are relevant to the occupational role.
- The apprentice's competence is assessed through an employer-defined end-point assessment (EPA) process.
- Some apprenticeships can include vendor qualifications, as defined by employers.
- Apprentices who pass their apprenticeship are awarded a grade and a completion certificate.

2.2 Core components of apprenticeships

Every apprenticeship in England is built on two foundational documents. Together, these ensure that whether an apprentice is working in a small tech startup or a large London borough, the quality and expectations remain consistent.

1. The apprenticeship standard

Think of the standard as the blueprint for the role. It defines what "full competence" looks like.

- **Knowledge:** The theoretical information and technical data required.
- **Skills:** The practical application of that knowledge in a work environment.
- **Behaviours:** The professional mindsets and interpersonal traits (eg, teamwork, ethics) needed to succeed.

Note: These are minimum requirements. While every programme must cover everything in the standard, employers are encouraged to add "stretch" goals specific to their borough's needs.

2. The assessment plan

To ensure these standards stay relevant across different sectors and organizational sizes, they undergo a rigorous approval process:

- **Development:** Standards are designed by "Trailblazer groups"—specialist employers who understand exactly what the industry needs.
- **Approval:** Skills England reviews and approves both the standards and the assessment plans.
- **Funding:** Once approved, each standard is assigned a specific funding band which dictates the maximum government contribution toward training costs.



2.3 Off-the-job training

Off-the-job (OTJ) training is a statutory requirement for all English apprenticeships. It is defined as learning which is undertaken during the apprentice's normal working hours and is designed to help them achieve the knowledge, skills, and behaviours set out in their apprenticeship standard.

The new minimum requirement

Following the 2025 policy update, the minimum required OTJ hours are no longer a flat percentage of the apprentice's duration on the programme. Instead they are:

- **Standard-specific:** The minimum required hours are now uniquely defined and published for each specific apprenticeship standard.
- **Prior learning:** This minimum can be reduced if the apprentice already possesses relevant prior knowledge or experience.
- **Flexibility:** While the hours must occur during paid working hours, they can be delivered in various patterns (e.g., one day a week, block release, or a few hours daily).



What counts as OTJ training?

The key distinction is that the apprentice must be learning something new, not simply performing their "business as usual" tasks.

- **Theory and teaching:** Lectures, webinars, role-playing, simulation exercises, and online learning modules.
- **Practical training:** Job shadowing, being mentored, industry visits, and spending time in a different department to learn new processes.
- **Learning support:** Time spent writing assignments or conducting research for the apprenticeship during work hours.

What does not count as OTJ training?

To avoid compliance issues, the following activities must not be included in OTJ hours:

- **English and Maths:** Functional skills training is funded separately and is additional to the OTJ minimum.
- **Progress reviews:** Regular check-ins or "on-programme" assessments with the training provider.
- **Outside hours:** Any training that takes place outside of the apprentice's paid working hours (unless they are given time off in lieu).
- **General induction:** Standard company inductions or health and safety training that all employees receive regardless of their apprenticeship.

The golden rule: If they are doing their normal job, it doesn't count. OTJ must be new learning that happens during paid work hours.

2.4 Training provision

To ensure high-quality delivery, apprenticeships must be facilitated by an approved training provider. These are listed on the [Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers](#), which verifies they meet government standards for quality and financial stability.

When selecting a partner, boroughs can choose from a diverse marketplace of local and national providers. Delivery models vary to suit different operational needs:

- **Face-to-face:** Traditional classroom or workplace-based learning.
- **Online:** Fully digital delivery, offering maximum flexibility for remote or busy teams.
- **Blended:** A hybrid approach combining the benefits of in-person instruction with independent digital study.

Tip: When browsing the register, you can filter by the specific apprenticeship standard to see which providers are approved for that occupation and view their current employer satisfaction ratings.

2.5 End-point assessment (EPA)

The end-point assessment is the final, independent evaluation that confirms an apprentice is fully competent in their role. It is designed to be rigorous yet fair, ensuring consistency across all employers.

Key Principles of the EPA

To ensure the assessment is both meaningful and practical, it is built on the following core principles:

- **Holistic evaluation:** It measures the full range of knowledge, skills, and behaviours defined in the standard.
- **Workplace realism:** Assessment methods (such as observations or project reports) replicate "live" workplace scenarios to ensure the apprentice can perform under real conditions.
- **A "mixed-tool" approach:** By using multiple methods such as a professional discussion combined with a practical test apprentices can demonstrate their strengths across different formats.
- **Career progression:** The EPA is designed not just to test for a job, but to validate the apprentice's readiness for a long-term career in the industry.
- **Clear grading:** The availability of Pass, Merit, and Distinction grades motivates apprentices to strive for excellence rather than just "getting through."
- **Added value:** The process provides the employer with an objective, third-party validation of their staff member's expertise.

What makes it independent?

Crucially, the EPA is conducted by an Independent End-Point Assessment Organisation. This means the person grading the apprentice has had no role in their day-to-day training, ensuring the result is completely unbiased and recognised nationally.

2.6 How the end-point assessment works in practice

The end-point assessment occurs in the final few months of the apprenticeship. It is a formal evaluation conducted by an independent organisation to ensure the apprentice is fully competent.

The "gateway"

Assessment only begins once the apprentice has completed all training and the employer agrees they are ready. This milestone is known as the "**gateway**."

Assessment methods

The assessment always includes at least two different types of assessment. Common methods include:

- **Knowledge test:** Usually a multiple-choice exam or structured questions.
- **Practical project:** A real-world assignment completed by the apprentice to solve a workplace challenge.
- **Presentation:** A showcase of a project or a summary of their achievements.
- **Scenario demonstration:** A "trade test" where they perform specific tasks under observation.
- **Professional discussion:** A structured conversation with the assessor, often supported by the apprentice's portfolio.

The final grade

The grading is conducted by an independent assessor who has had no prior involvement with the apprentice.

- **Holistic grading:** The grade isn't just a tally of points; it is a professional judgment based on the entire body of evidence presented during the EPA.
- **One final result:** While there are multiple tests, they culminate in a single overall grade for the apprenticeship (typically Pass, Merit, or Distinction).
- **Distinguishing excellence:** Grading is designed to differentiate between those meeting the minimum requirements and those who have demonstrated exceptional mastery of their role.

Specific grading criteria and assessment methods for your borough's apprentices can be found in the assessment plan on the [Skills England](#) website.



3 Apprenticeship standards

LOTI guide to digital, data, technology and innovation apprenticeships



3.1 Apprentice levels

The apprenticeship standards (levels 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) support a number of digital, data, technology and innovation roles.

You can find further details about each standard by following the links provided or by browsing the [Skills England](#) website.

Level 2 - Equal to GCSE

Level 3 - Equal to A level

Level 4 - Equal to higher national certificate (HNC)

Level 5 - Equal to higher national diploma (HND)

Level 6 - Equal to degree

Level 7 - Equal to master's degree

3.2 Level 2: foundation apprenticeships

Equivalent to 5 GCSE passes (grades 9-4).

Level 2 apprenticeships focus on the fundamental skills and knowledge required for a specific entry-level role.

They are designed to support school leavers or those changing careers by providing a structured introduction to the workplace, and are often used for operational or technical support roles.

By the end of the programme, apprentices will have demonstrated the basic competencies needed to work safely and effectively, providing a reliable foundation for further progression.

Level 2

- **Hardware, network and infrastructure foundation**
- **Software and data foundation**

Hardware, network and infrastructure foundation apprenticeship

At a glance: Providing basic technical support to maintain the systems that keep council offices and services running.

- **Role purpose:** To support the monitoring and maintenance of systems and platforms to maximise productivity and the user experience.
- **This develops the apprentice in:**
 - **Technical support:** Providing basic assistance to internal staff and external customers through multiple communication channels.
 - **System monitoring:** Assisting with the regular testing and monitoring of issues within IT or telecommunications systems.
 - **Problem resolution:** Supporting the identification and resolution of fundamental technical problems.
- **Local authority application:** A great entry-level role for a central IT helpdesk, helping staff with routine hardware and software queries.
- **Key skills:** Maintaining digital infrastructure, diagnosing technical faults, and implementing cybersecurity measures.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 8 months.

Level 2



Maximum funding: £4,000

Date approved: 29-04-2025

Date updated: 29-04-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

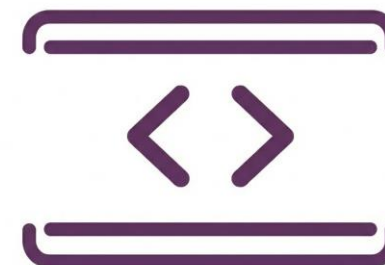
[Find training providers.](#)

Software and data foundation apprenticeship

At a glance: The entry point for administrative data management and software testing support.

- **Role purpose:** To support the fundamental functions of managing data and the development or testing of software.
- **This teaches the apprentice:**
 - **How to handle data:** How to support the collation, formatting, storage, and retrieval of data.
 - **Quality assurance:** Basic methods for validating data and identifying errors.
 - **Software lifecycle:** Following instructions to support discrete elements of software development and testing.
- **Local authority application:** Ideal for junior staff in back-office functions or school leavers looking to support departmental data migration or basic digital tool updates.
- **Key skills:** Data validation, instruction-following, basic software testing.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 8 months.

Level 2



Maximum funding: £4,000

Date approved: 29-04-2025

Date updated: 29-04-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

3.3 Level 3: advanced apprenticeships

Equivalent to: 2 A-level passes.

Level 3 apprenticeships allow staff to develop more specialised technical skills and a greater degree of autonomy.

These roles typically require the apprentice to take more responsibility for their own work and, occasionally, for the supervision of others.

They are widely used across local government for roles in business administration, finance, and technical trades.

Level 3 programmes are an excellent way to bridge the gap between entry-level tasks and professional-grade responsibilities.

Level 3

- **Cyber security technician**
- **Data technician**
- **Digital device repair technician**
- **Digital support technician**
- **Improvement technician**
- **Information communications technician**
- **IT solutions technician**
- **Network cable installer**
- **Software development technician**

Content creator apprenticeship

Level 3

At a glance: Producing high-quality digital assets to communicate council services and engage with residents.

- **Role purpose:** To develop and create a wide range of content for different digital platforms to achieve specific organisational objectives and engage target audiences.
- **This teaches the apprentice to:**
 - **Creative production:** Developing written, visual, and audio content, including social media posts, videos, blogs, and infographics.
 - **Content planning:** Researching audience needs and planning content calendars that align with broader communication strategies.
 - **Performance analysis:** Monitoring and evaluating how content performs across different platforms to improve future engagement.
- **Local authority application:** Supporting council communications teams to create engaging updates on local initiatives, public health campaigns, or community events.
- **Key skills:** Digital asset creation, copywriting, social media management, and audience research.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 15 months (typical end-point assessment period: 3 months).



Maximum funding: £10,000

Date approved: 06-06-2017

Date updated: 14-12-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Cyber security technician apprenticeship

Level 3

At a glance: Your first line of digital defence for protecting sensitive citizen assets.

- **Role purpose:** To provide first-line cyber security support, monitoring threats and implementing security controls to ensure uninterrupted operations.
- **This teaches the apprentice to:**
 - **Detect threats:** How to monitor and detect potential security threats and escalate them appropriately.
 - **Implement technical solutions:** Practical skills in patching software, installing updates, and configuring firewalls or SIEM tools.
 - **Understand culture and ethics:** Understanding vulnerabilities to contribute to a security-conscious culture while maintaining data confidentiality and integrity.
- **Local authority application:** Provides essential support for a Security Operations Centre (SOC) to protect social care or financial data from ransomware and unauthorized access.
- **Key skills:** Patching, access control, incident monitoring, firewall configuration.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £11,000

Date approved: 13-05-2020

Date updated: 29-09-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Data technician apprenticeship

At a glance: Sourcing and preparing the secure data needed to inform local departmental decisions.

- **Role purpose:** To source, format, and present data securely for analysis using basic methods to support business outcomes.
- **This trains the apprentice to:**
 - **Source and blend data:** Collect and combine data from multiple sources under the guidance of senior colleagues.
 - **Secure data handling:** Apply legal and ethical principles when manipulating data to protect the organisation's reputation.
 - **Present findings:** Format and present data in a relevant way to communicate outcomes to a specific audience.
- **Local authority application:** Useful for supporting service managers in departments like housing or social care to track performance and trends.
- **Key skills:** Data sourcing, secure formatting, basic analysis, and ethical data handling.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 3 months).

Level 3



Maximum funding: £13,000

Date approved: 10-07-2020

Date updated: 20-08-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

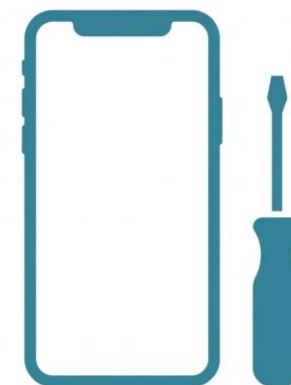
[Find training providers.](#)

Digital device repair technician apprenticeship

At a glance: Managing the end-to-end repair process for the council's mobile and digital hardware.

- **Role purpose:** To manage the process of repairs to digital devices and replace device parts from end to end.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Diagnose faults:** Accurately identify issues and carry out software or technical repairs on devices like tablets, laptops, and phones.
 - **Manage stock:** Maintain and record stock items and work completed within customer relationship management systems.
 - **Promote sustainability:** Use green production techniques and ensure the safe disposal of components that cannot be repaired.
- **Local authority application:** Perfect for managing the lifecycle and repair of mobile devices used by field-based staff and social workers.
- **Key skills:** Hardware repair, fault diagnosis, stock management, and sustainable disposal.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 21 months (typical end-point assessment period: 3 months).

Level 3



Maximum funding: £11,000

Date approved: 19-02-2024

Date updated: 09-12-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Digital support technician apprenticeship

Level 3

At a glance: Maximising productivity by helping colleagues and residents master digital office technologies.

- **Role purpose:** To maximise the effective use of digital office technologies, productivity software, and digital communications.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Support internal users:** Act as a digital champion, training colleagues to use collaborative tools and diagnosing problems.
 - **Coach external users:** Help residents access online services and troubleshoot their access to digital tools.
 - **Optimise workflows:** Devise and roll out digital productivity solutions to improve efficiency.
- **Local authority application:** Creating "digital floorwalkers" to help staff transition to new software or helping residents use the council website.
- **Key skills:** Digital coaching, application support, and problem diagnosis.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 15 months (typical end-point assessment period: 3 months).



Maximum funding: £13,000

Date approved: 11-04-2019

Date updated: 26-08-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

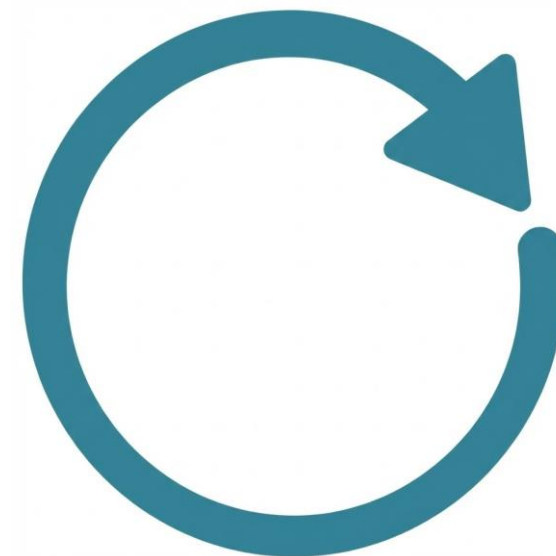
[Find training providers.](#)

Improvement technician apprenticeship

At a glance: Coaching teams to identify and resolve small-scale process inefficiencies using lean methods.

- **Role purpose:** To deliver and coach improvement activity within a specific area of responsibility, often using lean and six sigma methodologies.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Identifying opportunities:** Engaging team members to find improvement opportunities and suggest relevant countermeasures.
 - **Facilitating change:** Leading improvement activities through to a confirmed resolution.
 - **Local expertise:** Providing the team with basic tools and methods for business improvement.
- **Local authority application:** Ideal for frontline service teams looking to reduce waste or wait times in administrative processes.
- **Key skills:** Lean methodology, team coaching, problem-solving, and process identification.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 14 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 3



Maximum funding: £4,000

Date approved: 27-02-218

Date updated: 08-12-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Information communications technician apprenticeship

At a glance: Delivering the essential technical support and cloud services that keep the council connected.

- **Role purpose:** To deliver efficient IT and telecommunications support, managing hardware, software, and digital communication channels.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Provide technical support:** Diagnose and resolve hardware and software faults across various devices and platforms.
 - **Manage infrastructure:** Maintain network performance and monitor cloud services to ensure business continuity.
 - **Implement security:** Follow protocols to protect data and maintain secure digital environments.
- **Local authority application:** Ideal for service desk teams or IT departments ensuring frontline staff have reliable access to the systems they need.
- **Key skills:** Problem diagnosis, network monitoring, device configuration, and cloud service support.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 3



Maximum funding: £15,000

Date approved: 04-05-2021

Date updated: 30-09-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

IT solutions technician apprenticeship

Level 3

At a glance: Developing and maintaining complete IT solutions to improve council business efficiency.

- **Role purpose:** To develop, implement, and maintain IT solutions that solve problems or improve existing functionality to gain business efficiencies.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Lifecycle management:** Work across the whole solutions lifecycle, from requirements gathering to testing and ongoing support.
 - **Technical design:** Create concept and logical designs for solutions that involve multiple components and systems.
 - **Stakeholder liaison:** Translate business needs into technical designs and justify design choices to non-technical stakeholders.
- **Local authority application:** Supporting the development of new internal digital tools or the integration of hardware and software for specific departments.
- **Key skills:** Requirements gathering, solution development, structured testing, and technical documentation.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (typical end-point assessment period: 4 months).



Maximum funding: £15,000

Date approved: 18-02-2019

Date updated: 31-12-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

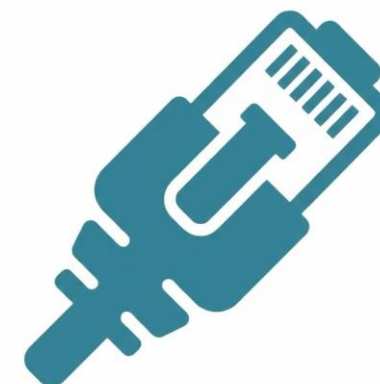
[Find training providers.](#)

Network cable installer apprenticeship

Level 3

At a glance: Building the physical foundation of the council's digital infrastructure.

- **Role purpose:** To install, test, and maintain the copper and fibre optic cabling that forms the backbone of digital communications.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Infrastructure installation:** Surveying sites and installing complex cabling systems in various environments.
 - **Testing and certification:** Using specialist equipment to verify network performance and ensure it meets industry standards.
 - **Fault finding:** Identifying and repairing physical connectivity issues within the network.
- **Local authority application:** Supporting the rollout of full-fibre connectivity in council buildings and social housing projects.
- **Key skills:** Cable termination, blueprint reading, health and safety compliance, and network testing.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 15 months (typical end-point assessment period: 3 months).



Maximum funding: £11,000

Date approved: 23-04-2019

Date updated: 18-07-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

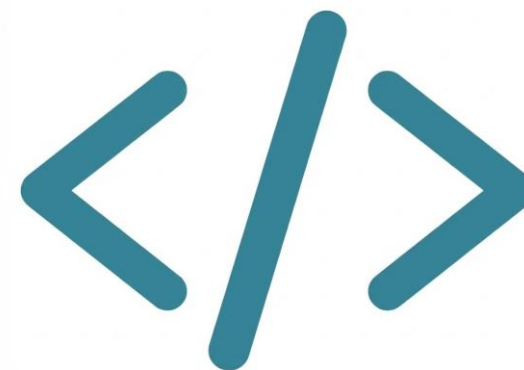
[Find training providers.](#)

Software development technician apprenticeship

At a glance: Building and testing the essential software components that support digital services.

- **Role purpose:** To assist in the development, testing, and maintenance of software applications, typically working as part of a larger technical team.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Implement code:** Write and maintain simple software components for web, mobile, or desktop applications using different languages.
 - **Test and debug:** Carry out structured testing to identify bugs and ensure that code meets the specified requirements before deployment.
 - **Follow design specs:** Interpret technical specifications and user requirements to build functional tools that meet business needs.
- **Local authority application:** A great entry-level role for helping the council build or customise internal tools, such as data collection forms for field workers or updates to the staff intranet.
- **Key skills:** Basic programming, software testing, problem-solving, and requirement interpretation.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 3



Maximum funding: £15,000

Date approved: 16-12-2016

Date updated: 05-04-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Team leader apprenticeship

At a glance: Managing small teams and projects to ensure departmental goals are met effectively.

- **Role purpose:** To provide direction, instructions, and guidance to a team or group of individuals to achieve specific goals and project outcomes.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Leading people:** Managing team dynamics, providing feedback, and supporting the professional development of team members.
 - **Operational management:** Planning and delivering work against organisational targets while managing resources and budgets.
 - **Project delivery:** Understanding project lifecycles and using tools to manage tasks, monitor progress, and report on outcomes.
- **Local authority application:** Ideal for newly appointed team leaders or supervisors or for people who are stepping into their first management role.
- **Key skills:** Team management, budget monitoring, performance management, and effective communication.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 15 months (typical end-point assessment period: 3 months).

Level 3



Maximum funding: £5,000

Date approved: 01-05-2015

Date updated: 25-09-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

3.4 Level 4: higher apprenticeships

Equivalent to: Higher National Certificate (HNC) or a Year 1 of a university degree.

Level 4 apprenticeships mark the transition into professional-level technical training.

They focus on developing specific, high-level expertise and are often used for roles that require analytical skills or junior management capabilities.

These programmes are ideal for employees who have completed a Level 3 qualification or for more experienced staff looking to formalise their technical knowledge.

They provide the borough with specialists who can manage complex tasks and solve departmental problems independently.

Level 4

- Applications support lead
- Associate project manager
- Business analyst
- Cyber security technologist
- Data analyst
- Data protection and information governance practitioner
- DevOps engineer
- Digital accessibility specialist
- Digital community manager
- Digital product manager
- Improvement practitioner
- Information manager
- Network engineer
- Software developer
- Software tester

Applications support lead apprenticeship

At a glance: Providing specialist advice and training to ensure core software applications work effectively for staff.

- **Role purpose:** To provide tactical advice, training, and support on core technology applications to enhance the delivery of products and services.
- **This trains the apprentice to:**
 - **Lead upgrades:** Deliver the roll-out of upgrades and implement new technologies for use by colleagues.
 - **Support desk management:** Implement and operate a support desk function to provide a "first line fix" for users.
 - **Collaborative platforms:** Build and support remote working environments and collaborative platforms for internal and external users.
- **Local authority application:** Ensuring staff are fully trained and supported on essential systems like planning portals or social care databases.
- **Key skills:** Tactical advice, change management, support desk operation, and application testing.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 6 months).

Level 4



Maximum funding: £17,000

Date approved: 12-11-2021

Date updated: 19-11-2021

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

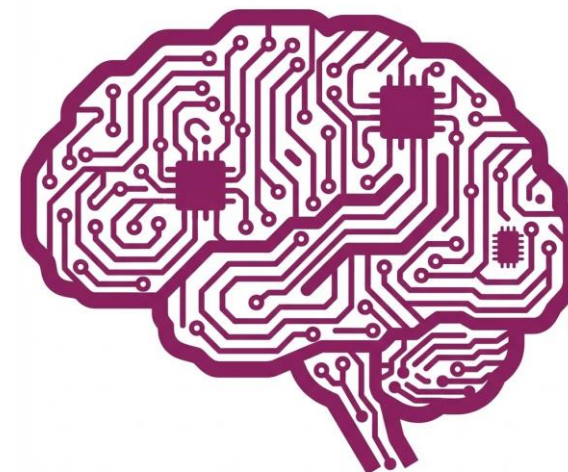
[Find training providers.](#)

Artificial intelligence (AI) and automation practitioner apprenticeship

At a glance: Identifying and implementing smart solutions to reduce manual tasks and improve efficiency.

- **Role purpose:** To identify opportunities for automation and apply artificial intelligence and low-code solutions to improve business processes and productivity.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Identify inefficiencies:** Analyse workflows to find repetitive or manual tasks that are suitable for automation or AI intervention.
 - **Build smart solutions:** Develop and deploy automated workflows using AI tools, machine learning models, and low-code platforms.
 - **Monitor performance:** Measure the impact of automation on productivity and ensure that AI is used ethically and securely within the organisation.
- **Local authority application:** Automating high-volume administrative tasks, such as processing permit applications, triaging incoming resident queries, or managing data entry for social care records.
- **Key skills:** Workflow mapping, low-code development, AI implementation, and benefit tracking.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 4



Maximum funding: £18,000

Date approved: 10-12-2025

Date updated: 14-01-2026

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Associate project manager apprenticeship

At a glance: Ensuring projects stay on track, on budget, and deliver their intended benefits.

- **Role purpose:** To contribute to the successful delivery of a project by ensuring its scope and benefits are achieved as planned.
- **This develops the apprentice in:**
 - **Planning and monitoring:** Identifying, resourcing, and scheduling the activities needed to meet project milestones.
 - **Stakeholder collaboration:** Negotiating and allocating activities to team members while managing a range of internal and external stakeholders.
 - **Budget and risk management:** Working within agreed budgets and escalating issues when significant risks are identified.
- **Local authority application:** Coordinating the rollout of new community initiatives or managing the implementation of a new internal IT system.
- **Key skills:** Resourcing, scheduling, milestone monitoring, and business case drafting.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (typical end-point assessment period: 5 months).

Level 4



Maximum funding: £7,000

Date approved: 19-08-2016

Date updated: 27-11/-025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

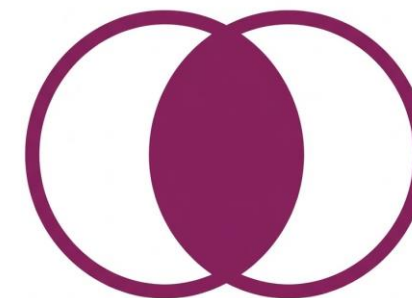
[Find training providers.](#)

Business analyst apprenticeship

Level 4

At a glance: Bridging the gap between user needs and digital solutions to ensure the right problems are solved.

- **Role purpose:** To understand stakeholder needs and how these can be met through business change and digital solutions.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Requirements engineering:** Documenting business problems and user needs into clear solution requirements.
 - **Process modelling:** Investigating and modelling business processes to identify future needs and improvements.
 - **Stakeholder management:** Managing relationships to ensure collaboration between technical and business teams.
- **Local authority application:** Ensuring a new software procurement actually meets the requirements of the frontline social workers who will use it.
- **Key skills:** Workshop facilitation, gap analysis, and process documentation.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £18,000

Date approved: 31-03-2017

Date updated: 09-12-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Cyber security technologist (2021) apprenticeship

At a glance: Protecting the council's information and systems from evolving cyber attacks and unauthorised access.

- **Role purpose:** To apply an understanding of cyber security to protect organisations, systems, and people from attacks.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Risk mitigation:** Understanding security concepts and technology to mitigate risks arising from malware, phishing, and hacking.
 - **Engineering and defense:** Designing, building, and testing secure networks or monitoring systems to respond to security breaches.
 - **Regulatory compliance:** Operating within legal and regulatory contexts to achieve required cyber security outcomes.
- **Local authority application:** Providing a high level of technical defense for sensitive resident data and critical local infrastructure.
- **Key skills:** Security architecture, risk analysis, incident response, and regulatory knowledge.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 4



Maximum funding: £18,000

Date approved: 04-05-2021

Date updated: 29-09-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Data analyst apprenticeship

At a glance: Transforming raw departmental data into actionable business insights.

- **Role purpose:** To ascertain how data can be used to answer complex questions and solve organizational problems.
- **What this apprenticeship teaches:**
 - **The data process:** The full lifecycle of requirement gathering, inspecting, cleansing, and transforming data.
 - **Modelling and insight:** Using statistical techniques to model data with the goal of discovering useful information and informing conclusions.
 - **Governance:** Working within data architectures to handle information in a compliant, secure, and ethical manner.
- **Local authority application:** Enables evidence-based decision-making, such as investigating staff retention rates for HR or analysing hospital wait times to improve patient service.
- **Key skills:** Data visualisation, statistical modeling, data cleansing, requirement gathering.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 4



Maximum funding: £15,000

Date approved: 23-03-2016

Date updated: 01-06-2021

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Data protection and information governance practitioner apprenticeship

Level 4

At a glance: Providing the regulatory and technical advice needed to keep council data safe and compliant.

- **Role purpose:** To provide advice and guidance that ensures compliance with information governance and data protection requirements.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Manage information requests:** Coordinate day-to-day requests such as freedom of information (FOI) and data subject access requests.
 - **Audit and investigate:** Conduct information audits and investigate data breach incidents within strict legal timeframes.
 - **Privacy by design:** Support projects by ensuring privacy by design and conducting data protection impact assessments (DPIA).
- **Local authority application:** Essential for the corporate centre to ensure all departments handle personal data legally and ethically.
- **Key skills:** Regulatory advice, records management, breach investigation, and impact assessment.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £10,000

Date approved: 30-03-2022

Date updated: 19-08-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

DevOps engineer apprenticeship

Level 4

At a glance: Accelerating digital delivery by bridging the gap between software development and IT operations.

- **Role purpose:** To automate and improve the process of building, testing, and deploying software to ensure high-quality digital services.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Continuous integration:** Implementing automated pipelines to move code from development to live environments quickly.
 - **Cloud infrastructure:** Managing "infrastructure as code" to scale digital services based on demand.
 - **Reliability engineering:** Monitoring system performance to ensure digital tools remain stable and secure.
- **Local authority application:** Supporting the rapid deployment of updates to resident portals and council apps without service downtime.
- **Key skills:** Automation scripting, cloud platform management, containerisation, and system monitoring.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £17,000

Date approved: 12-03-2020

Date updated: 26-09-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Digital accessibility specialist apprenticeship

Level 4

At a glance: Ensuring digital services are inclusive and accessible to every resident.

- **Role purpose:** To ensure that digital products and services are designed and maintained to meet accessibility standards and legal requirements.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Audit digital services:** Use manual and automated tools to test websites and apps for accessibility barriers.
 - **Advise design teams:** Provide guidance on inclusive design practices to ensure services work for users with disabilities.
 - **Ensure compliance:** Maintain technical documentation to prove adherence to accessibility regulations.
- **Local authority application:** Ensuring the council website and online application forms are usable by all residents, fulfilling legal "public sector bodies" obligations.
- **Key skills:** Accessibility auditing, assistive technology testing, inclusive design, and technical reporting.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £16,000

Date approved: 01-07-2021

Date updated: 26-09-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Digital community manager apprenticeship

Level 4

At a glance: Managing the council's "online face" and facilitating direct communication with residents.

- **Role purpose:** To facilitate and instigate direct online communication between the organisation and the end user (the community).
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Online engagement:** Management of online media channels to deliver updates, information, and responses to the community.
 - **Data interpretation:** Analysing and interpreting data from the community to feed into future communication strategies.
 - **Reputation management:** Exercising good judgement to represent the organisation accurately and protect its reputation.
- **Local authority application:** Managing council social media accounts to provide timely updates on local services and respond to resident queries.
- **Key skills:** Communication strategy, data analysis, channel management, and stakeholder engagement.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £13,000

Date approved: 14-08-2019

Date updated: 30-04-2021

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

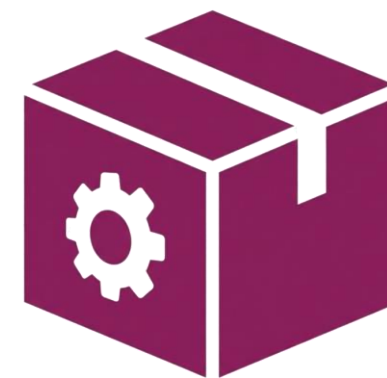
[Find training providers.](#)

Digital product manager apprenticeship

Level 4

At a glance: Managing the full lifecycle of digital services to ensure they meet the needs of residents.

- **Role purpose:** To drive and manage digital products, such as websites or apps, through their complete lifecycle from inception to decommissioning.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Prioritise needs:** Act as the "voice of the customer" to prioritise enhancements based on user feedback and commercial value.
 - **Lifecycle management:** Manage prototyping, user feedback, maintenance, and the eventual decommissioning of digital systems.
 - **Team direction:** Direct multi-disciplinary teams to deliver products that create value for users and the business.
- **Local authority application:** Taking ownership of a specific service, like an online parking permit system, to ensure it is constantly improved for users.
- **Key skills:** User feedback analysis, product strategy, prioritisation, and lifecycle management.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 4 months).



Maximum funding: £18,000

Date approved: 11-05-2023

Date updated: 16-05-2023

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Improvement practitioner apprenticeship

Level 4

At a glance: Leading the delivery of change across different council functions to improve service quality.

- **Role purpose:** To identify and lead the delivery of change across organisational functions and processes using Lean and Six Sigma principles.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Leading change:** Leading smaller projects or supporting larger programmes to tackle re-occurring challenges.
 - **Diagnosis and solution:** Identifying opportunities, diagnosing issues, and implementing sustainable countermeasures.
 - **Stakeholder focal point:** Acting as the primary contact for stakeholders and managing communication throughout a project.
- **Local authority application:** Leading a project to streamline the housing benefit application process across multiple departments.
- **Key skills:** Project management, change management, coaching, and sustainable control implementation.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 14 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £6,000

Date approved: 27-02-2018

Date updated: 08-12-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Information manager apprenticeship

Level 4

At a glance: Managing critical digital information through the lifecycle of major local infrastructure projects.

- **Role purpose:** To support the management of digital information during the delivery and operational phases of an infrastructure project.
- **This develops the apprentice in:**
 - **Data gatekeeping:** Managing the common data environment (CDE) to ensure data is accurate, current, and secure.
 - **Information specification:** Ensuring information meets required quality standards for effective use throughout an asset's lifecycle.
 - **Collaborative production:** Facilitating collaboration between project team members to avoid duplication and mistakes.
- **Local authority application:** Managing the "digital twin" and technical documentation for major new school or housing developments.
- **Key skills:** CDE management, information specification, procedural gatekeeping, and stakeholder influence.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £7,000

Date approved: 03/02/2020

Date updated: 21/09/202

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

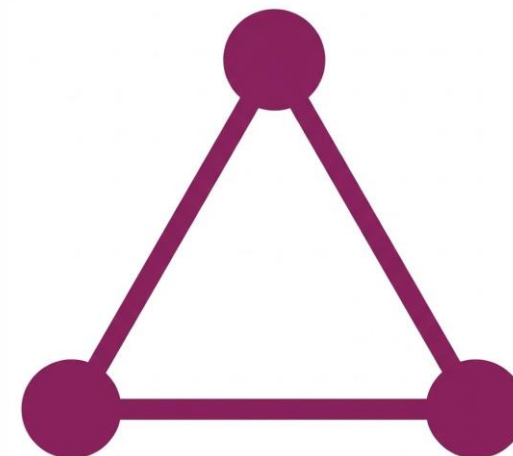
[Find training providers.](#)

Network engineer apprenticeship

At a glance: Designing, installing, and maintaining the secure networks that connect council buildings and staff.

- **Role purpose:** To install and maintain networks while offering technical support to users to ensure optimum system capacity.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Maintain connectivity:** Securely monitor and troubleshoot virtual, local, and wide area network infrastructure.
 - **Technical troubleshooting:** Resolve complex hardware and software issues to ensure service is resumed and downtime is minimised.
 - **Configuration:** Managing Wi-Fi configuration and interpreting technical information to meet organisational expectations.
- **Local authority application:** Ensuring resilient and secure network connectivity for council offices, libraries, and remote working staff.
- **Key skills:** Network installation, performance monitoring, Wi-Fi configuration, and technical support.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 3 months).

Level 4



Maximum funding: £19,000

Date approved: 12-11-2014

Date updated: 29-07-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Software developer apprenticeship

At a glance: Building and testing the high-quality code used in the council's computer programs and applications.

- **Role purpose:** To build and test high-quality code solutions based on a client's design specifications to deliver the best outcome.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Code implementation:** Building simple software components for web, mobile, or desktop applications as part of larger projects.
 - **Testing and validation:** Ensuring specific components meet their intended functionality through rigorous testing.
 - **Lifecycle development:** Assisting in software development across the full lifecycle, from research to product retirement.
- **Local authority application:** Developing bespoke internal applications to help departments manage assets or journey planning more effectively.
- **Key skills:** Coding, software testing, requirement interpretation, and full-lifecycle development.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 4



Maximum funding: £18,000

Date approved: 12-11-2014

Date updated: 10-12-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Software tester apprenticeship

At a glance: Ensuring council software is bug-free, secure, and fit for purpose before it reaches users.

- **Role purpose:** To ensure that software operates as intended and meets functional, security, and performance requirements.
- **This develops the apprentice in:**
 - **Quality assurance:** Conducting manual and automated tests to identify and remove bugs before software is deployed.
 - **Risk mitigation:** Analysing software and systems to mitigate the risk of problems arising and making informed recommendations.
 - **Collaborative planning:** Providing input to the planning of work and advising on risks and improvements within software products.
- **Local authority application:** Rigorously testing a new resident portal to ensure it is secure and easy to use before the public launch.
- **Key skills:** Manual and automated testing, risk analysis, quality assurance, and technical reporting.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 4



Maximum funding: £18,000

Date approved: 21-04-2016

Date updated: 28-07-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

3.5 Level 5: higher apprenticeships

Equivalent to: Higher National Diploma (HND) or a Foundation Degree.

Level 5 apprenticeships are designed for individuals in middle management or senior technical roles.

The curriculum focuses on leadership, project management, and strategic thinking within a specific professional field.

These programmes allow employers to develop their internal talent pool, preparing employees for significant departmental responsibilities.

At this level, the apprentice is expected to demonstrate a high level of self-awareness and the ability to influence wider organisational goals.

Level 5

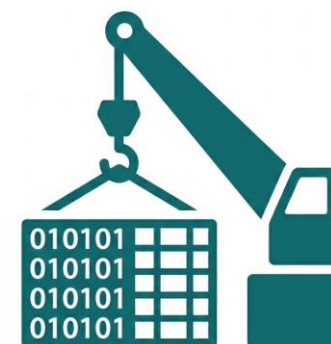
- **Data engineer**
- **Digital learning designer**
- **Improvement specialist**

Data engineer apprenticeship

At a glance: Building the robust pipelines that turn raw data into usable assets for the whole organisation.

- **Role purpose:** To build systems that collect, manage, and convert data into usable information for data scientists and analysts to interpret.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Build data flows:** Create and implement data pipelines to connect operational systems and automate manual processes.
 - **Ensure data quality:** Write extract, transform, and load (ETL) scripts to ensure data is clean, accurate, and transparent.
 - **Support governance:** Enable effective smart business decisions by providing high-quality, compliant data.
- **Local authority application:** Essential for integrating disparate systems (e.g., housing and council tax) to create a "single view of the citizen."
- **Key skills:** ETL scripting, data architecture, pipeline automation, and requirements gathering.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 4 months).

Level 5



Maximum funding: £19,000

Date approved: 11-12-2023

Date updated: 11-12-2023

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Digital learning designer apprenticeship

Level 5

At a glance: Creating high-quality digital training materials to support staff development across the council.

- **Role purpose:** To scope, design, and maintain digital learning materials for educational and professional development programmes.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Instructional design:** Develop online courses, interactive multimedia, and simulations using appropriate learning models.
 - **Technology advice:** Advise on the implementation of learning technologies to facilitate training and assessment strategies.
 - **Evaluate effectiveness:** Gather and respond to evaluative data and feedback to improve the effectiveness of learning systems.
- **Local authority application:** Designing interactive e-learning modules for mandatory staff training or new software inductions.
- **Key skills:** Adult learning theory, multimedia development, learning technology advice, and project coordination.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 4 months).



Maximum funding: £16,000

Date approved: 25-05-2023

Date updated: 30-05-2023

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

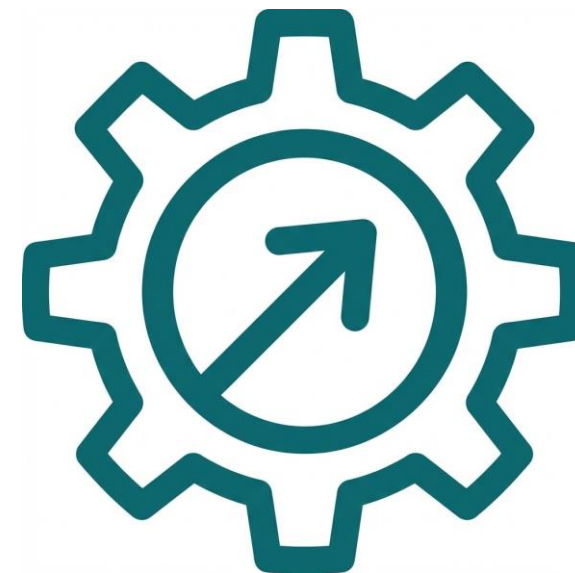
[Find training providers.](#)

Improvement specialist apprenticeship

At a glance: Leading the deployment of complex improvement strategies across multiple council departments.

- **Role purpose:** To lead the deployment of improvement strategy and provide deep technical expertise in advanced lean and six sigma principles.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Strategy deployment:** Lead multiple simultaneous projects linked to key business goals and identify improvement opportunities.
 - **Capability building:** Train and manage others in the application of improvement principles and tools.
 - **Advanced analysis:** Use graphical and statistical analysis to visualise problems and deliver complex improvements.
- **Local authority application:** Designing new cross-departmental processes to achieve major strategic goals or budget efficiencies.
- **Key skills:** Advanced Lean and Six Sigma, statistical analysis, strategic leadership, and matrix management.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 14 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 5



Maximum funding: £9,000

Date approved: 08-11-2018

Date updated: 27-07-2023

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

3.6 Level 6: degree apprenticeships

Equivalent to: full Bachelor's degree (BA or BSc).

Level 6 apprenticeships offer a route to a full undergraduate degree combined with professional workplace experience.

They are designed to develop high-calibre talent in regulated professions such as planning, surveying, or social work.

These programmes allow employers to recruit and retain ambitious individuals who gain academic rigor alongside a deep understanding of practical operations.

They are a powerful tool for addressing long-term skills gaps in specialist professional sectors.

Level 6

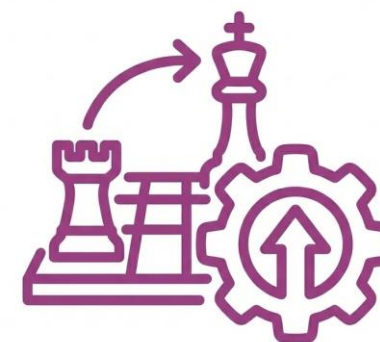
- **Creative digital design (integrated degree)**
- **Cyber security technical professional (integrated degree)**
- **Data scientist (integrated degree)**
- **Digital and technology solutions professional**
- **Digital user experience (UX) professional (integrated degree)**
- **Improvement leader**
- **Machine learning engineer**
- **Project manager (integrated degree)**
- **Service designer**

Chartered manager (degree) apprenticeship

Level 6

At a glance: Developing professional managers capable of leading significant council functions and driving strategic change.

- **Role purpose:** To take responsibility for long-term organisational success by managing people, projects, operations, or services at a professional level.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Strategic management:** Developing and implementing operational plans and departmental strategies that align with council-wide objectives.
 - **Financial leadership:** Managing large-scale budgets and resources while ensuring compliance and value for money for the taxpayer.
 - **Organisational change:** Leading teams through transformation projects and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.
- **Local authority application:** A strategic route for experienced service leads or high-potential staff to gain a degree and professional chartered status while managing a major council service.
- **Key skills:** Strategic planning, financial management, leadership, and relationship management.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 48 months (this does not include the end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £22,000

Date approved: 08-10-2015

Date updated: 14-02-2023

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Creative digital design professional (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Providing expert digital design solutions for council products, services, and communications.

- **Role purpose:** To provide compelling digitally enabled design solutions for a range of contexts, products, and online services.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Concept implementation:** Developing design concepts for online services, installations, and mobile applications.
 - **Collaborative assets:** Working with multi-disciplinary teams to create creative digital assets that convey a clear message.
 - **Design management:** Managing a design team to ensure they respond effectively to a client's brief.
- **Local authority application:** Leading the creative design for a major new council campaign or redesigning the visual interface of a resident app.
- **Key skills:** Digital asset creation, design technologies, team management, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 36 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 6



Maximum funding: £25,000

Date approved: 03-02-2020

Date updated: 04-02-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

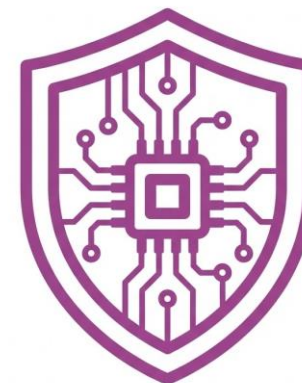
[Find training providers.](#)

Cyber security technical professional (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Leading teams to manage complex cyber risks and respond to major security incidents.

- **Role purpose:** To research, assess, and manage cyber security risks while leading teams to design and operate secure solutions.
- **This develops the apprentice in:**
 - **Strategic risk management:** Modelling and assessing cyber risks across business or engineering functions.
 - **Incident response:** Leading the detection and response to cyber incidents in accordance with applicable laws.
 - **System design:** Developing and managing secure solutions for critical national or local infrastructure.
- **Local authority application:** Managing the security architecture for the entire council to prevent and respond to high-level digital threats.
- **Key skills:** Risk modelling, incident leadership, secure solution design, and technical autonomy.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 48 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 6



Maximum funding: £24,000

Date approved: 24-09-2018

Date updated: 26-08-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

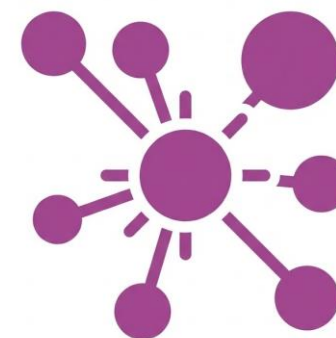
[Find training providers.](#)

Data scientist (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Building the robust pipelines that turn raw data into usable assets for the whole organisation.

- **Role purpose:** To build systems that collect, manage, and convert data into usable information for data scientists and analysts to interpret.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Build data flows:** Create and implement data pipelines to connect operational systems and automate manual processes.
 - **Ensure data quality:** Write extract, transform, and load (ETL) scripts to ensure data is clean, accurate, and transparent.
 - **Support governance:** Enable effective smart business decisions by providing high-quality, compliant data.
- **Local authority application:** Essential for integrating disparate systems (e.g., housing and council tax) to create a "single view of the citizen."
- **Key skills:** ETL scripting, data architecture, pipeline automation, and requirements gathering.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 36 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 6



Maximum funding: £19,000

Date approved: 17-08-2017

Date updated: 24-04-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

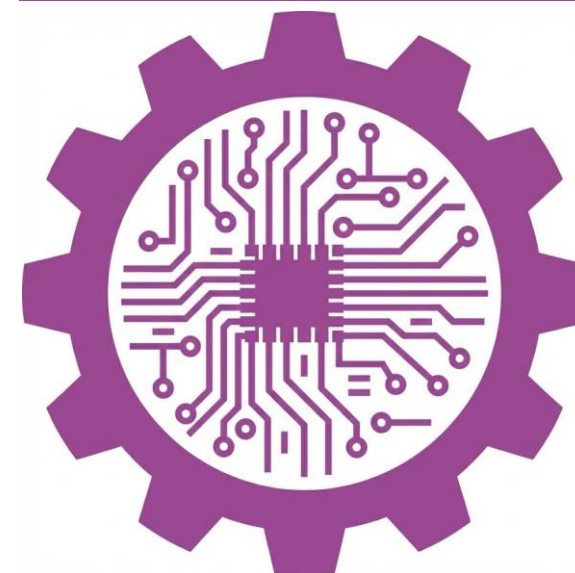
[Find training providers.](#)

Digital and technology solutions professional (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Developing strategic technology leaders who design and implement integrated digital solutions across the council.

- **Role purpose:** To provide technology leadership by investigating, identifying, and implementing strategic digital solutions that meet long-term organisational goals.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Strategic implementation:** Analysing council objectives to design and deliver technical plans that align with the wider digital strategy.
 - **Specialist pathways:** Developing deep expertise in a specific area such as software engineering, data analytics, cyber security, or network engineering.
 - **Business investment:** Evaluating the commercial, security, and operational risks of new technologies to justify investment and ensure value for money.
- **Local authority application:** Ideal for creating a pipeline of future technical directors or lead architects who understand both the technology and the unique pressures of public service delivery.
- **Key skills:** Strategic planning, technology leadership, risk evaluation, and complex solution architecture.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 48 months (typical EPA period: 3 months).

Level 6



Maximum funding: £27,000

Date approved: 26-03-2015

Date updated: 01-09-2023

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Digital marketer (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Using digital channels to promote council services and reach specific community groups.

- **Role purpose:** To define, design, build, and implement digital campaigns across a variety of online and social media platforms to drive resident engagement.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Campaign management:** Creating and executing digital marketing plans across email, search engines, and social media.
 - **Data-driven marketing:** Using web analytics and social media data to track resident interactions and optimise campaign reach.
 - **Resident interaction:** Managing the council's online presence and ensuring messages are delivered in a consistent and accessible tone.
- **Local authority application:** Helping specific departments, such as adult education or leisure services, to increase service uptake through targeted online promotion.
- **Key skills:** Search engine optimisation and management, email marketing, analytics, and digital platform management.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 36 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 6



Maximum funding: £21,000

Date approved: 22-06-2018

Date updated: 22-06-2018

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Digital user experience (UX) professional (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Leading the design and continuous improvement of how residents interact with council digital services.

- **Role purpose:** To investigate and design the experience people have with digital products to ensure they are improved and optimised over time.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **User-centred design:** Leading the application of design methodologies across the full lifecycle of a digital product.
 - **UX research:** Conducting field-based research to understand user needs and validate solutions through testing.
 - **Stakeholder advocacy:** Capturing requirements and advocating for user-centred practices within multi-disciplinary teams.
- **Local authority application:** Optimising the council's website to ensure that residents can find information and complete tasks with minimal friction.
- **Key skills:** User research, interface design, testing and validation, and lifecycle management.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 48 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 6



Maximum funding: £24,000

Date approved: 03-02-2020

Date updated: 16-02-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Improvement leader apprenticeship

Level 6

At a glance: Developing the high-level improvement strategies that drive council-wide efficiency and change.

- **Role purpose:** To develop improvement strategy, provide leadership in improvement for the business, and coach senior specialists.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Strategy development:** Set and achieve business goals by developing top-level "value stream maps" to identify major opportunities.
 - **Executive leadership:** Report to board members and lead improvement activities within the highest priority programmes of work.
 - **Product and process design:** Designing entirely new products, processes, or services to meet strategic needs.
- **Local authority application:** Leading a fundamental redesign of how the council delivers its core services to improve outcomes and reduce costs.
- **Key skills:** Strategic leadership, value stream mapping, executive coaching, and large-scale programme management.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £15,000

Date approved: 29-01-2019

Date updated: 09-08-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Machine learning engineer apprenticeship

Level 6

At a glance: Building and deploying the machine learning models that automate council processes and data tasks.

- **Role purpose:** To gather data from different sources to design, build, deploy, and validate machine learning and AI solutions.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Model development:** Building and training machine learning models safely and sustainably by selecting the right algorithms.
 - **Deployment and maintenance:** Streamlining the process of taking models into live environments and monitoring their accuracy.
 - **Pipeline management:** Managing the lifecycle of machine learning systems to ensure fast and reliable data pipelines.
- **Local authority application:** Creating models to automate the triaging of incoming resident emails or predicting service demand patterns.
- **Key skills:** Algorithm selection, model training, pipeline management, and continuous monitoring.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 4 months).



Maximum funding: £22,000

Date approved: 18-12-2024

Date updated: 18-12-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

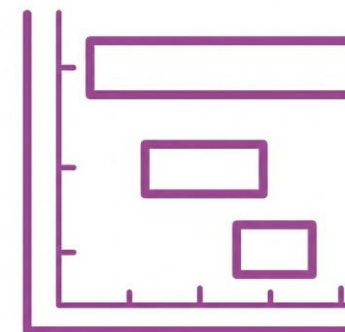
[Find training providers.](#)

Project manager (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Leading cross-disciplinary teams to deliver the council's most complex and critical projects.

- **Role purpose:** To take responsibility for the end-to-end delivery of complex projects to time, cost, and quality requirements.
- **This develops the apprentice in:**
 - **Governance and method:** Applying project management methods to initiate and execute projects within a larger programme or portfolio.
 - **Leadership of change:** Developing a multi-skilled team and managing stakeholders to ensure project objectives are met.
 - **Benefits management:** Realising and reporting on business benefits to ensure strategic objectives are achieved.
- **Local authority application:** Leading a multi-million-pound urban regeneration project or a borough-wide digital transformation programme.
- **Key skills:** Strategic project management, leadership, benefits realisation, and budget planning.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 48 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 6



Maximum funding: £22,000

Date approved: 22-06-2018

Date updated: 22-06-2018

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

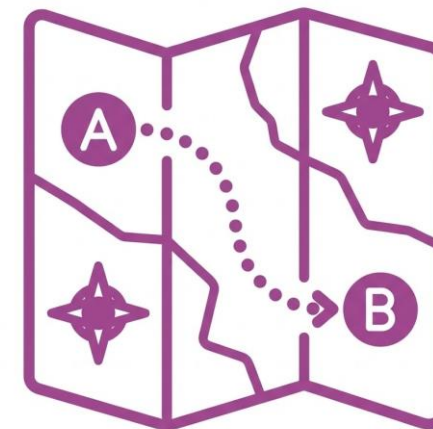
[Find training providers.](#)

Service designer apprenticeship

At a glance: Redesigning council services from "front-to-back" to work seamlessly for residents and staff.

- **Role purpose:** To improve or redesign current services or develop new ones that meet the needs of users, the business, and other stakeholders.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **User-centred design:** Using exploratory approaches to iterate towards implementation based on real user needs.
 - **End-to-end service mapping:** Designing the entire process, from the first step a resident takes to the final back-office action.
 - **Cross-channel delivery:** Ensuring services work interchangeably across digital, phone, and face-to-face platforms.
- **Local authority application:** Redesigning complex pathways like social care assessments or planning applications to be more intuitive and efficient.
- **Key skills:** Stakeholder facilitation, prototyping, user research, and strategic alignment.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 6 months).

Level 6



Maximum funding: £15,000

Date approved: 23-03-2023

Date updated: 28-03-2023

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

3.7 Level 7: degree apprenticeships

Equivalent to: Master's degree (MA or MSc) or Postgraduate Certificate.

Level 7 apprenticeships provide senior-level professional training, often leading to Chartered status or a Master's degree.

These programmes focus on strategic leadership and highly complex technical mastery.

Please note that from 1 January 2026, level 7 apprenticeships are only government-funded for apprentices who, at the start of their training, are either aged 16–21, or aged under 25 with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan and/or experience of the care system.

Any individual who started a level 7 apprenticeship before 1 January 2026 will continue to be funded through to completion.

Level 7

- Artificial intelligence (AI) data specialist
- Digital and technology solutions specialist
- Game programmer
- Spatial data specialist
- Systems thinking practitioner

Artificial intelligence (AI) data specialist apprenticeship

Level 7

At a glance: Redesigning council services from "front-to-back" to work seamlessly for residents and staff.

- **Role purpose:** To improve or redesign current services or develop new ones that meet the needs of users, the business, and other stakeholders.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **User-centred design:** Using exploratory approaches to iterate towards implementation based on real user needs.
 - **End-to-end service mapping:** Designing the entire process, from the first step a resident takes to the final back-office action.
 - **Cross-channel delivery:** Ensuring services work interchangeably across digital, phone, and face-to-face platforms.
- **Local authority application:** Redesigning complex pathways like social care assessments or planning applications to be more intuitive and efficient.
- **Key skills:** Stakeholder facilitation, prototyping, user research, and strategic alignment.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).



Maximum funding: £17,000

Date approved: 13-05-2020

Date updated: 30-04-2021

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Digital and technology solutions specialist (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Providing the high-level technology leadership needed to implement the council's digital strategy.

- **Role purpose:** To maintain digital and technology strategies through technology leadership, investigating and implementing strategic solutions.
- **This develops the apprentice in:**
 - **Strategic implementation:** Studying organisational goals to deliver and support strategic plans for implementing digital technologies.
 - **Change management:** Applying leadership and change management skills to operate in various specialist digital roles.
 - **Technology leadership:** Directing digital technology provision and evaluating emerging trends to solve problems.
- **Local authority application:** Acting as a lead architect or technical director to shape the long-term digital vision of the council.
- **Key skills:** Strategic planning, change management, technology leadership, and organizational goal alignment.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 18 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 7



Maximum funding: £21,000

Date approved: 07-08-2018

Date updated: 14-01-2022

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Game programmer apprenticeship

Level 7

At a glance: Developing the interactive code and mechanics that power engaging digital experiences and simulations.

- **Role purpose:** To write and maintain the code that creates the core functionality, mechanics, and interactive elements of a digital game or simulation.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Game engine proficiency:** Using industry-standard engines and tools to implement gameplay features and user interfaces.
 - **Mathematical application:** Applying mathematical and physical principles to create realistic movements, physics, and logic within a digital environment.
 - **Code optimisation:** Writing and debugging efficient code to ensure smooth performance across different hardware and platforms.
- **Local authority application:** While primarily a creative role, these skills are increasingly valuable for developing immersive training simulations, virtual "digital twins" for urban planning, or gamified public health apps.
- **Key skills:** C++ or C# programming, game engine development, physical modelling, and software debugging.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 6 months).



Maximum funding: £19,000

Date approved: 03-08-2021

Date updated: 22-02-2023

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Senior leader apprenticeship

At a glance: Equipping senior executives with the strategic vision to lead complex local government organisations.

- **Role purpose:** To provide high-level strategic leadership, setting the direction and culture of an organisation while navigating complex political and social environments.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Visionary leadership:** Setting organisational strategy and managing complex multi-agency partnerships to deliver public value.
 - **Governance and ethics:** Leading with high levels of integrity and ensuring robust governance in a publicly accountable environment.
 - **Strategic resource management:** Optimising the use of financial, physical, and human resources to achieve long-term sustainability.
- **Local authority application:** Designed for directors or aspiring chief executives who need to lead the council through large-scale societal challenges and integrated service delivery.
- **Key skills:** Strategic thinking, ethical leadership, political navigation, and financial strategy.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 7



Maximum funding: £14,000

Date approved: 27-02-2018

Date updated: 10-04-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

Spatial data specialist (integrated degree) apprenticeship

At a glance: Leading programmes that use location data as the "golden thread" to gain insight into local issues.

- **Role purpose:** To initiate and lead projects that use location to link, analyse, and gain insight from multiple datasets.
- **This trains the apprentice in:**
 - **Advanced spatial analysis:** Using geographic information systems (GIS) to capture, measure, and model location data over time.
 - **Visualising complexity:** Producing maps and visualisations that represent relationships between location and other data for the public.
 - **Technical authority:** Providing guidance on the legal, secure, and ethical use of location data and national standards.
- **Local authority application:** Using GIS to model air quality, identify noise-mapping zones, or plan for net-zero building initiatives.
- **Key skills:** GIS analysis, spatial modelling, data visualisation, and location data standards.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 24 months (typical end-point assessment period: 3 months).

Level 7



Maximum funding: £18,000

Date approved: 13-03-2024

Date updated: 30-09-2024

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

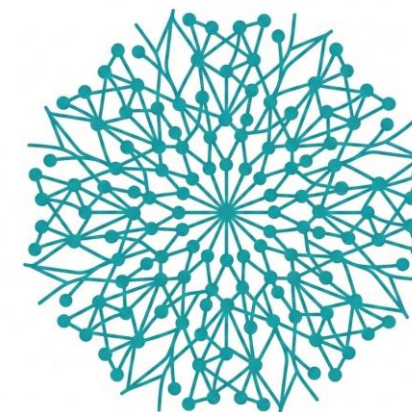
[Find training providers.](#)

Systems thinking practitioner apprenticeship

At a glance: Solving "wicked" problems that require collaboration across different departments and partner organisations.

- **Role purpose:** To support strategic decision-makers in addressing complex problems that no single person or organisation can solve alone.
- **This develops the apprentice to:**
 - **Facilitate collaboration:** Bring together diverse groups to address issues like climate change or integrated health and social care.
 - **Apply systemic models:** Use specialised tools to navigate power dynamics, politics, and diverse viewpoints.
 - **Navigate complexity:** Synthesise diverse evidence to develop options for long-term investment and intervention.
- **Local authority application:** Ideal for senior leaders working on place-based initiatives, public health interventions, or large-scale urban regeneration.
- **Key skills:** Systemic analysis, empathetic navigation of politics, and collaborative enquiry.
- **Typical duration to gateway:** 30 months (this does not include end-point assessment period).

Level 7



Maximum funding: £18,000

Date approved: 13-05-2020

Date updated: 20-02-2025

[Find out more about the apprenticeship standard.](#)

[Find training providers.](#)

4 Apprenticeship funding

4.1 Overview

The government funds apprenticeships using the apprenticeship funding rules in place on the date the apprenticeship started. This applies to all employers, both those who pay the apprenticeship levy and those who do not.

The funding covers the cost of the training and the cost of the end-point assessment.

Employers should be aware of the funding levels for each apprenticeship to ensure they get value for money when discussing apprenticeship provision with approved training providers.

[Find out more about apprenticeship funding on gov.uk.](#)

4.2 The Apprenticeship Levy

The Apprenticeship Levy was introduced in May 2017.

The Government's intention is that the way it funds apprenticeships in England will simplify some of the current arrangements and make it easier for employers of all sizes to choose the apprenticeship training they want to purchase and have more control over designing and paying for it.

Funding will follow employer choice so apprenticeship providers will have to be responsive to what employers need.

The Apprenticeship Levy is paid by employers with a pay bill of over £3 million. It is paid through PAYE at a rate of 0.5% of the total annual pay bill. Employers who pay the levy can create an Apprenticeship Service account on the [gov.uk](#) website to manage apprenticeships.

The funds created can be spent on apprenticeship training. Funds appear in the employer account monthly, and the Government applies a 10% top-up. The funding can only be used on apprenticeship training and assessment.

Employers who do not pay the Apprenticeship Levy are required to make a 10% contribution to the cost of the training and assessment that they select. The Government will pay the rest (90%) up to the maximum amount of government funding available for that apprenticeship.

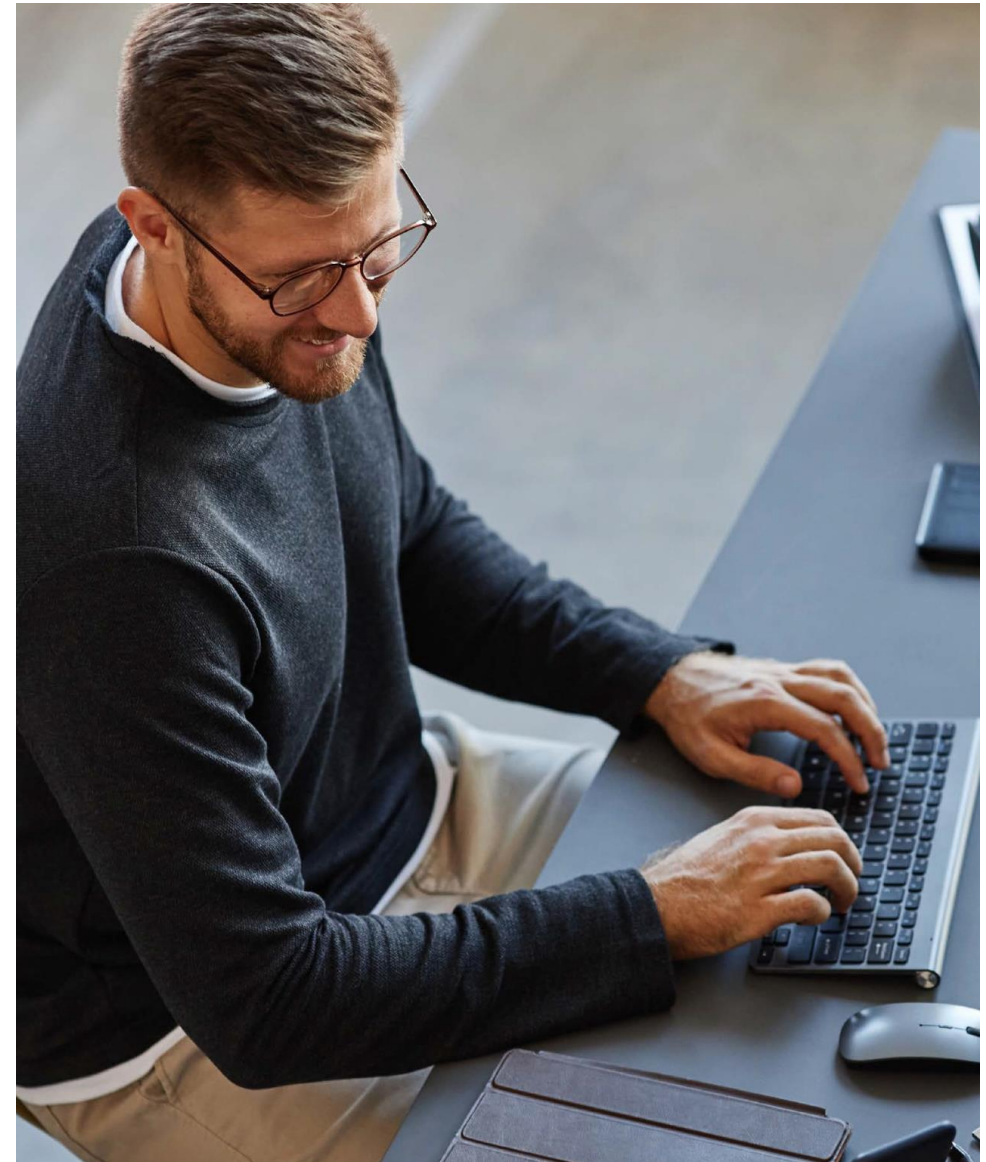
Employers pay this directly to their apprenticeship provider and can spread it over the lifetime of the apprenticeship.



4.3 Additional funding support

In addition to the funding available through the funding bands, there are **four additional potential contributions**:

- **Funding for 16 to 18-year-olds**
The Government will pay £1,000 to employers and a further £1,000 to training providers if they train a 16 to 18-year-old apprentice.
- **Funding for additional learning support**
The Government will pay training providers up to £150 per month to support learners with special needs.
- **Disadvantaged young people**
The Government will pay £1,000 to employers and a further £1,000 to training providers if they train 19 to 24-year-old care leavers or 19 to 24-year-olds who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan.
- **Funding for English and maths training**
The Government will pay training providers £471 to help apprentices gain the minimum standard of Level 2 in English and the same to reach Level 2 in Maths (if not already attained).





About LOTI

The London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) was established in July 2019 to help its members to collaborate on projects that bring the best of digital and data innovation to improve public services and outcomes for Londoners.

LOTI offers recruitment assistance to our borough members - please get in touch.

Read more at: loti.london

Contact us at: contact@loti.london  [@LOTI_LDN](https://twitter.com/LOTI_LDN)  [loti-ldn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/loti-ldn)

